



## THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF PAUL MOREL IN D.H.LAWRENCE'S NOVEL *SONS AND LOVERS*

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### ABSTRACT

*We investigate D. H. Lawrence's delineation of Paul's personality development and its harmony with Freudian concept in the novel Sons and Lovers. The study has approached the novel from psychological perspective particularly emphasizing Freudian Theory of Psychosexual Development. The qualitative research paradigm is adopted focusing on textual data analysis of the novel Sons and Lovers. The findings of the study revealed how Paul's early childhood trauma caused by his father's brutal treatment and mother's over-indulgence make him fall victim to complex emotional problems that exerted quite negative impact on his personality development.*

### INTRODUCTION

D. H. Lawrence being the most famous novelist of English Literature is rightly considered as one of the "makers" of modern fiction. His novel *Sons and Lovers* is an excellent illustration of Freudian Theory of Oedipus Complex, which is introduced in *Interpretation of Dream* in 1900 where Freud elaborated the idea,

"His (King Oedipus') destiny moves us only because it might have been ours-because the oracle laid the same curse upon us before our birth as upon him. It is the fate of all of us, perhaps to direct our first sexual impulse towards our mother and our first hatred and our first murderous wish against our father".

Freud was under the deep impression of Sophocles tragedy and this persuaded him to generalize a theory, as he wrote to one of his friends:

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“I have found in my own case too, falling in love with the mother and jealousy of the father, and I now regard it as a universal event of childhood. If that is so, we can understand the riveting power of Oedipus Rex (Young, 1995, p.79).” The protagonist of the novel Paul Morel revealed an unnatural attachment towards his mother with an accompanying jealousy towards father. For this very reason Shumaila (2012) mentions that he had been under the riveting influence of his mother’s love, which initially seemed to be mother’s affection for a child but soon turned into an incestuous relationship.(p.257) In his theory, Freud emphasized on the role of four stages in the formation of a child’s personality, i.e. oral, anal., phallic and genital. He further argued that diverse social factors influencing each stage exercise profound impact on child’s behavior and character. It can be concluded that parents serve as models to their children and children tend to imitate their parents’ behaviors in their own relationships. Observing and practicing behaviors within the family context, such as conflict handling behavior, have strong influence on the children to reproduce those strategies in their own relationships with their couples( Salma, Sidra, Sohail, Falak, Zarqa, and Rizwan p. 1398). The present study aims at dealing with the personality development of Paul in the light of Freudian Theory.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND TEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

The present study adopted qualitative research paradigm to focus on textual data analysis of the novel *Sons and Lovers* by using library research. Some important steps taken by the researcher for data analysis are as follows:

- a. Analysis of the novel.
- b. Identification of relevant parts of the text.
- c. Interpretation of the collected data in the light of Freudian Theory.

The present study was guided by the following question:

To what extent the personality development of Paul is closer to the Freudian concept?

Sigmund Freud's is one of the most influential theorists of our time. He has compared personality with an iceberg. The researchers made detailed analyses of the Freudian explanation of personality development in order to answer the question they were seeking to investigate.

The review shows that Sigmund Freud (1900) discovered that during early childhood development the basic formation of the personality of a child occurs since he passes through a series of stages from infancy to adulthood. He mentions four stages of psychosexual development– oral stage, anal stage, phallic stage and genital stage. Freud emphasizes on the importance of events that happened during these stages which exert a great impact on child’s later development, for example extensive punishment or reward might make a child “stuck or fixated” at that particular stage. This fixation leaves a lifelong mark on child’s personality (Lahey, 2004). During these stages different parts of the body become either source of pleasure or frustration. Personality traits in later life can be traced back to fixation in any of these stages (Coon 2003).

Freud believes that certain “sexual impulses” play central role in the development of personality. These sexual derives are intimately related to child’s way of living like breast sucking or moving

their bowels etc. As the child moves from one stage to the other, he expresses his sexual energy through different parts of body. Freud considers the human development to be the shifting of this energy from one zone to another (Rathus, 2008). Since the greatest source of energy for child's behaviour is sexual, the major stages of the psychosexual development are characterized by the gratification of basic motives during these stages. As the child grows, each stage reveals the change in his satisfaction of sexual urges (Lefrancois, 2001). Freud's psychosexual theory of personality development indicates a child's moving from one stage to another. All these five stages are distinguished by their major functions which depend on child's pleasure derive. If this measure is not satisfied properly, neither too much nor too little, the child gets fixated at one stage and can never develop into a fully mature person (Dacey & Travers 2002).

### **Oral Stage**

This stage occurs during the first year of an infant's life where most of the pleasure is stimulated from the mouth. In this stage, the forming of dependence develops in child's personality. When the baby stops sucking, this stage ends up. According to Freud, either the baby gets over of stimulation or lack of stimulation. The infant's major source of gratification is the mouth. If this pleasure is frustrated, the child might develop an over aggressive personality who seeks pleasure by verbally teasing others.(Lahey 2004). Since this is the first stage of psychosexual development, the most distinctive feature is the instant satisfaction of desires. Child is quite unable to delay his oral gratification deliberately (Lefrancois, 2001). According to Freud, children face different conflicts during these stages of psychosexual development. At oral stage if there is an excess of gratification, it might lead to oral fixation. Consequently, the child might develop "a clinging dependent personality" (Rathus 2008).

### **Paul at the Oral Stage**

At the oral stage, Paul endures the differences between his parents. Mr. Morel does not show any affection to his wife and ignores her, even at the time of Paul's birth; rather he enjoys drinking and his meal. The news of Paul's birth does not bring in him some pleasant feelings. He, instead, takes rest by laying his arms on the table. All these instances reveal the personality of Mr. Morel as a hardhearted, careless and apathetic father.

"The fact that his wife was ill, that he had another boy, was nothing to him at that moment. He was too tired; he wanted his dinner; he wanted to sit with his arms lying on the board; he did not like having Mrs. Bower about. The fire was too small to please him." (p.45).

The quarrels between Paul's parents result in different perceptions of life. Mrs. Morel's efforts to ameliorate her husband only increase the scuffles, which result in the distortion of family peace. Because of father's atrocious attitude towards her, she showers her love upon Paul and becomes an over caring and loving mother.

“In her arms lay the delicate baby. Its deep blue eyes, always looking up at her unblinking, seemed to draw her innermost thoughts out of her. She no longer loved her husband; she had not wanted this child to come, and there it lay in her arms and pulled at her heart. She felt as if the navel string that had connected its frail little body with hers had not been broken. A wave of hot love went over her to the infant. She held it close to her face and breast. With all her force, with all her soul she would make up to it for having brought it into the world unloved. She would love it all the more now it was here; carry it in her love” (Pp.50-51).

This over attachment of mother makes Paul develop oral – passive personality in his later age. He remains irresolute, dependant and acquiescent. He would feel whatever his mother feels and even he would hear the feelings of angst

“All the room was full of the sense of waiting, waiting for the man who was sitting in his pit-dirt, dinnerless, some mile away from home, across the darkness, drinking himself drunk. Paul stood in the doorway. "Has my dad come?" he asked. "You can see he hasn't," said Mrs. Morel, cross with the futility of the question. Then the boy dawdled about near his mother, as they shared the same anxiety” (p.79).

At the oral stage, most of Paul’s personality growth is influenced by his father’s brutish manners. This is the initial phase of trepidation and nervousness, which he suffers throughout his life.

“Often Paul would wake up, after he had been asleep a long time, aware of thuds downstairs. Instantly he was wide awake. Then he heard the booming shouts of his father, come home nearly drunk, then the sharp replies of his mother, then the bang, bang of his father's fist on the table, and the nasty snarling shout as the man's Voice got higher.” (p. 78)

Mrs. Morel grasping the fact of her husband’s iniquitous treatment to Paul becomes an over-cuddling mother. Mother is the central figure in his life and he finds himself enjoying a special place in her love. Mrs. Morel, too, diverts all her attention to Paul, treating her husband as a complete failure.

### **Anal Stage**

This is the second stage of psychosexual development. It ranges from the age of fifteen months to three years. In this stage child’s main source of pleasure is anus (the lower digestive tract).(Dacey& Travers 2002). Here attitude of parents influences child’s personality growth. Sometimes excess of punishment during toilet training develops a fixated personality that is stubborn or compulsive – anal retentive or he might become cruel or wicked – anal expulsive.(Lahey, 2004, pp. 470-472). This stage is characterized by child’s sexual gratification. He tries to get pleasure from bowel movement and learns how to control it. It leads to either reward or punishment on the part of parents. So their attitude exerts a lasting impact on child’s later development. (Lefrancois, 2001,

pp.46-47).It is important to be noted that the main source of conflict in between parents and child is self-control. According to Freud, anal fixation results in two types of qualities in later life – anal retentive, which is characterized by excessive self-control and anal – aggressive or letting go personality which includes carelessness and even sadism.(Rathus 2008, pp.403-404). A child might get approval or express rebellious trait depending on parent’s behavior. He might develop into cruel, destructive, obstinate and extremely clean adult (Coon, 2003, p.388).

### **Paul at the Anal Stage**

In this stage Paul experiences the same trouble of parental attitude. Since Paul’s all wants are fulfilled by his mother, he gets everything ideal, except Mr. Morel’s behavior which was coldhearted. With the continuity of narration, we observe adolescent Paul “was usually active and interested, but sometimes he would have fits of melancholy (p. 48 Casting off of Morel).”

Mother strives to find out the reason for his dejection but gets annoyed on his non-responsiveness, but when comprehending his mental disorder, takes him outside and says “now cry their misery (p. 48 Casting off of Morel)”. This clearly reveals his mental turmoil. This is the preliminary stage for the maturity of Paul’s personality as anal – aggressive (Letting go). Thereafter, he becomes moody and brutal as is revealed by the incident when he burnt Annie’s broken doll Arabella,

“He watched with wicked satisfaction the drops of wax melt off the broken forehead of Arabella, and drop like sweat into the flame. So long as the stupid big doll burnt he rejoiced in silence.”(p. 76)

Psychoanalytic reviewers take to mean the doll in this incident as representative of the mother and the ceremonial sacrifice as an expression of Paul's enraged and disheartening feelings towards her. His fickle personality continues till adolescence. When he teaches algebra lessons to Miriam, he often responds irritably when she fails to continue with the lessons.

“The algebra book she closed, shrinking, knowing he was angered; and at the same instant he grew gentle, and seeing her hurt because she did not understand. But things came slowly to her, and when she held herself in a grip, seemed so utterly humble before the lesson, it made his blood rouse. He stormed at her, got ashamed, continued the lesson, and grew furious again, abusing her (p.194).

Since this situation begets displeasure, he is fickle-minded and loses his control easily at the slightest provocation of distress. His unkind temperament influences upon his behavior to the degree to which he shatters Miriam’s religious faith while devastating her soul and making her lose awareness.

“He hated her bitterly at that moment because he made her suffer. Love her! She knew he loved her. He really belonged to her. This about not loving her, physically, bodily, was a mere perversity on his part, because he knew she loved him. He was stupid like a child. He belonged to her. His soul wanted her. She guessed somebody had been influencing him. She felt upon him the hardness, the foreignness of another influence.”(p.272)

The basic factor of Paul’s eccentric behavior is the crippling love of his mother which makes her narrow-minded towards other women who comes across him. He is hardly twenty years old but is completely enthralled by his mother’s abnormal maternity which is the main cause of his anal – aggressive personality.

### **Phallic Stage**

This is the third stage of psychosexual development which ranges from two to six years of age. As a child grows, his awareness about sexual feelings leads him to an unconscious wish to possess the parent of the opposite sex. This is Oedipus complex. However, it could be healthily resolved by the close identification with father while rejecting the sexual urge for the mother.( Lefrancois, 2001, pp.46-47). During this period, since child begins to idealize the parent of the opposite sex, he considers the parent of the same sex to be his rival. From now his real problem is how to deal with the feelings of jealousy and sexual urge for the parent of opposite gender. However, these problems are solved around the ages of five or six when child represses his sexual feeling for several years. This quiet time of the repressed sexual urges is the period of latency. Since this attraction to opposite gender is unconscious so child prefers to play with another child of his own gender (Rathus, 2008, pp.403-404). Furthermore, it is also observed that the strong emotional attachment to the parent of the opposite sex makes daughters “daddy’s girls” and sons become “mommy’s boys.” Freud considers these extreme unconscious conflicts to be Oedipus Complex in boys and Electra Complex in girls. A child has the awareness about his hidden sexual desires to be socially unacceptable so they are held up from entering conscious level. However, these desires produce a great measure of discomfort in boy’s mind because he feels that if these latent desires become known to parents, he will be severely punished. This fear makes him identify with father to avoid his anger. According to Freud, this identification is very important for the healthy development of the child. With this identification he also adopts values and ethical principles of his father. In this way he ends Oedipal Complex. If a child fails to resolve this conflict in phallic stage, he will develop into impulsive and self-centered personality, lacking kind feeling for others.(Lahey, 2004, pp.470-472).

The main task of this stage is the healthy growth of sexual desire since sex organs are the major source of pleasure. Child’s unconscious wish for the parent of opposite gender creates several conflicts. So the main objective of this stage is the successful resolution of these conflicts. ( Dacey& Travers, 2002, p.29). Phallic stage is characterized by “vanity, exhibitionism, sensitive pride and narcissism (self love).” According to Freud, this stage is followed by latency period

during which psychosexual development is passive or “on hold.” Freud considers this time to be quiet and peaceful in comparison with the first six years of life (Coon, 2003, p.388).

### **Paul at the Phallic Stage**

As per Freud, in the third infantile development stage, children get conscious about their own physiques and the physiques of other children and their parents. Now he starts learning about the sexual characteristics between boy and girl. As depicted in the novel, Paul starts taking sexual interest and physically gets involved in his mother. Since mother is also an over-loving and possessive kind of woman, she also affects her son’s growth, though negatively. Because of incessant attraction towards mother, he becomes a victim of Mother Fixation in his later life. As Lawrence observes:

“Paul loved to sleep with his mother. Sleep is still most perfect, in spite of hygienists, when it is shared with a beloved. The warmth, the security and peace of soul, the utter comfort from the touch of the other, knits the sleep, so that it takes the body and soul completely in its healing. Paul lay against her and slept, and got better.” (p.87)

The above excerpt shows that Paul’s love to his mother is not a normal love of a son. At this juncture, Paul feels himself quite powerless to solve his problem of Mother Fixation. Mother is the strongest figure who holds control of his life. Her defensive and controlling temperament makes her son to be entirely reliant upon her and remain indoors. He finds it difficult to do anything without his mother. On the contrary, we find Mr. Morel’s behavior towards children quite objectionable and brutish when he exhibits extreme hatred for his children. Ultimately Mr. Morel becomes an intruder. What he could give to his family is only derision and fright. Even Paul’s hatred goes to the extreme that makes him pray

"Make him stop drinking," he prayed every night. "Lord, let my father die," he prayed very often. "Let him not be killed at pit," he prayed when, after tea, the father did not come home from work. That was another time when the family suffered intensely.” (p.79)

Since Mr. Morel is an adversary to Paul, he strives to seek relief and comfort in his mother’s company. Furthermore mother, after being tormented physically and emotionally by her husband, filled the emotional gap from her son’s love. In his famous book *Fantasia of the Unconscious* (1923), Lawrence puts in the central discussion of the family, “The unhappy woman beats about for her insatiable satisfaction, seeking whom she may devour. And usually, she turns to her child. Here she provokes what she wants. Here, in her own son who belongs to her, she seems to find the last perfect response for which she is craving. He is a medium to her; she provokes from him her own answer. So she throws herself into a last great love for her son, a final and fatal devotion, that which would have been the richness and strength of her husband and is poison to her boy. The husband, irresolute, never accepting his own higher

responsibility, bows and accepts. And the fatal round of introversion and "complex" starts once more. If man will never accept his own ultimate being, his final aloneness, and his last responsibility for life, then he must expect woman to dash from disaster to disaster, rootless and uncontrolled." (p. 125). Theoretically Paul's Oedipus complex has to finish with the conclusion of this Phallic Stage but because of father's cruel treatment, he gets more and more emotionally involved to his mother thus building this complex until he grows up. This extreme love for his mother makes him abhor his father. We may presume that father's nastiest attitude can be considered the origin of this severe complex. Salma, Sidra, Sohail, Falak, Zarqa, and Rizwan (p. 1393) stress on the fact in their study "Parental Conflict and Its Effects on Youth Self Esteem" that the effect of family relationship has been an important study of the society. They argue that parental relationships play a very important role in determining the self-esteem of children.

### **Genital Stage**

This is the final stage of psychosexual development. It is distinguished by adult experiences of sexual motivation towards their mothers but since this is socially unacceptable, so he represses it and shifts it to other adolescent of the opposite sex (Rathus 2008, pp.403-404). During this stage, according to Freud, the superego which had been a little bit rigid gets flexible (Lefrancois, 2001, pp.46-47).

Here, parents have been expelled as the centre of sexual interest, the adolescent makes new sex object belonging to the opposite sex. He develops certain relationship which continues to his adulthood. According to Freud, he directs his sexual energy to socially acceptable activities like art, occupation, marriage etc. (Lahey, 2004, pp.470-472). In this stage there is sudden intensity in the sexual hormone, so an adolescent has to establish relationship with his peers of opposite sex. The result of any kind of fixation is anxiety which affects his adult life severely (Dacey & Travers 2002, p.29).

### **Paul at the Genital Stage**

In this particular stage, Paul develops social contacts. On one hand he suffers from harsh parental disputes at home, on the other hand we find him getting self-reliance and reputation among his colleagues at Jordan Surgical Appliance Factory. A marvelous change occurs in him and he becomes jovial and affable. Though he still relies upon his mother, whose extreme care and love affects his life negatively, but still he shows curiosity into the opposite sex. As Shumaila (2012) refers to Mrs. Morel's deliberate intentions to appease her sexual desires, which compel Paul to make choice between herself and his beloveds. Avoiding sanity, he could not realize between sexual appeasement to his beloveds and his mother's unfulfilled sexual desires and always blames Miriam for causing angst to his mother. Thus he fails to exercise a cogent understanding that he could have been misguided by the captivating influence of his mother and his own vacillating impact which is weighing upon his mind. ( pp.257-258)

Paul is enormously fascinated towards Miriam. She appreciated his painting; he was eager to show her every artifact of his creativity. But there was more:

"In contact with Miriam, he gained insight, his vision went deeper. From his mother he drew the life warmth, the strength to produce; Miriam urged this warmth into intensity like a white light," (p. 196)

Thus mother makes him to be artistic and Miriam gives essence to it but unfortunately mother deemed it to be a way of snatching life out of him.

"She is one of those who will want to suck a man's soul out till he has none of his own left, she said to herself, and he is just such a gabby as to let himself be absorbed. She will never let him become a man, she never will. (p. 199).

Since Miriam wants to learn and study, Paul concurs to help her. Besides unwillingly he starts sharing each and everything with her and this platonic companionship turns into love. From here Paul's real difficulty begins. But afterwards when Paul's affinity with Miriam is discovered to Mrs. Morel, she gets stunned and treats Miriam badly. Though Paul's love for Miriam is purely nonphysical at this stage but Mrs. Morel desires to be the only woman in Paul's life, who could love him and be loved by him.

"She exults-she exults as she carries him off from me," Mrs. Morel cried in her heart when Paul had gone. "She's not like an ordinary woman, who can leave me my share in him. She wants to absorb him. She wants to draw him out and absorb him till there is nothing left of him, even for himself. He will never be a man on his own feet-she will suck him up." So the mother sat, and battled and brooded bitterly." (p. 237)

She craves for holding Paul's life. Though he has extreme love for his mother at this stage, but he needs to fulfill his sexual urge too, which could only be done by another woman.

"in his soul was a feeling of the satisfaction of self-sacrifice because he was faithful to her. She loved him first; he loved her first. And yet it was not enough. His new young life, so strong and imperious, was urged towards something else. It made him mad with restlessness. She saw this, and wished bitterly that Miriam had been a woman who could take this new life of his, and leave her the roots. He fought against his mother almost as he fought against Miriam (p-273).

The worst misfortune of Paul's life is that he is not able to come out of his mother's oedipal penitentiary that holds his entire soul. The outcome of this crippling influence of mother's love appears in Paul's unkind attitude towards Miriam. Since his warm love is for his mother, so whenever he feels that he has offended her, he develops disgust for Miriam and becomes aloof.

“He was twenty-one, and she was twenty. She was beginning to dread the spring: he became so wild, and hurt her so much. All the way he went cruelly smashing her beliefs (p.237).”

He at this stage suffers from the anguish of his soul and remains faltering. On one hand he needs Miriam; on the other hand, his mother’s strongest bond affects him. Resultantly, he makes the decision.

“He had come back to his mother. Hers was the strongest tie in his life. When he thought round, Miriam shrank away. There was a vague, unreal feel about her. And nobody else mattered. There was one place in the world that stood solid and did not melt into unreality: the place where his mother was. Everybody else could grow shadowy, almost non-existent to him, but she could not. It was as if the pivot and pole of his life, from which he could not escape, was his mother (pp.272-273).”

It is quite obvious that Paul’s genital stage is badly influenced by mother’s abnormal love who thinks that if any woman achieves her son’s sex empathy, there would be nothing left for her so she makes a decision not to tolerate her opponent for the entire ownership of her son’s soul. Time and again she makes Paul blameworthy for loving Miriam and he starts hating her.

“It was all weird and dreadful. Why was he torn so, almost bewildered, and unable to move? Why did his mother sit at home and suffer? He knew she suffered badly. But why should she? And why did he hate Miriam, and feel so cruel towards her, at the thought of his mother. If Miriam caused his mother suffering, then he hated her-and he easily hated her.”(p.238)

There are numerous passages in the novel which divulge Mrs. Morel staunch disgust and pungent acerbic remarks on Miriam. In reality Miriam is the girl who really loves and understands Paul. She could be the most suitable woman who might provide him warmth of love in this genital stage but Paul’s failure in coming out of mother’s oedipal snare makes it impossible for her to be of any use for this young man.

“Frequently he hated Miriam. He hated her as she bent forward and pored over his things. He hated her way of patiently casting him up, as if he were an endless psychological account. When he was with her, he hated her for having got him, and yet not got him, and he tortured her. ‘She took all and gave nothing’, he said. At least, she gave no living warmth. She was never alive, and giving off life. Looking for her was like looking for something which did not exist. She was only his conscience, not his mate. He hated her violently, and was more cruel to her (pp.448-449).”

It is quite obvious that Paul’s love for his mother hinders him from loving any other woman. He gets the understanding about his being life to her. As he informs her:

"No, mother--I really DON'T love her. I talk to her, but want to come home to you (p. 213 Strife in Love)."

On coming to know about this breakup mother feels satisfied and replies "I think it will be the best. I don't think she is suited for you (p. 294 The Test on Miriam).

This is the end of the first phase of Paul's love affair with Miriam. At the age of twenty three years he meets Clara, who is a sensual woman, separated from her husband Dawes. She enters his life when Paul's at his genital stage needs to be satisfied sexually by a woman so they develop sexual association but Clara then realizes that there is some fundamental and big part of Paul over which she could not have any hold.

"Clara did not know what the matter with him was. She realized that he seemed unaware of her. Even when he came to her he seemed unaware of her; always he was somewhere else. She felt she was clutching for him, and he was somewhere else. It tortured her, and so she tortured him. For a month at a time she kept him at arm's length. He almost hated her (p.448)."

So Paul's avid relations with Clara fizzled out after a very short span of time. The cycles of Paul's relations with mother, Miriam and Clara are horrible at times; He could not concentrate himself on any other woman except his mother. Even in his future plans there is no place for either Miriam or Clara or any other woman. As he tells his mother:

"And you think I'd let a wife take me from you?"..At any rate, mother, I'll never marry," he said. "But I shan't marry, mother. I shall live with you, and we'll have a servant." "And we'll have a pretty house, you and me, and a servant, and it'll be just all right. I'll perhaps be rich with my painting (p.300)."

Once he even tells Clara that he has planned for going abroad with his mother they would rely on each other. He believes his mother to be the companion for his future. His feeling for Clara in the ending days of their love phase are;

"Here's the seacoast morning, big and permanent and beautiful; there is she, fretting, always unsatisfied, and temporary as a bubble of foam. What does she mean to me, after all? She represents something, like a bubble of foam represents the sea. But what is she? It's not her I care for." (p. 435).

For even sometimes he gets acerbic to his mother. There is a constant fight on his subconscious level that afflicts him. Soon thereafter he even declares to his mother:

"But why--why don't I want to marry her or anybody? I feel sometimes as if I wronged my women----- "But no, mother. I even love Clara, and I did Miriam; but to GIVE myself to them in marriage I couldn't. I couldn't belong to them. They seem to want ME, and I can't ever give it to

them.” And mother replies, “You haven't met the right woman.” Paul suddenly answers, “And I never shall meet the right woman while you live (p.426-427).”

Mrs. Morel is so much fond of Paul that she fails to realize who she is and what she should try to get from life so she gets puzzled about her particular roles to be played at the different stages of her son's growth

“He had come back to his mother. Hers was the strongest tie in his life. When he thought round, Miriam shrank away. There was a vague, unreal feel about her. And nobody else mattered. There was one place in the world that stood solid and did not melt into unreality: the place where his mother was. Everybody else could grow shadowy, almost non-existent to him, but she could not. It was as if the pivot and pole of his life, from which he could not escape, was his mother (pp.272-273).”

So at one moment Paul feels perfect love for mother, and at another moment, only absolute detestation. Though his sexual life is kept apart from his normal life but still he is not satisfied with the way things are happening with him.

“He suffered tortures of humiliation and self-consciousness. There was now a good deal of his life of which necessarily he could not speak to his mother. He had a life apart from her--his sexual life. The rest she still kept. But he felt he had to conceal something from her, and it irked him. There was a certain silence between them, and he felt he had in that silence, to defend himself against her; he felt condemned by her. Then sometimes he hated her, and pulled at her bondage. His life wanted to free itself of her. It was like a circle where life turned back on itself, and got no farther. She bore him, loved him, kept him, and his love turned back into her, so that he could not be free to go forward with his own life, really love another woman. At this period, unknowingly, he resisted his mother's influence. He did not tell her things; there was a distance between them (pp.419-420).”

So the novel deals with the terrifying power of mother's influence over her son which is the herald of destructive family environment. Lawrence ends this novel where Paul directly hastens mother's death by giving her an over dosage of Morphine. This act, as suggested by Storch (1990) attacks the original oral relationship between mother and son: by "denying life to his mother at the fundamental level," Paul is "making a statement of violence against the mother-child bond itself." (p. 107). Weiss (1962) considers *Sons and Lovers* “a comedy of the Oedipus Complex,” because at the end of the story Paul is not “Oedipus standing on the steps of his stricken house but is journeying forth (p.222).

## CONCLUSION

From the content analysis of the novel we might reach a logical conclusion that D. H. Lawrence's delineation of Paul's personality development is in complete harmony with Freudian Theory focusing on the four major stages, i.e. oral stage, anal stage, phallic stage and genital stage. In his

oral stage he suffers from father's brutal manner and becomes fearful. Later he develops into quite passive and depressed personality. In the anal stage mother's excessive attachment, and over protection makes him dependant and indecisive. Moreover he gets temperamental at the slightest provocation due to over protection of his mother. Then in the phallic stage he feels sexual attraction toward mother. Since it is not handled wisely by mother, he becomes the victim of Oedipus complex. Mother's jealous and over possessive nature spoils Paul's relations with his two beloveds. Consequently his later stage faces a severe problem relating to his sexual relations. Thus in the genital stage he could not adapt his sexual urge properly. Mother's compulsive attitude damages his personality and he becomes distorted and tortured soul. Thus Paul's adult personality is completely determined by the influences he derived in early childhood. On account of father's cruel attitude mother makes Paul husband- substitute making him the victim of Oedipus complex. The outcome of the study also reveals that this complex originated in Paul's personality in phallic stage and exerted a profound impact on his life.

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His famous novel *Sons and Lovers* is considered as more of a biographical fiction. However the setting, characters, plot, theme, and tone of the book are changed from their factual model into a fictitious model. *Sons and Lovers* tell the story of the Morel family, and in particular, of Paul Morel. Paul witnesses family violence and his mother's unhappy marriage to an uneducated alcoholic coalminer. His mother Gertrude who is bitterly unhappy with her married life devotes all her love and ambition to Paul. Lawrence's primary interest lies in the spiritual and psychological development of his characters. Sigmund Freud rebelled against the Victorian idea that children are asexual. D. H. Lawrence's novel *Sons and Lovers* depicts the unhappy marriage between Walter and Gertrude Morel, and their four children. As Mrs. Morel's relationship with her husband begins to disintegrate the imprisoning nature of Mrs. Morel's love towards Paul serves to cripple any romantic relationship he attempts to maintain, eliciting an abnormality in Paul's character as a result of the relationship with his mother. Gertrude and Walter Morel's unhappy marriage as well as an incongruence between their social classes is problematic because it causes Gertrude to displace her, once passionate, love for her husband onto her sons.