

STRIVING FOR SUPERIORITY OF KEVIN TIERNEY REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARKS 'SAFE HAVEN' NOVEL: THE FORMS AND THE FACTORS

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Abstract

The objectives of this research were to find out the forms and the factors of striving for superiority in Kevin Tierney reflected in Safe Haven novel uses a theory striving for superiority from Alfred Adler. Basically, striving for superiority are some people who strive for personal superiority over others to reach perfection in their life, Adler has two forms of striving for superiority, they are the final goal and the striving force as compensation. Furthermore, Adler has three factors of striving for superiority, they are the ceaselessness, adaptation and perfection in abnormal. On the other side, the writer also used qualitative method although obtaining the data. As the result the researcher find out four data of the final goal on the forms of striving for superiority and for the factors of striving for superiority, the researcher found out five data of the ceaselessness, three data of the adaptation, and one data of perfection in abnormal.

Keywords: *Factors of striving for superiority, forms of striving for superiority, safe haven*

INTRODUCTION

In Literature, language become an important element as a medium of expression so as to interpret man, existence and culture. Therefore, Literature represents life, and life is. Clearly, literature be able for individuals who curious about their identities by raising consciousness and awareness through their psychology, that is why literature and psychology had a strong correlation for the fact that both of them dealing with human beings. This means that many literary works reflected human beings by the character that author made to become a story for a novel and movie etc. Therefore, language can be constructed by human emotion and for sure it has a meaning within coordination of minds. As Sapir (1921) said that “language, the tool

of significant expression” (p. 13). In other word, language as a tool has an intended meaning for human to expressed their emotion in many forms such as happiness and sadness.

In Literature, language is used as a medium of expression so as to interpret man, existence and culture. As Wellek and Warren said that “Literature is a social institution using as its medium language, a social creation. Literature represents life, and life is” (1963, p.94). Clearly, literature enables individuals to know and question their identities by raising consciousness and awareness through their psychology, because there is a very strong correlation between literature and psychology for the fact that both of them dealing with human beings and

their reactions, miseries, wishes, desires, conflicts, by means of varied concepts, methods and approach that has been written on literary works and become a story.

One of the literary works chosen by the researcher are *Safe Haven* novel by Nicholas Sparks because the story of Kevin Tierney as a husband has a lot of good lessons that be chosen from his bad characters who being violence on his own wife named Erin. Kevin Tierney characters was fiction characters that Sparks write to show the reader that Kevin characters is being a part of human life as if being violence. His personality made the researcher interesting because his character or personality likely found in many cases of violence around the world. Violence has probably always been part of the human experience. Its impact can be seen, in various forms, in all parts of the world. Each year, more than a million people lose their lives, and many more suffer non-fatal injuries, as a result of self-inflicted, interpersonal or collective violence (WHO-A Global Public Health Problem, 2002). Furthermore, Violence is a concern problem, through this novel, Sparks wants to convey that Kevin's character can be learned and avoided.

In analyse Kevin Tierney character, the Individual Psychology Approach theory has been used from Alfred Adler (1964). Basically, Individual Psychology Approach used to understand somebody, in other word, to understand how different aspects of their

emotional, their personality and their life style, Adler called striving for superiority as a main factor. Superiority presents the entire picture of striving for perfection. Kevin's character has his own striving for superiority to reach his perfection by being abuse and dominance, even for his own wife. According to Adler, "The individual's interpretation of life is not a trivial matter, for it is the plumb-line of his thinking, and feeling" (1938, p.32). It means by his individual psychology approach, it expressed his belief that every human personality is unique and indivisible. In Adler's theory of personality, he said that "to understand somebody means to understand their emotional, their personality and their life style" (2003, p.9). According to Adler, this expression does not refer to a particular way of life, but to know how different aspects of the personality function together and one of them is striving for superiority. Adler (2003) said that "Striving for superiority means there is an inherent tendency for individuals to grow and to master the challenges of life" (p.30). In other word, superiority present the entire picture of striving for perfection and concerned with human self-esteem and has a personal goal of superiority, like Kevin characters that Spark write to show his superiority side by his violence act that harm his wife, Katie. According to Adler (1964), striving for superiority was the one dynamic force behind people's behavior. Early in his career, Adler believed that aggression was the dynamic

power behind all motivation, secondly, he used term masculine protest which implied will to power or a domination of others. However, he soon called the single dynamic force was striving for superiority (Feist, 2006). In Adler's final theory (1956), however, "he limited striving for superiority to those people who strive for personal superiority over others by highly developed social interest." (Feist 2006:79). Striving for superiority itself means making an individual move towards superiority or the ability to conquer his or her shortcomings because superiority in this concept means a striving to reach perfection. Therefore, an individual strives to be superior as a form of effort to perfect himself or herself. According to Adler's theory in Feist book (2006) Striving for Superiority has two principal forms and three factors over people as following:

The first forms called The Final Goal. According to Adler in Feist (2006) the motivation for striving to each individual is guided by a final goal. In other word, people strive toward a final goal of either personal superiority or the goal of success for all humankind. Furthermore, the final goal has great significance because it unifies personality and renders all behavior comprehensible, for this concept, people are be able to freely shape their behavior and create their own personality to reach their final goal in life. In his book, Ansbacher said that "A person would not know what to do with himself were he not oriented toward

some goal. We cannot think, feel, will, or act without the perception of some goal. All the causalities in the world do not enable the living organism to conquer the chaos of the future and the plan lessness of which we should be the victims" (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956, p.96). In other word, when we know the causes, reflexes, reaction times and memory capacity in the person's mind we do not know anything about what really happens in him or her. Accordingly, the only way to understand a person really is to know his or her goals of what they do. The second forms called The Striving Force as Compensation, what Adler called compensation refers to a strategy for people who strive for superiority or success as a means to cover their own feeling of inferiority or weakness, he believed that humans are 'blessed' at birth with small, weak, and inferior bodies. In his book (1956) Adler explained the striving force itself is innate, but its nature and direction are due both to feelings of inferiority and to the goal of superiority. Without the innate movement toward perfection, children would never feel inferior; but without feelings of inferiority, they would never set a goal of superiority or success. The goal, then, is set as compensation for the deficit feeling to cover their inferior.

The first factors of striving for superiority was The Ceaselessness, in his theory, Adler said that "ceaselessness not far from persistence meaning, ceaselessness was

psychological phenomenon in striving for superiority growth called an intrinsic necessity of life, such as strive for conquest, security, increase, either in the right or in the wrong direction, no one may hope to escape from that necessity. Even if anyone wanted to escape, even he or she could escape, they would still find himself or herself with ceaselessness factor” (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956, p.124). Clearly ceaselessness runs parallel to physical growth, it lies at the root of all solutions of life’s problem and is manifested in the way in which we meet the problem of life. This not only states a fundamental category of thought, a thought construct, but, what is more, represents the fundamental fact of our life. Secondly, Adaptation, We must connect our thought with a continuous active adaptation to the demands of the outer world if we are to understand the direction and movement of life. It has always been a matter of overcoming, of the existence of the individual and the human race, always a matter of establishing a favourable relationship between the individual and the outer world.

This striving to carry out a better adaptation can never end (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956, p.127). In Ansbacher book, Adler implied the adaptation as a matter of life between the individual and the outer world. It can be concluded that the concept of adaptation implies that body and mind and the whole organization of living must strive together toward the outer world with different

environment and toward the conquest of all the advantages and disadvantages set by the cosmos. The third factors were Perfection in The Abnormal, it was refers to the goal of superiority but it tends in a direction which is opposed to reason the extent that physicians cannot recognize in individual as a proper goal of perfection, especially those physicians who deal with a person who suffer from alcoholics (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956, p.128). In his theory, Adler implies that when a person seeks to concretize his goal by wanting to domineer over others it implies that the person has a perfection in the abnormal way. It can be concluded this factor could be a goal of perfection itself, however, this factor cannot define the perfection itself because when a person seems dealing with a negative side in his or her life such as alcoholics, the perfection itself cannot properly working on him or her life. There are several studies are discussed related to the striving for superiority, such as Debora N Ginting (2018), Setyo darnawi (2012), and Engelbert Axel Halomon (2017).

METHODS

This article used the design of descriptive qualitative method which means as a method designed to obtain information concerning the current status or phenomena, it also dealing with data that are in the form of words, in this case, concluded the dialogue and statement in the novel to analyse. Descriptive research is research which used to

describe subject, phenomena, or characteristics about what is being studied (Mason & Bramble, 1778, p.31). According to Holland and Rees (2010), qualitative method seeks to explore human experiences in order to understand the reason behind the behaviour and meanings embedded in those experiences. Moreover, as stated in Taylor (2005, p.100) in his book *Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Research* “Qualitative research involves the studies use and experiences, introspective, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts – that describe routine and problematic moments and meaning in individual’s lives.” Based on the explanation about this method, the researcher concluded descriptive qualitative method was designed to obtain information concerning the current status or phenomena, it also dealing with data that are in the form of words rather than numbers and statistics.

The source of the data of this article is from a novel from Nicholas Sparks, *Safe Haven*, and the data itself from the dialogue and statement by the character that has been written by the author.

In finding and collecting the data, the researcher used observation methods. The first step is understanding the theory of striving for superiority with individual psychology approach by Alfred Adler. After that, reading the novel thoroughly to find out the forms and the factors of striving for superiority that suffered by Kevin Tierney

characters. Lastly, highlighting the sentences and dialogues that contain the forms and the factors of striving for superiority by Kevin Tierney characters.

After collecting the data, the researcher classifies the data into the forms and the factors of striving for superiority based on the theory by Alfred Adler. After that, analysing the data found using the theory itself.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forms of Striving for Superiority on Kevin Tierney

The Final Goal

According to Adler in Feist (2006) the motivation for striving to each individual is guided by a final goal. A person would not know what to do with himself were he not oriented toward some goal. We cannot think, feel, will, or act without the perception of some goal. From the definition above the data that implies the final goal was from Kevin Tierney. Kevin Tierney is one of the main characters in the story. He is a husband for Erin, also work as a reliable detective for homicide. They met each other in Atlantic City, they feel in love and getting married. After getting married, Kevin starts to having a strict rule about the money over his wife, something like, what are they supposed to eat, however, he also spent much money for his contentment side like the quotation below.

Money was tight and Kevin would be angry if she spent too much. Their

mortgage took nearly half his salary, and credit card bills consumed another chunk. Most of the time, they had to eat in, but he liked restaurant-type meals, with a main course and two sides dishes and sometimes salad. He refused to eat leftovers and it was hard to make the budget stretch. (Sparks, 2010, p:151, pr:1, sfl:7)

In the quotation above, Kevin would be angry if she spent too much money for food, but he also liked restaurant-type meals which spent a lot of money. The researcher implied as the final goal forms because the quotation above signified Kevin being superior to reach his contentment side, even he decided to not gives Erin much money for their food, he kept reach his own desire which his contentment side to eat in a restaurant-type meal that cost a lot of money they have.

Bill's jaw muscle was flexing and it took a long time before he spoke. "had you been drinking before you talked to the woman (suspect)?" asked Bill, Kevin's boss. "No. I don't do that. I wouldn't do that. You know my clean rate. I'm good detective. C'mon, Bill. We've worked together for years." "That's why I'm talking to you instead of firing you. Because in the past few months, you haven't been yourself. And I've been hearing rumors that you're drunk when you came into work" "It's not true" Kevin could feel his heart hammering

in his chest. He knew how to lie and he was good at it but he had to keep his voice steady. (Sparks, 2010, p:249, pr:6, sfl:1)

In the quotation above, Bill, Kevin's boss having a conversation about Kevin's life that Bill seems different lately, because at this point Kevin struggle to find his own wife, Erin, who escaped from home and for this time, she never returned. The researcher implied as the final goal forms because at the end of the conversation Kevin actually lie to Bill about him being drunk at the office. He had to keep his voice steady to reach the perfection of being a liar to Bill, and for that Bill will not believe with the rumors about Kevin get drunk at the office.

In her first year of marriage, Kevin rarely hit her and sometimes she went for walks without him. The Feldmans, an older couple, liked to work in their garden, and in the first year she'd lived here, she's often stopped to talk to them for a while. Kevin gradually tried to put an end to those friendly visits. (Sparks, 2010, p:188, pr:3, sfl:4)

In the quotation above, it can be seen that Kevin had not given for Erin to socialize with their neighbourhood. The researcher implied as the final goal forms because at the end of the statement Kevin tried to cut the relation between Erin and The Feldmans. Kevin wanted to reach his goal to avoid The Feldmans because Kevin rarely hit Erin, he

was afraid if Erin talked to much and tells The Feldmans about Erin being hit by him.

He shook his head, the muscle of his jaw pulsing. "did you ever stop to think that I might have wanted to relax today? Just take it easy on my only day off?" "I'm sorry," she said, holding her cheek. She didn't say that she'd check with him twice earlier in the week if it would be okay, or that he was the one who made her switch salons because he didn't want her making friends. Didn't want anyone knowing their business. (Sparks, 2010, p:155, pr:3, sfl:4)

In the quotation above, they both get back from the salon and Kevin started to complain about it. The researcher implied as the final goal forms because at the end of the conversation stand a statement that Kevin had not given Erin making friends and he renounce anyone knowing their business, however, it showed that perception of goal on Kevin to renounce anyone by his willingness to avoid anyone from his life and also Erin's life.

Factors Striving for Superiority on Kevin Tierney

The Ceaselessness

In his theory, Adler in Ansbacher (1956) said that ceaselessness not far from persistence meaning, ceaselessness was psychological phenomenon in striving for superiority growth called an intrinsic

necessity of life, such as strive for conquest, security, increase, either in the right or in the wrong direction, no one may hope to escape from that necessity. Even if anyone wanted to escape, even he or she could escape, they would still find himself or herself with ceaselessness factor. From the definition above the data that implies the ceaselessness of Kevin Tierney.

While they were married, he made random calls to the house throughout the day and never let her go to the store or to the hair salon or to the library by herself. She didn't have a car or even a license and he swung by their house whenever he was in the area, just to make sure she was at home. (Sparks, 2010, p:173, pr:1, sfl:15)

In the quotation above, Kevin made a random call to the house throughout the day that the researcher implied as a ceaselessness because Kevin persistence that make Erin cannot enjoyed her life at home, Kevin reaches his perfection, his desire, by controlled over his wife even she wanted to go to the salon or to the library by herself.

Bill's jaw muscle was flexing and it took a long time before he spoke. "had you been drinking before you talked to the woman (suspect)?" asked Bill, Kevin's boss. "No. I don't do that. I wouldn't do that. You know my clean rate. I'm good detective. C'mon, Bill. We've worked together for years." "That's why I'm talking

to you instead of firing you. Because in the past few months, you haven't been yourself. And I've been hearing rumors that you're drunk when you came into work" "It's not true" Kevin could feel his heart hammering in his chest. He knew how to lie and he was good at it but he had to keep his voice steady. (Sparks, 2010, p:249, pr:6, sfl:1)

In the quotation above, Bill as Kevin's boss found that Kevin seems having a problem with his life. Bill wanted to make sure the rumours of Kevin get drunk in the office. And because of that Kevin trying hard to cover his untruth about it. The researcher implied as a ceaselessness factor because the dialogue between Kevin and Bill shows how hard Kevin to cover the truth about get drunk while at the office hour in the bold words about it. He convinces Bill that he never doing that at work office by the thought of them being worked together for years.

Where she was now? And why hadn't she come home? These were the question that tormented him, and sometimes it was confusing he couldn't stop crying because he missed her and wanted her to come home and he hated to be alone. But other times, the thought that she had left him made him dwell on how selfish she was and all he wanted to do was kill her. (Sparks, 2010, p:228, pr:1, sfl:1)

In the quotation above, Kevin had a condition when Erin escaped because of what he doing to her. The researcher implied as a ceaselessness factor because the end of the statement above showed the necessity of Kevin in the wrong direction to kill his own wife when he found her and the thought that Erin left him made a wrong direction of necessity to reach his perfection to do something malignant on Erin, his own wife.

He wanted to hold her and whisper how much he adores her, but he knew she wasn't coming back, and even though he loved her, she made him so angry sometimes. A wife didn't just leave. A wife didn't just walk away from a marriage. He wanted to hit and kick and slap her and pull her hair for being so stupid. For being so damned selfish. He wanted to show her it was pointless to run away. (Sparks, 2010, p:174, pr:2, sfl:5)

In the quotation above, Kevin imagines how much he adores his wife in the middle of Erin's flee from home. The researcher implied as a ceaselessness factor because in the middle of his thought about his wife, Kevin showed the wrong direction of his necessity to hit, kick, slap, and pull her hair for run away from home, from her own husband. Kevin also showed the ceaselessness of being an abusive husband which the wrong direction of himself as a husband, the last statement about he wanted to show her it was pointless to run away as similar to

ceaselessness factors that made him take the wrong idea as a husband.

He reached out, trying to grab her, and she turned, trying to run. He was ready for her and there was nowhere to go. He struck fast and hard, his fist a piston, firing at her lower back. She gasped, her vision going black in the corners, feeling as though she'd been pierced with a knife. She collapsed to the floor, her kidney on fire, the pain shooting through her legs and up her spine. The world was spinning, and when she tried to get up, the movement only made it worse. She said nothing. Couldn't say anything. Couldn't breathe. She bit her lip to keep from screaming and wondered if she would pee blood tomorrow. The pain was a razor, slashing at her nerves, but she wouldn't cry because that only made him angrier. (Sparks, 2010, p:155, pr:7, sfl:3)

In the quotation above, Erin was suffered from Kevin who angry and abuse Erin physically. The researcher implied as a ceaselessness factor because Kevin did something bad and clearly in the wrong direction for being abuse. Moreover, Erin cannot express her pain after getting abuse from Kevin because the necessity of being wrong could made him angrier.

Adaptation

In his theory, Adler (1956) implied that the adaptation as a matter of life between the individual and the outer world. The striving to carry out a better adaptation never end; we must connect our thought with a continuous active adaptation to the demands of the outer world if we are to understand the direction and movement of life. It has always been a matter of overcoming, of the existence of the individual and the human race, always a matter of establishing a favourable relationship between the individual and the outer world such as our environment. From the definition above the data that implies of adaptation factors of Kevin Tierney.

He didn't like Coffey and Ramirez. Sometimes, when Kevin was around, Coffey and Ramirez stopped talking, and Kevin knew they had been talking about him behind his back. Gossips. (Sparks, 2010, p:168, pr:3, sfl:6)

In the quotation above, Coffey and Ramirez are partners for Kevin in the office, they also working as a detective like Kevin. The researcher implied as an adaptation factor of Kevin because in his own environment he seems different from the other. It shows how Kevin doesn't like the present of Coffey and Ramirez if they both around him. Kevin couldn't accept the fact that his partners being a gossiper which in the environment it seems normal. And because of that Kevin adaptation seems hard to accept for his environment.

She had learned to hate winter, with the endless cold and a yard half-buried in snow, because she couldn't go outside. Kevin didn't like her to walk around the neighbourhood but he let her garden in the backyard because of the privacy fence. (Sparks, 2010, p:188, pr:2, sfl:1)

In the quotation above, in the middle of the winter, Erin cannot go outside, not because she is afraid to go outside, in fact, Kevin would not agree with the idea of her being outside. The researcher implied as an adaptation factor of Kevin because he was not friendly with the neighbourhood which the normal people was normal to do such thing like that. In order to reach the perfection in life, he decided to get no relation between individual and his own neighbourhood.

He went back to bed but couldn't fall asleep. In the morning, with sunlight streaming in, he knew that nothing had changed for anyone else. Only his life was different. His brother, Michael and his wife, Nadine, would be getting kids ready for school before heading out to their jobs at Boston college, and his mom and dad were probably reading the globe as they had their morning coffee. (Sparks, 2010, p:171, pr:1, sfl:1)

In the quotation above, in the desperation of Kevin's life when Erin runs away from home, he was awake and started to compare his life with his family. The

researcher implied as an adaptation factor because Kevin striving to reach the perfection over his own environment, Kevin's family. By comparing his life with his family, the statement above showed how Kevin couldn't find any better idea for reaching his perfection like his family, instead of adaptation factors like a normal relationship between his parents and his brother he found that his life was different because he cannot develop the idea like a normal relationship like his family did.

Perfection in Abnormal

In his theory, Adler (1956) concluded perfection in the abnormal refers to the goal of superiority but it tends in a direction which is opposed to reason the extent that physicians cannot recognize in individual as a proper goal of perfection, especially those physicians who deal with a person who suffers from alcoholics. Adler implies that when a person seeks to concretize his goal by wanting to dominate over others it implies that the person has a perfection in the abnormal way. Moreover, the physicians who deal with a person who suffers from alcoholics was the fact that when a person trying to reach perfection in his or her life, they must in the abnormal way. And from the definition, the data for perfection in the abnormal factors of Kevin Tierney.

From the first day they were married, he'd controlled the money. He always made her keep receipts and give him any change, but after she'd run away

the second time, he'd also started locking his wallet in the gun box with his guns when he went to sleep. (Sparks, 2010, p:210, pr:2, sfl:6)

In the quotation above, the researcher implied as a perfection in abnormal factors because Kevin tried to reach his goal by wanting to domineer over his own wife. It can be seen from the way he controlled the money from the first day they were being a husband and wife. Kevin also had a rule to make Erin keep the receipts and give any change from a money that Kevin has been given. Also, Kevin started to locking his wallet and what he did was beyond the normal husband should life especially they live together.

In this section, the researcher would like to explain about the differences and similarities between the data from previous studies and this article who has the same topic about striving for superiority.

The data from previous research entitled "Striving for Superiority of Margaret Tate in Anne Fletcher's The Proposal Movie (2009): An Individual Psychological Approach," The researcher was revealed there were three distinct stages in his theorizing on the ultimate goal of human life: to be aggressive, to be powerful, and to be superior. It was conducted by Setyo Darnawi from Muhammadiyah Surakarta University. This disagrees with the finding from this thesis because it has different category of striving for superiority theory. Therefore, this thesis shows the forms and the factors of striving for superiority.

CONCLUSION

In this part, the researcher concludes all of the results presented in the previous chapter. There are two problems that are created in this research. First problem are the forms of striving for superiority on Kevin Tierney in Nicholas Spark's Safe Haven novel. The second problem are the factors of striving for superiority on Kevin Tierney in Nicholas Spark's Safe Haven novel. To support the two problems, the researcher uses theory about the forms and the factors of striving for superiority. Based on the data findings, in the first problem, there are 2 forms of striving for superiority they are the final goal and the striving force as compensation. The first forms there are 4 data found of the final goal forms. The second forms of striving for superiority is the striving force as compensation. There is no data found in this form because based on the story, Kevin has not found as a person who striving for superiority to cover his inferior bodies because the definition of compensation in this theory means a person who strive to cover his inferior bodies which the author of the novel did not create Kevin with physically appears. In the second problem, there are 3 factors of striving for superiority they are the ceaselessness, adaptation, and perfection in Abnormal. The first factors there are 5 data found of the ceaselessness, the second factors there are 3 data found of the adaptation, and for the last factors there are 1 data found of perfection in Abnormal. It is related to the

data that concluded the forms and the factors of striving for superiority of Kevin Tierney through the dialogue and statement on the novel. In addition, the researcher used forms and factors of striving for superiority from Alfred Adler (1956) to support the data.

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