



Depths of Desire: A Psychoanalytic Analysis of Sexuality and Erotism in Filipino Short Stories

Ariel E. San Jose^{1*}, Geneva E. Buscabus¹, Christine Joy Gloria¹

¹Professional School, Holy Cross of Davao College, 4-B Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City, Philippines

*Corresponding Author

Ariel E. San Jose
Professional School, Holy Cross of
Davao College, 4-B Sta. Ana Avenue,
Davao City, Philippines

Article History

Received: 04.05.2024
Accepted: 12.06.2024
Published: 14.06.2024

Abstract: This research investigated the representation of sexuality and erotism in selected Filipino short stories, examining the underlying psychological implications of these elements through the lens of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. By exploring narratives within a post-colonial Philippine context, the study employed directed content analysis and thematic analysis to uncover the complexities of human desire. The analysis focused on works such as "The Dead Stars" by Paz Marquez Benitez, "Midsummer" by Manuel E. Arguilla, "The Virgin" by Kerima Polotan Tuvera, and "The Riddle" by F. Sionil Jose. The research identified recurring themes of repressed desires, the negotiation of sexual identity, and the influence of cultural and societal norms. These stories revealed the intricate interplay between sexuality and identity, the confrontation of societal taboos, and the psychological dimensions of erotism. The findings highlight how authors use narrative techniques to delve into these themes, providing insights into the human psyche. Moreover, the study underscored the importance of literature as a medium for exploring the nuances of sexuality and challenging entrenched cultural taboos. By examining how these Filipino authors address and articulate themes of desire and erotism, the research contributed to a deeper understanding of the human experience and the ongoing negotiation of sexual identity within a specific cultural and historical framework.

Keywords: Filipino Short Stories, Sexuality, Erotism, Psychoanalysis.

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines' rich literary legacy is a complicated reflection of the country's cultural, social, and psychological complexity. In all of its incarnations, the short story genre proves to be a powerful tool for exploring the complexities of human experience. One fascinating aspect of Filipino short tales is how they handle and depict eroticism and sexuality; these stories frequently act as gateways to more in-depth examinations of psychological and social problems.

Daug (2013), conducted a study in which she revealed eroticism as a recurring theme in the narratives she analyzed. Within these tales, sensual undertones were often conveyed through reminiscences, dialogues, and vivid portrayals. She classified these narratives into two distinct groups: one emphasizing longing and allure towards the opposite gender, and the other focusing on themes of acceptance and closeness. Her research notably indicated that the inclusion of erotic elements in these stories was frequently guided by logical considerations and heavily influenced by societal and cultural contexts. This underscores the intricate

Citation: Ariel E. San Jose, Geneva E. Buscabus, Christine Joy Gloria (2024). Depths of Desire: A Psychoanalytic Analysis of Sexuality and Erotism in Filipino Short Stories. *Glob Acad J Linguist Lit*; Vol-6, Iss-3 pp- 118-121.

interplay between personal desires and societal norms within Filipino literature.

This study adopts a psychoanalytic lens to decode the representation of sexuality and eroticism in Filipino short stories, aiming to uncover the latent content and symbolic meanings embedded in these narratives. Psychoanalysis, rooted in Sigmund Freud's theories, posits that human behavior is profoundly influenced by unconscious desires, fears, and motivations. According to Freud (1900), sexuality is a core component of the human psyche, driving much of our behavior and experiences.

This study aims to explore the portrayal and exploration of sexuality and eroticism in a selection of short stories from Filipino culture. By conducting a close reading and psychoanalytic analysis of these literary works, the study aims to shed light on how Filipino authors navigate the intricate landscape of human desire, intimacy, and the cultural pressures that shape the expression of sexuality. The research seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on Filipino literature and psychoanalytic analysis, providing insights into the cultural and psychological complexities of these narratives.

Objective of the Study

This study aimed to analyze and decode the representation of sexuality and eroticism in Filipino short stories, examining how authors portray these elements and their psychological implications. This analysis seeks to uncover the underlying desires, conflicts, and societal influences that shape the characters and narratives. By exploring these dimensions, the study aimed to contribute to a deeper understanding of human sexuality and its portrayal in literature.

Research Question

1. How do the selected short stories depict the complexities of sexuality and eroticism, and what are the underlying psychological implications?

METHOD

The analysis employed a directed content analysis and thematic analysis approach. Directed content analysis involves applying psychoanalytic theories to guide the analysis of text data. In contrast, thematic analysis consists of identifying and analyzing recurrent themes related to sexuality and eroticism within the selected narratives (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

The first step involved selecting short stories that prominently feature themes of sexuality and eroticism. These stories were chosen based on their potential to provide insights into the psychological dimensions of human desire and the negotiation of sexual identity.

Next, the researcher closely read the selected stories, paying particular attention to key themes such as repressed desires, the negotiation of sexual identity, and the influence of cultural and societal norms. This process allowed for identifying recurring patterns, character motivations, and narrative devices to convey psychoanalytic perspectives.

Following the initial reading, the researcher organized the findings into thematic categories, drawing connections between the portrayal of sexuality and psychoanalytic principles. This involved categorizing text passages related to each theme and examining how they align with broader psychological contexts depicted in the stories.

Finally, the researcher conducted a comparative analysis of the selected narratives, identifying commonalities and differences in portraying sexual desires and conflicts. This systematic process of analysis and interpretation aimed to generate insights into how sexuality and eroticism are represented and negotiated within the short story context.

Thematic Analysis

Midsummer Manuel Arguilla	The Ridder F. Sionil Jose	The Virgin Kerima Polotan	Dead Star Paz Marquez Benitez	Thematic Analysis
1. The young woman spills water on her breast while balancing a jar on her head, the wet cloth of her bodice molding to her curves, revealing the contours of her breasts. This sensual moment highlights	1. Pepe, visits Ella Rivera (now Mrs. Jacinto) at her house. There is a tense and charged interaction between Pepe, Ella, and her husband, Jaime Jacinto, which reveals underlying tensions and desires.	1. Miss Mijares experiences a moment of intense attraction and desire towards a man when a man brushes against her, causing her flesh to leap and triggering memories of their previous interactions.	1. The encounter during Alfredo's visit to Julia's hometown, there's a notable tension and unspoken desire between them. Alfredo grapples with internal conflict and mixed emotions, while Julia subtly adjusts her	Exploration of intimate desires and complex relationships

Midsummer Manuel Arguilla	The Ridder F. Sionil Jose	The Virgin Kerima Polotan	Dead Star Paz Marquez Benitez	Thematic Analysis
underlying desires and tensions between her and the male protagonist.	2. Ella tends to her drunken husband, Jimmy, after a physical altercation with Pepe also contains elements of sexuality and eroticism. Ella's emotional outburst, her physical closeness to Jimmy, and her plea for Pepe to leave them alone all contribute to a complex web of relationships and desires.	2. Miss Mijares experiences moments of physical closeness with men in everyday situations, like in jeepneys or while holding a baby. These encounters trigger her subconscious desires and fantasies, revealing her longing for intimacy and sensual experiences with men.	demeanor, suggesting a deeper, more intimate connection beyond friendship. 2. Alfredo and Julia Salas attend the procession together. As they walk side by side, there is a subtle but undeniable tension between them, characterized by Alfredo's heightened awareness of Julia's presence and his visceral reaction to her beauty.	
1. Through the sensuous descriptions of the young woman, her movements, and the accidental spill of water on her breast suggest a fascination with femininity, beauty, and sensuality that could reflect the author's hidden desires and fantasies. 2. The protagonist's heightened awareness of the young woman's presence, his physical reactions to her, and the unspoken tensions between them hint at underlying desires that mirror the author's own subconscious yearnings.	1. Through the interactions between Pepe, Ella, and Jimmy, unresolved past relationships, tension, jealousy, emotional turmoil, and the complexity of human relationships. These elements suggest a deeper layer of subconscious desires and struggles that influence the characters' behavior and shape the narrative, providing insight into the author's exploration of hidden desires and the intricacies of human emotions.	1. The author explores the innermost thoughts and desires of characters like Miss Mijares, exposing their concealed longings and fantasies. Through subtle hints in their interactions and reflections, the author delves into the intricate aspects of human sexuality and desire, offering a glimpse into the characters' subconscious yearnings.	1. Through the characters in the story, particularly Alfredo. Through Alfredo's interactions with Julia, the author delves into the depths of hidden desires and unspoken passions that lurk beneath the surface of societal expectations and personal relationships. 2. The use of symbolism and imagery in the narrative further underscores the themes of sexuality and eroticism.	Revealing the Intricacies of Human Sexuality

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Repressed Desires

In "The Dead Stars" by Paz Marquez Benitez, the protagonist Alfredo Salazar grapples with repressed desires and the disillusionment of unfulfilled love. The story reveals the psychological

conflict between societal expectations and personal desires, encapsulating the theme of repressed sexuality.

Similarly, "The Virgin" by Kerima Polotan Tuvera explores the repressed desires of Miss

Mijares, whose strict adherence to societal norms masks her deep-seated yearnings—the narrative delves into the psychological impact of societal constraints on individual sexuality.

Negotiation of Sexual Identity

"Midsummer" by Manuel E. Arguilla portrays the budding sexual awareness between the characters of Ading and the unnamed young man. The story explores the negotiation of sexual identity within the context of rural life, highlighting the characters' internal struggles and societal influences.

In "The Riddle" by F. Sionil Jose, the protagonist navigates the complexities of sexual identity and the influence of cultural norms. The narrative examines the protagonist's journey of self-discovery and the psychological dimensions of sexual expression.

Influence of Cultural and Societal Norms

Across the selected stories, the influence of cultural and societal norms on sexuality and eroticism is a recurring theme. These narratives reflect how cultural taboos and societal expectations shape individual desires and behaviors, often leading to internal conflicts and psychological struggles.

The implications of these findings underscore the intricate interplay between sexuality and identity, as well as the impact of societal norms on individual experiences. By portraying characters who navigate complex desires and societal pressures, these stories offer a rich exploration of the human psyche and the nuances of sexual expression.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals the profound psychological dimensions of sexuality and eroticism through the analysis of selected Filipino short stories. By examining repressed desires, negotiation of sexual identity, and the influence of cultural norms, the study highlights the intricate interplay between individual psychology and societal expectations. These narratives not only reflect the complexities of human desire but also challenge entrenched cultural taboos, advocating for a deeper understanding of sexuality and identity.

The findings underscore the importance of literature as a platform for exploring the nuances of human experience and psychological dimensions of sexuality. By offering insights into the unconscious motivations and conflicts that shape human behavior, these stories contribute to a broader understanding of the human condition and the ongoing negotiation of sexual identity and expression.

REFERENCES

- Hossain, M. M. (2017). Psychoanalytic Theory used in English Literature: A Descriptive Study. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: G Linguistics & Education*, 17(1). https://globaljournals.org/GJHSS_Volume17/3-Psychoanalytic-Theory-used.pdf
- Naupess, K. (2019, August 26). *Directed Qualitative Content Analysis (DQICA): A Tool for Conflict Analysis*. ResearchGate; Nova Southeastern University. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350981784_Directed_Qualitative_Content_Analysis_DQICA_A_Tool_for_Conflict_Analysis
- *Psychoanalytic Social Theory, A Reflection Of The Filipino Personality - Free Essay Example - Edubirdie*. (2021). Edubirdie. <https://edubirdie.com/examples/psychoanalytic-social-theory-a-reflection-of-the-filipino-personality/>
- Ramos, R. (2022). Presence of Eroticism in Philippine Short Stories. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 5(1), 209–218. <https://doi.org/10.32996/ijllt.2022.5.1.25>
- zsa-zsa daug. (2013, November 24). *A Psychoanalytic and Socio-Cultural Study of Ten Selected Short Stories by Nine Filipino Authors: Implications to the Teaching of Basic Literature Courses*. Lap Lambert Academic Publishing https://www.Academia.Edu/8930825/A_Psychoanalytic_And_Socio_Cultural_Study_Of_Ten_Selected_Short_Stories_By_Nine_Filipino_Authors_Implications_To_The_Teaching_Of_Basic_Literature_Courses.