

# A Freudian Analysis of Christopher in the Film 'Cuttputlli'

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**Abstract:** The research explores the intricate layers of the human psyche through a Freudian lens, focusing on the character of Christopher in the film Cuttputlli. Through an in-depth analysis of Christopher's behaviors, past, and relationships, this study aims to elucidate the subconscious motivations and conflicts that drive his actions. Drawing on Freudian concepts such as the id, ego, superego, defense mechanisms, and psychosexual stages of development, this analysis sheds light on the complex interplay between unconscious desires and societal constraints in shaping Christopher's psyche. The research will explore the behavior of the antagonist in the movie Cuttputlli, who kidnaps and kills several schoolgirls, driven by unresolved childhood trauma. Utilizing Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, this paper will analyze the antagonist's actions, psyche, and the traumatic memories that shape his behavior. This research aims to explore the psychoanalytic journey of the antagonist Christopher in the movie Cuttputlli utilizing Freudian theory as a guiding tool. By using the theory, the paper would like to unravel the psyche of the character, the motive behind his behaviors, and the intricate interplay of conscious and unconscious elements within his personality.

**Keywords:** Freudian, psychoanalysis, Cuttputlli, Freud, Trauma.

## Introduction

One of the biggest hubs for film production globally is Bollywood, the Hindi-language film industry with its base in Mumbai. Bollywood movies have a huge worldwide fan base and have impacted artists and filmmakers internationally. According to film critic and author Anupama Chopra, "Indian films have played a pivotal role in shaping the collective consciousness of the nation. They have served as a platform for dialogue, debate, and introspection, addressing pressing social issues and celebrating the rich diversity of Indian culture."

Richard Ramirez, popularly known as Night Stalker, was a renowned serial killer and rapist who terrified California in the middle of the 1980s. He stated during his trial that

"I love to kill people. I love watching them die. I would shoot them in the head and they would wiggle and squirm all over the place, and then just stop. Or I would cut them with a knife and watch their faces turn real white. I love all that blood. I told one lady to give me all her money. She said no. So, I cut her and pulled her eyes out." (Ramirez, 1986).

We wonder sometimes how this killer can enjoy by killing others and how they get pleasures from seeing the bloods of those victims. We can also see the lack of humanity to get their pleasure toward others. When analysing the quote, we also see the potential of the killer for further violence and their impact toward others. We can see the antisocial behaviour and psyche of the killer which fascinated with blood and death, the research would like to take the opportunity to critically analyse the psyche of the antagonist named Christopher from the movie named *Cuttputlli* from the perspective of Freudian theory.

*Cuttputlli* is a 2022 Indian Hindi-language psychological crimes thriller film produced by Vashu, Jackky, and Deepshikha Deshmukh under the banner of Pooja Entertainment. It was directed by Ranjit M. Tewari. The movie Cuttputlli, starring Rakul Preet Singh and Akshay Kumar, tells the story of Arjan Sethi, a sub-inspector, and how he solved the case of a serial murderer who attacked teenage schoolgirls and left severed doll heads as their

hallmark. Arjan's fascination with the psychology of serial murderers drove him to pursue the case as a means of applying his acquired knowledge. Because of his inexperience, his views were initially rejected, but in eventually, he was able to take on the case.

Cuttputti is a conventional Bollywood movie featuring a hip dance scene, a dislocated sense of humor, and a masculine hero figure who single-handedly solves the case. In the movie *Cuttputti*, Arjan Sethi, the son of a police officer, was always fascinated by the psychology of serial killers. Despite facing rejection for his screenplay on the subject, he joined the police force in Kasauli after his father's death. His interest was piqued by a case involving the abduction of a schoolgirl, marked by a disturbing gift box left behind. Arjan suspected a serial killer, despite initial skepticism from his colleagues.

Investigating further, Arjan found similarities with another case in Parwanoo, leading him to believe a serial murderer was at large. His hunch was confirmed when a math teacher, Purushottam Tomar, was implicated. Tomar's predatory behavior and involvement with the cases pointed to his guilt. Arjan's niece, Payal, narrowly escaped Tomar's clutches, but tragedy struck when she was kidnapped and murdered, revealing the killer's continued presence. Determined to seek justice, Arjan uncovered crucial evidence linking the crimes to a recent magic performance by Aisha Khan. Aisha's involvement led to a tense confrontation where Arjan saved her from the killer's grasp. However, the murderer, revealed to be Christopher, Agnes Fernando's son, remained elusive. Christopher's troubled past and vengeful motives emerged, shedding light on his gruesome crimes.

He admitted that he had murdered all the schoolgirls. He became a serial killer because of the rejection and pain he experienced as a child. His progeria disease was ridiculed by his classmates for his looks. In the hopes that he would be more welcomed here, his mother moved him to India from the UK, but it was the same outcome. He was humiliated and felt useless, but then he met Sofia. At school, she was the only friend he had. He eventually fell in love with her, and she showed little concern for his appearance. One day, when he admitted his emotions for her, she turned down his proposal, making him look foolish in front of everyone once more. He was distraught by Sofia's rejection and intended to exact revenge. Out of hatred and rage, he desired to ruin every beautiful face he met. Sofia went to Christopher's house one day to apologize for embarrassing him, and Agnes welcomed her inside and gave her the present box with the doll head that had been cut off. Because she thought it was the right thing to do to someone who had mistreated her son, his mother had supported him when he killed Sofia. After admitting that she was the murderer, his mother was imprisoned. As she was going to bring him home from a mental institution after serving twelve years in jail, she had an accident.

He utilized his mother's beauty to gain the girls' trust after that accident. It pleased him to do the killings. He felt so satisfied ruining their beautiful faces. After telling his tale, he continued to threaten Iti, but Arjan was able to get the better of him and tackled him to save her life. In the end, he repeatedly stabbed Christopher to get revenge for the schoolgirls' deaths. As the movie came to a conclusion, Iti, Arjan, and Divya all left the abandoned building together. It was incredibly clichéd that Christopher stopped to tell his whole tale before striking. It makes the story more interesting in analyzing the story of the antagonist in the film.

Sigmund Freud developed psychoanalysis, a therapeutic approach, and theology that uses methods like dream analysis and free association to delve into the unconscious mind in order to reveal suppressed emotions and understand deeply ingrained emotional patterns. Psychoanalysis's primary principle is that everyone has unconscious memories, feelings, desires, and thoughts. As to Freud's theory, the tensions that emerge during the Oedipal period of development lead to neurotic issues in later life. Because the immature ego is not mature enough to handle these problems at the moment, they may be repressed.

The significance of this endeavor lies not only in the exploration of a fictional character but also in the broader implications for our understanding of human nature and the complexities of the human mind. Through the examination of Christopher's psychoanalytic profile, the research aims to shed light on universal psychological phenomena and the ways in which cinematic narratives serve as mirrors reflecting our innermost struggles and desires.

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In the film *Cuttputlli*, the character of Christopher indeed serves as a compelling subject for Freudian analysis, as his experiences and relationships offer rich insights into the workings of the psyche. Drawing upon Freud's theories, we can dissect Christopher's behavior and motivations, exploring how his unconscious desires and past traumas shape his actions throughout the narrative.

### Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the psychological profile of Christopher, the antagonist in the film *Cuttputlli*, through the lens of Freudian psychoanalytic theory. Qualitative research is chosen for its ability to provide an in-depth, contextualized understanding of complex psychological phenomena, which is essential for analyzing the nuanced behaviors and motivations of a fictional character. The primary data source for this research is the film *Cuttputlli*. A detailed textual analysis of the film's script, with a focus on Christopher's dialogues and actions, will be conducted. This analysis aims to identify key psychological themes and patterns that align with Freudian concepts. Secondary data will include film reviews, scholarly articles, and critiques that provide additional insights into the character's development and behavior. These sources will be used to corroborate findings from the primary textual analysis. A comprehensive literature review will be conducted to gather existing research on Freudian theory, psychoanalysis in film, and psychological studies on similar conditions and behaviors. This review will help contextualize the analysis of Christopher within broader theoretical frameworks and previous studies.

Comparative case studies will be used to draw parallels between Christopher's psychological profile and real-life cases of individuals with similar backgrounds and conditions, such as progeria and severe childhood trauma. This approach will involve reviewing documented case studies, psychological profiles, and clinical reports. Thematic analysis will be employed to identify and analyze patterns or themes within the textual data. Key themes related to Freudian concepts (such as the id, ego, superego, defense mechanisms, and the Oedipal complex) will be extracted and analyzed to understand how they manifest in Christopher's character.

Narrative analysis will be used to examine the storyline and character development in *Cuttputlli*. This method will focus on how Christopher's backstory, experiences, and interactions with other characters contribute to his psychological profile and motivations. Cross-case synthesis will be applied in the comparative case studies to identify similarities and differences between Christopher's fictional profile and real-life cases. This method will help validate the applicability of Freudian theory to the character and highlight unique aspects of his psychological development.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the research findings, multiple strategies will be employed. Triangulation will combine multiple data sources to corroborate findings, while peer review will engage academic peers to review and critique the analysis and interpretations. Reflexivity will be maintained throughout the research process to document the researcher's thoughts, biases, and decisions, ensuring transparency and reflexivity in the analysis.

Although this study analyses a fictional character, ethical considerations include respect for intellectual property and sensitivity to real-life conditions. Proper citation of all sources and handling discussions of real-life conditions with sensitivity and respect will be prioritized. By employing these qualitative research methods, this study aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of Christopher's psychological profile in *Cuttputlli*, contributing to the broader discourse on psychoanalysis in film and the applicability of Freudian theory to contemporary characters.

### Analyzing Christopher's character through Freudian theory

Understanding the psychological makeup of a serial killer is crucial. Many exhibit traits of psychopathy, sociopathy, or narcissism. These individuals often lack empathy, guilt, and remorse, and may have a profound sense of entitlement. Christopher, who was the antagonist of the movie, possessed these traits mentioned above; he was a Psychopath. Psychopathy in a conceptualized way is explained as impairment in empathy and remorse,

and bold, disinhibited, and egocentric traits masked by the superficial charm and the outward presence of apparent normality.

Psychopathy is a condition that is inherently hybrid, exhibiting a paradoxical blend of outward traits such as poise, charm, emotional resilience, and adventuresomeness, but underlying affective disturbances and deficits in impulse control. From this perspective, psychopathy is at least in part characterized by psychologically adaptive traits.

He was a sociopath as he had no real attachment to anyone and treated others as objects. He used his inner rage to justify his negative behaviour towards others. He was abused mentally and emotionally in his school which provoked him to be a sociopath. Traumatic experiences and heartbreak were the sole reason which made him a sociopath and from that day he started kidnapping school going girls and killed them brutally. It's important to note that sociopathy is not solely attributed to one specific cause but rather a combination of genetic predisposition and environmental factors.

"All this started 12 years ago. My mother, Agnes, brought me to India from UK so that I can get social acceptance. But no, people used to make fun of me even here."(Christopher, 02:03:47)

Christopher's initial hope for acceptance when his mother brought him to India but expresses his disappointment and continued rejection by society despite his relocation. He was physically and verbally abused by his schoolmates because of his looks. Furthermore, his mother was not the kind of woman who socialized much, and instead of dissuading her son from negative thoughts, she assisted him in harming the girl who rejected him.

### **Sociopathic and psychopathic tendencies**

Christopher exhibited a fundamental lack of empathy for other, unable to understand or connect with their emotions and suffering. Christopher showed a severe lack of empathy, being essentially unaffected by other people's feelings, worries, and pain. Interpersonal connections suffered greatly as a result of his inability to understand or relate to the experiences and emotions of others around him. Whenever someone expressed happiness or sadness, Christopher frequently failed to show true empathy or understanding, which made other people feel ignored and invalidated in their feelings.

The deficiency of empathy not only impeded his capacity to establish significant relationships but also added to his feeling of seclusion and disconnection from his social circle. Christopher consistently demonstrates a failure to emotionally connect with those around him. Whether dealing with victims, colleagues, or even close acquaintances, his responses are often devoid of genuine emotional engagement. For instance, when confronted with the suffering of the victims or the distress of their families, Christopher remains disturbingly detached. His reactions are clinical and calculated, reflecting an intellectual understanding of their pain but a complete emotional disconnect. Christopher's apathy to other people's pain is a key indicator of his lack of empathy. This is a deliberate disdain for the effect his acts have on other people rather than just a lack of emotional reaction. He sees people more as inanimate things or tools than as sentient beings with intrinsic value. This is especially seen in the way he treats those whom he abuses or exploits; as long as his objectives are met, their suffering and anguish don't matter to him.

The way that Christopher interacts with others is frequently characterized by a utilitarian mindset, in which connections are established and preserved according to their use to him. His actual concern for the welfare of others is minimal at best, and he uses charm and deceit to get what he wants. Because he is not able to sense or meet the needs of others around him, his relationships lack genuine emotional depth. His opportunistic character highlights the gap in his empathy even more. Christopher always finds a way to justify his activities so that he may avoid moral accountability even when they cause harm. Because of his lack of empathy, he is able to use a twisted logic to justify his actions, placing his goals and desires above any ethical considerations. His incapacity to consider other people's viewpoints is made clear by this process of rationalization, which focuses only on his own story and objectives. Christopher feels socially alienated and alone in part because he lacks empathy. Though he may seem charming on the surface, further interactions with him inevitably reveal his manipulative tendencies and inner emptiness, which breeds mistrust and isolation. He is alone because he can't make real, sympathetic

connections. Meaningful relationships are based on reciprocal emotional support and understanding, which he can't give. In *Cuttputlli*, Christopher's persona is mostly defined by his lack of empathy, which influences many of his encounters and acts.

He was highly skilled at manipulating others to serve his own ends, exploiting their vulnerabilities for personal gain. Christopher's attention-seeking behaviour, manifested through his crimes, can also be understood through a Freudian lens. The Freudian theory emphasizes the role of unconscious drives and desires in motivating behaviour. Christopher's craving for validation and attention may stem from unconscious desires for recognition and affirmation of his worth and significance. Freud proposed that individuals have innate drives for pleasure and gratification, which can manifest in various ways, including seeking attention or admiration from others. Christopher's violent acts may serve as a desperate attempt to fulfil these unconscious desires, as he seeks to assert his power and dominance over others in a bid for recognition and validation.

"I enjoy killing them, I kill them to keep myself alive. I enjoy it, you will die too, but first, watch her dead."(Christopher,02:05:38)

Christopher's need for attention and recognition is demonstrated by his enjoyment of using violence and his desire to have others witness his crimes. By threatening to kill and demanding that others watch, Christopher seeks to assert his power and dominance over them, thereby garnering attention and validation for his actions. This conduct is consistent with Freudian theory, which holds that people sometimes act in extreme or destructive ways in order to satisfy unconscious needs for approval and satisfaction. Even if it's just through intimidation and fear, Christopher uses his violent acts to assert his importance and command attention.

He presented a charming and charismatic façade to the outside world, masking her true nature and intentions. He disguised himself as a woman who is very good in magic and go to other school's events to outcast his charms. Christopher skilfully hid his true nature and intentions behind an appearance of charm and charisma, projecting an alluring and charming demeanour to the outside world. His exterior was all charm, warmth, and self-assurance; he drew people to him with ease and won their respect and trust. Beneath this outward charm, though, was a coldly calculated facade intended to distort impressions and hide more sinister intentions. His charm may have won him over to people at first, but in the end, it was just a smokescreen for his manipulative tendencies, allowing him to take advantage of interpersonal dynamics while disguising any underlying animosity or hidden agendas. He was able to move through social situations with ease because of his surface-level charm, often leaving others in the dark about his true nature.

#### **Rejection and abandonment issues:**

Christopher experiences of rejection of abandonment have left deep emotional scars, leading to feelings of worthlessness and insecurity. His self-esteem has been severely damaged as a result of his classmates' constant verbal abuse and negative comments. He feels very insecure and worthless, and his progeria condition makes him stand out physically and cause him to be rejected by society. He has severe emotional scars from his experiences of rejection and abandonment, especially after killing Sofia and his mother's imprisonment and eventual death. These open wounds fuel his behaviour and add to his emotional instability.

He craved for validation and attention by killing girls. Christopher's violent acts can be seen as a desperate cry for validation and attention. His need to be noticed and acknowledged, even though it was negative actions, highlights his craving for recognition and significance, which he feels deprived of due to his physical condition and social rejection. His skilled manipulation of others, using charm and charisma, is a means to fulfil his need for control and validation. By deceiving and controlling others, Christopher attempts to assert his power and compensate for his feelings of inadequacy.

#### **Emotional and mental abuse:**

Christopher endured relentless verbal abuse from his class and schoolmates, subjected to demeaning insults and cruel taunts that eroded his self-esteem. Christopher endures constant verbal abuse from classmates and fellow

students during his time in school. Due to his progeria condition, these peers constantly make fun of him and his appearance, calling him Impotent and teasing him. His sense of inadequacy is reinforced and his self-worth is undermined by the unceasing stream of criticism. Christopher's self-esteem has been severely eroded as a result of the verbal abuse. His sense of self is eroded by every taunt and insult, leading to a deeply ingrained belief that he is unworthy of respect and kindness. His interactions with others and self-perception are impacted by this internalized negativity, which becomes an integral part of who he is. Christopher feels more alone in social situations as a result of the verbal abuse. Probably feeling singled out and made fun of all the time, he probably distances himself from people to prevent getting hurt any more. His sense of alienation is increased by this isolation, which also serves to confirm his perception that he is inherently different from and rejected by society.

Christopher class and schoolmates used psychological manipulation to control and manipulate him, instilling a sense of fear and dependency that kept him trapped in a cycle of abuse. Gaslighting is a psychological manipulation technique used by Christopher's classmates and fellow students to subdue and control him. Gaslighting is the process of undermining someone's experiences and perceptions in order to make them doubt their reality and sanity. The actions of Christopher's peers probably cause him to question his own feelings and ideas, which further diminishes his sense of self. Christopher's abusers implant a persistent sense of fear and dependence in him through the use of gaslighting.

Christopher feels helpless and reliant on other people for validation and the truth in an environment where they are continuously questioning his reality and making him doubt his own experiences. Because of his dependency, he is unable to break free from the cycle of abuse and express his individuality. The combination of verbal abuse and gaslighting creates a vicious cycle of abuse. As Christopher's self-esteem is eroded by verbal insults, the gaslighting reinforces his sense of helplessness and dependency. This cycle keeps him trapped in a state of emotional and psychological vulnerability, where he feels unable to break free from the negative influence of his peers. The psychological effects of this abuse are severe and long-lasting. Christopher experiences a distorting of reality, which undermines his confidence in his own sense of reality and judgment. As a result of his constant manipulation, he experiences persistent anxiety, depression, and other mental health problems as he tries to make sense of the world outside the abusive procedure and his internalized sense of worthlessness.

The relentless verbal abuse and gaslighting leave Christopher with deep-seated insecurities that affect every aspect of his life. His sense of self is fractured, and he struggles with feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt. It affected him even after he became the serial killer and when Arjan used the exact word against him he left his target and came for Arjan first specially the word Impotent.

### **Deviated Behavioural Consequences and Psychological Factors In 'Cuttputlli'**

#### **Psychological consequences**

Examining the consequences of deviated behaviours of serial killers involves delving into various dimensions, including psychological, sociological, and criminological aspects. The psychological ramifications Christopher encounters in the movie *Cuttputlli* can be understood by analysing his traumatic experiences and the actions that followed. His prior trauma and abuse have had a significant and diverse influence, as seen by these repercussions. The events of *Cuttputlli* that Christopher goes through expose deep emotions of inadequacy and insecurity, which have a big influence on his mental health and actions. These emotions are the result of a complicated interaction between a number of societal, familial, and personal elements that may be linked to several points in his life.

Because of his progeria illness, Christopher's body ages quickly, giving him a very distinct appearance from his contemporaries.

"I suffer from progeria, an illness where my body ages rapidly. Everyone used to laugh at me and kept their distance from me." (Christopher,02:04:00)

Christopher reveals the physical condition that further alienates him from others, leading to his feelings of isolation and rejection. This distinction serves as a focal point for social exclusion and bullying. His physical symptoms act

as a continual reminder of his "otherness," which exacerbates his emotions of inadequacy and self-loathing. His social isolation is probably partly caused by the mental and physical difficulties that come with having progeria. His seclusion is both the source and the result of his declining sense of self-worth as he struggles with the facts of his situation. The extreme lengths his mother went to in order to lessen his suffering are shown by her choice to relocate him from the UK to India in the hopes of gaining societal acceptability.

His sense of futility and despair only grows as a result of the ongoing rejection he encounters in spite of his attempts. His persistent inability to fit in and be accepted, even in unfamiliar surroundings, feeds his notion that he is unlovable and will always be shunned. This cycle of rejection that keeps happening to him becomes fundamental to who he is. Two extremely painful occurrences in his life are the passing of Sofia and his mother, two individuals who loved him despite the way he looked. These setbacks intensify his sense of desertion and strengthen his conviction that anybody who may possibly embrace him will ultimately turn away or turn him down. His mental instability is partly caused by the trauma of losing these important persons.

It is possible to see Christopher's later deeds, including his crimes, as frantic attempts to prove his value and obtain acceptance. Though they do it in terror and terror, his violent deeds are a perverse way of making others recognize him and his importance. His use of charm and cunning to manipulate other people is a coping strategy for his ingrained fears. He momentarily escapes his sense of helplessness and insignificance by dominating and controlling others. Deeply ingrained in Christopher's sentiments of worthlessness and insecurity are his experiences with social rejection, the difficulties of having progeria, unfulfilled demands for approval, and tragic losses. His future acts and behaviours are motivated by these thoughts as he tries to take charge of his life and prove his value in a society that has continuously ignored and undervalued him.

Individual Mental state: - Understanding the psychological makeup of serial killers is crucial. Factors such as childhood trauma, personality disorders (e.g., psychopathy, antisocial personality disorder), and neurological abnormalities are often associated with deviated behaviours.

Motivation and Gratification: - In order to identify the consequences of inappropriate behaviours of serial killers one has to identify what motivates them. This could range from a need for power and control to sexual gratification or a need to fulfil fantasies. By understanding these motives one can predict and prevent future crimes.

Impact on Victims and Families: - Inappropriate behaviours of serial killer can have a profound effect on victims and their near and dear ones. Anxiety, Trauma, bereavement and survivor's guilt are common results. These individuals may require long-term psychological support to cope with their experiences.

Social Alienation: - Alienation is a concept which involves separation or a withdrawal from caregivers or close ones. Serial killers often exhibit Social Alienation and a lack of empathy towards others. This can lead to feelings of sedentary lifestyle and marginalization within society.

Impact on Communities: - Through many surveys and researches done on the consequences it has been reported that communities are being affected prominently. Serial killing creates fear and mistrust. Communities may become hyper-vigilant or develop stigmatizing attitudes towards certain groups or individuals.

Media Influence: - Serial killing cases when gets media coverage and they sensationalize inappropriate behaviours it could attract the public and there are possible chances that community may get involved. This can perpetuate myths and stereotypes about serial killers and their motivations as well.

#### **Criminological consequences:**

Legal Ramification: - During identification of after-effects of serial killing it involves understanding of legal ramifications for both the perpetrator and society. Serial killers are subject to criminal prosecution and, in some cases, capital punishment. Legal proceeding may also involve debates over mental competence and culpability.

Law Enforcement Strategies: - These strategies help for investigation, profiling, and apprehension. Profiling techniques, forensic evidence analysis, and behavioural analysis play pivotal roles in identifying and apprehending serial offenders.

Preventive Measures: - By analysing the consequences, it can help in developing measures and intervention strategies. By detecting the risk factors initially and by addressing underlying issues from which the serial killer is suffering such as childhood trauma or mental illness can potentially prevent future acts of violence or killing.

To conclude, to analyse the aftermath of deviated behaviours of psycho killers, it requires a multidimensional approach that involves psychological, sociological, and criminological factors. If one is able to understand the motives, patterns of killing, their impacts, and implications of these behaviours, society can better address and resolve the risks posed by serial offenders.

“It only too often yields to the temptation to become sycophantic, opportunist and lying, like a politician who sees the truth but wants to keep his place in popular favour.” (Freud,32)

### Exploration of Christopher's Psyche

In *Cuttputli*, the interplay between the id, ego, and superego within Christopher's psyche is a central theme that drives the narrative forward and shapes his character arc. By examining Christopher's impulsive actions, rationalizations, and moral conflicts, we can gain a deeper understanding of how these psychic structures interact and influence his behaviour throughout the film.

The id, operating on the pleasure principle, is the primal, instinctual part of Christopher's psyche that seeks immediate gratification of his desires and impulses. Christopher's impulsive actions, driven by his id, often lead him to make decisions based solely on his immediate desires without considering the consequences. For example, his reckless pursuit of pleasure and excitement without regard for societal norms or personal safety reflects the dominance of his id.

"I kill them to keep myself alive. I enjoy it."(Christopher, 02:05:40)

The ego serves as the mediator between the id's demands and the constraints of reality. It seeks to satisfy the id's desires in a way that is acceptable to the external world and aligned with long-term goals. Throughout the film, Christopher's ego is constantly challenged as he navigates between his impulsive urges and the need to conform to societal expectations. His attempts to rationalize his actions or find compromises between his desires and external constraints demonstrate the ongoing struggle of his ego to maintain balance.

The superego represents the internalized societal norms and values that guide moral behaviour and impose guilt or shame for violating these standards. Christopher's moral conflicts arise from the tension between his id's desires and the demands of his superego. He experiences guilt and self-doubt when his actions conflict with his internalized sense of right and wrong, particularly when they involve hurting others or betraying his own values.

Throughout the film, Christopher's journey is marked by a constant negotiation and conflict among these psychic structures. His impulsive actions driven by the id often clash with the rationalizations of the ego and the moral judgments of the superego. This internal struggle fuels the tension and drama of the narrative as Christopher grapples with his own desires, societal expectations, and moral responsibilities.

Ultimately, the exploration of the id, ego, and superego within Christopher's psyche adds depth and complexity to his character, shedding light on the motivations behind his actions and the internal conflicts that drive his behaviour. By examining how these psychic structures interact and influence each other, we gain insight into the intricate workings of the human psyche and the complexities of human behaviour depicted in *Cuttputli*.

In *Cuttputli*, Christopher's use of defense mechanisms serves as a fascinating lens through which we can examine how he copes with traumatic events and interpersonal conflicts, shedding light on the complexities of his psyche and the dynamics driving his behaviour. By analysing his employment of defence mechanisms such as repression,

denial, projection, and sublimation, we can gain deeper insights into the ways in which his unconscious mind attempts to manage internal tensions and maintain psychic equilibrium.

Repression is a defence mechanism through which painful or threatening thoughts, memories, or impulses are pushed into the unconscious mind to prevent conscious awareness. Throughout the film, Christopher may employ repression to cope with traumatic events or experiences that are too distressing to confront directly. For example, he may repress memories of childhood trauma or past failures in order to protect himself from overwhelming feelings of shame or guilt.

Denial involves refusing to acknowledge the reality of a situation or the implications of one's actions. Christopher may engage in denial as a way of avoiding uncomfortable truths about himself or his circumstances. For instance, he may deny the severity of his substance abuse problem or the impact of his actions on those around him, choosing instead to minimize or rationalize his behaviour in order to preserve his self-image.

Projection occurs when individuals attribute their own unacceptable thoughts, feelings, or impulses to others. Christopher may project his own insecurities or desires onto those around him, attributing negative qualities or motives to others in order to avoid confronting them within himself. This could manifest in his tendency to blame others for his own mistakes or to perceive criticism or rejection where none may exist.

Sublimation involves channelling unacceptable impulses or emotions into socially acceptable outlets. Christopher may engage in sublimation as a way of managing his inner conflicts and desires while conforming to societal norms. For example, he may channel his aggression or frustration into competitive sports or creative pursuits, allowing him to express and release pent-up energy in a constructive manner.

By analyzing Christopher's use of defense mechanisms throughout the film, we can gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which his unconscious mind seeks to protect him from anxiety and distress. These mechanisms provide insight into his internal struggles, coping mechanisms, and attempts to maintain psychic equilibrium in the face of internal and external conflicts. Ultimately, examining Christopher's employment of defense mechanisms enriches our understanding of his character and the complex interplay of forces shaping his behaviour in *Cuttpulli*.

### **Oedipal Complex**

Freud's Oedipal complex posits that during the phallic stage of psychosexual development (ages 3-6), a child experiences a subconscious sexual desire for the opposite-sex parent and a sense of rivalry with the same-sex parent. In Christopher's case, the two significant figures in his life, who accept him despite his physical appearance, are his mother and Sofia. This relationship dynamic can be interpreted through the lens of the Oedipal complex.

"There were only two people... to whom my appearance didn't matter mom and Sofia."(Christopher,02:04:07)

### **Christopher and His Mother**

Christopher's intense attachment to his mother, Agnes, aligns with the classic Oedipal desire for the mother. His mother's acceptance and protection are critical to his sense of worth, especially given his physical condition and societal rejection. This deep bond is further evidenced when his mother takes the blame for Sofia's murder and goes to jail, showcasing her sacrificial love and Christopher's reliance on her.

Freud theorized that unresolved Oedipal conflicts could lead to significant psychological disturbances in adulthood. Christopher's inability to navigate his attachment to his mother and the lack of a paternal figure to diffuse this attachment could have contributed to his extreme behaviours. The death of his mother exacerbates these unresolved conflicts, leaving Christopher psychologically adrift and intensifying his disturbed state.

### Christopher and Sofia

Sofia represents an extension of the Oedipal desire, a substitute for the maternal figure. Christopher's affection for Sofia and his efforts to impress her with magic tricks highlight his need for validation from a significant female figure. When Sofia rejects his romantic advances and instead "lectures him on genetics and hormones," Christopher's feelings of rejection and inadequacy are deeply triggered. This moment can be seen as a critical point where his Oedipal desires are harshly thwarted, leading to destructive behaviour.

The murder of Sofia can be interpreted as a symbolic act of asserting control and dominance, a distorted way of dealing with his Oedipal rivalry. By killing Sofia, Christopher attempts to resolve his deep-seated feelings of rejection and assert his dominance, which his ego could not otherwise reconcile. Through the lens of the Oedipal complex, Christopher's actions and relationships with his mother and Sofia can be seen as manifestations of unresolved psychosexual conflicts. His inability to reconcile these feelings leads to extreme behaviours, driven by a deep need for acceptance and validation. Freud's theory helps us understand the underlying psychological motivations that contribute to Christopher's disturbed psyche and violent actions in *Cutputtli*.

### Psychosexual development

In tracing Christopher's psychosexual development through his childhood experiences, fantasies, and adult relationships, we can explore how he navigated Freud's proposed stages. Starting with the oral stage, characterized by the mouth as the primary erogenous zone, we might investigate Christopher's early feeding experiences and oral fixations. Moving to the anal stage, we could examine Christopher's toilet training experiences and any conflicts or issues that arose during this phase, such as issues with control and authority.

Next, the phallic stage, where the focus shifts to the genitals, might involve exploring Christopher's relationships with his parents, particularly his identification with his same-sex parent and any resulting conflicts or feelings of rivalry. During the latency stage, we might consider how Christopher's sexual urges are repressed and channelled into other activities such as school and friendships, and how this impacts his development.

Finally, in the genital stage, we can analyse Christopher's adult relationships and sexual behaviours, looking for signs of healthy sexual development or any lingering effects of unresolved conflicts from earlier stages. By examining Christopher's progression through these stages, we can gain insight into how his early experiences and conflicts may have shaped his adult personality and relationships.

### Symbolic elements in Christopher's character

In *Cutputtli*, Christopher's narration of childhood served as a rich source of symbolic imagery that provides insight into the deeper layers of his psyche and the unresolved conflicts that lurk beneath his conscious awareness. Through a Freudian interpretation of symbolism, we can uncover the latent meanings hidden within Christopher's character, shedding light on his repressed desires, anxieties, and psychological struggles. One common theme in Christopher's character involved symbols related to his childhood experiences and relationships, reflecting unresolved conflicts from his past. For example, recurring images of his childhood home, family members, or significant events may represent his ongoing struggles with unresolved issues or traumas from his early years. These symbols may resurface in his dreams as his unconscious mind attempts to process and make sense of these past experiences.

Another common motif involved symbols related to his current interpersonal relationships and conflicts. For instance, symbolic representations of significant people in his life, such as friends, romantic partners, or authority figures that appears in his life as he grapples with feelings of love, resentment, or ambivalence toward these individuals. These symbols serve as a reflection of his inner conflicts and emotional struggles in waking life.

Freud also emphasized the role of sexual symbolism, suggesting that many images and scenarios are expressions of repressed sexual desires or anxieties. The symbols related to sexuality, intimacy, and desire may manifest in various forms, offering clues to his unconscious fantasies and conflicts surrounding these themes. Actions

involving ambiguous or taboo sexual encounters may reveal hidden desires or fears related to his sexuality or relationships.

Freud proposed that repressed desires often contain symbols related to wish fulfilment, representing unconscious desires or fantasies that are repressed or unattainable in waking life. In Christopher's dreams, symbols of success, power, or freedom may serve as expressions of his deepest wishes and aspirations, providing insight into his innermost desires and longings.

By analysing Christopher's childhood and the symbols therein through a Freudian lens, we can uncover the hidden meanings and unconscious conflicts that shape his psyche. His childhood offers a window into the depths of his unconscious mind, revealing the complex interplay of desires, anxieties, and unresolved issues that influence his thoughts, emotions, and behaviours in waking life. Through this exploration of the symbolism present in his life, we gain a deeper understanding of Christopher's character and the psychological forces driving his actions and relationships in *Cuttputlli*.

### Conclusion

Christopher's formative years, marked by relentless verbal abuse and ostracization due to his progeria, lay the groundwork for his profound feelings of worthlessness and insecurity. These experiences resonate with Freud's concept of the unconscious mind where repressed memories and traumas exert a powerful influence on behavior. Christopher's violent actions can be interpreted as manifestations of his id, driven by primal urges for recognition and revenge, unchecked by an adequately developed superego that failed to internalize societal norms and morality due to his disturbed upbringing.

The unhealthy attachment to his mother and the subsequent guilt and trauma of her imprisonment highlight the Oedipal undertones in Christopher's psyche. His mother's role in his life, coupled with the tragic loss, exemplifies Freud's notion of unresolved Oedipal conflicts that result in lasting psychological repercussions. Christopher's projection of his self-loathing onto his victims, coupled with his need for validation through violent acts, underscores the Freudian defense mechanisms of projection and displacement at play.

Furthermore, Christopher's use of charm and charisma to manipulate and deceive others aligns with Freud's exploration of the ego's role in navigating between primal desires and reality. His ability to present a facade of normalcy while harboring sinister intentions reflects the dual nature of the human psyche, where the outward persona conceals the tumultuous inner world.

In conclusion, a Freudian analysis of Christopher in *Cuttputlli* reveals a complex interplay of unconscious drives, defense mechanisms, and unresolved psychosexual conflicts that culminate in his deviant behavior. By delving into Christopher's psyche, we gain a deeper understanding of how early life experiences and repressed traumas can shape an individual's actions in profoundly destructive ways. This analysis not only sheds light on the character's motivations but also underscores the enduring relevance of Freudian theory in unraveling the intricate dynamics of the human mind.

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