

**"ECHOES OF THE UNCONSCIOUS: A PSYCHOLOGICAL READING OF MENTAL DISINTEGRATION IN POE'S THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER"**

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**Abstract**

*This study investigates the relationship between the psychoanalysis, multiple personality conflict and the incidents in the life of Edgar Allan Poe through his famous writing The Fall of House of Usher, by using Freud's concepts of iceberg and dissociative identity disorder (DID). Literature and human mind are inseparable and the characters, themes and ideas of the story are somehow linked to the life of the writer. Psychoanalysis has been used as a key to unlock the hidden motives and traumas of characters and this has helped us in looking inside the psychological state and mental orientation. This article deals with the characters, their mental situations the symbols in the story and their meaning in the life of Edgar. The researchers analyzed the motives and expression of Edgar's life and psychology in this story. The researchers have discussed how the story is linked with the writer subconscious using multiple theories. The story is just not an abstract idea but something that has its origin in the subconscious or in the ID of human mind. Edgar Allan Poe has a distinction in writing mystery, horror, psychological stories with plot isolated from the surrounding. In the targeted story, there are three characters representing id, ego and superego of Edgar Allan Poe and showing various states of his mind in the written work. Different studies on madness, horror and personality conflict of this story has been done but here we will have a combine study of all important aspects.*

**Keywords:** Edgar Allan Poe, psychoanalysis, personality conflict, subconscious, ID, Freud's theory, multiple personalities

**Introduction**

Psychoanalysis deals with the mentality and the hidden motives inside human brain and it has a great influence on the world. Human mind works in a very diversified and in very complex ways. Sometimes the old thoughts come back and hit us badly. Psychology was not given as much importance before the twentieth century. When different theories were given by Otto Rank, Alfred Adler, Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud it was brought in to the light.

In the beginning, psychology was purely linked to the medical profession, later on its importance was realized in the literary studies. Now a days the importance of psychoanalysis in literature can't be denied. It helps us understanding how writers across various centuries and in various geographical locations wrote and what was their motive and pressure behind that writing. We also analyze the characters of the story and by analyzing them we develop a hypothesis about the life condition of the writer. Various interpretations and discussions were there on the subconscious mind but Sigmund Freud was the first one who worked and popularized it.

**1.1. Freud's concept:**

Freud worked on the iceberg theory and said that human mind has three layers. First one is conscious, the active mind second is the pre conscious in which we have recent memories or things which we can recall by some effort. But the third one is the sub conscious and we are unaware of the memories and incidents in our subconscious and the effect of subconscious is very crucial in our lives as we decide things and perform actions which are basically provoked by our subconscious thoughts. The unconscious mind, in Freud's view

(1915), is the main driver of human behavior. The most significant portion of the mind is the portion you cannot see, similar to an iceberg.

In particular, Freud claimed that childhood experiences with love, sadness, sexuality, and death, as well as complex emotional attitudes towards parents and siblings, determine adult behavior through unconscious drives. He also made the connection between psychoanalysis and literature in his book *Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming* (1908), which eventually gave birth to psychoanalytic literary theories. Under the influence of the psychoanalytic tradition, Freud built the framework for psychoanalytic literary criticism. It follows Freud's methods of "reading" texts to interpret literature and insist that literary writings reveal the author's underlying motivations and that the characters are in truth psychological projections of the author. Psychoanalysis is a comprehensive subject that studies unconscious mind, human thinking, behavior, development, and personality. A psychoanalyst's goal is to investigate the biological and social phenomena that influence thoughts and behaviors of a person. Psychoanalysis was developed by Sigmund Freud as a theory of how the mind functions and a method of treating those who are mentally ill.

The writer used his work to satisfy and compensate his suppressed desires. As a result, in order to understand the author, one must concentrate on his literary output, which is a reflection of his personality. Poe gained popularity for his psychological suspense novels which explored the nuances of human psychology. Poe's melodramatic life story led literary critics and psychoanalysts to take key details and incidents from his life to analyses his works. In his literary works, he paid particular attention to internal problems. Therefore Psychoanalysis and literature complement each other. As part of his psychoanalytic analysis of each, Freud compared the structures of writings, works of art, dreams, and fantasies. Freud proposed several interconnected models of mind and explained how the mind works.

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## 1.2 Freud's Iceberg Theory

Human personality, in Freud's view, is multifaceted and made up of several different elements. He proposed the three basic mental structures of the human mind, the id, ego and superego. These three elements interact in ways that have a significant impact on an individual to develop its personality. At various times throughout life, each component of personality begins to show itself. What each of these three structures "desires," and how we attempt to establish a balance between those "desires," impacts how we act and see the world? Our ability to maintain a balance between two dominating behavioral tendencies (our biological impulses for aggression and pleasure seeking versus our internalized mechanisms for controlling those tendencies) determines how we will resolve conflicts in any given situation. It's crucial to keep in mind that these are systems and not, in any way, literal brain parts.

The innate and basic component of personality known as the id, according to Freud, is where all psychic energy originates. The id is present in mind from birth. This impulsive (and

unconscious) part of our psyche directly and immediately satisfies our basic urges, needs, and desires. Only their ids serve as the personalities of newborns; egos and super egos later emerge. In the unconscious mind of human's id is not linked to any logic, reality and daily life. The id is driven by the pleasure principle, which strives to instantaneously satiate all needs, wants, and desires. When the id's cravings are satisfied, we enjoy ourselves.

When the id's needs are satisfied, we experience pleasure. If these expectations are not immediately fulfilled, a state of tension or anxiety develops. Even though people eventually learn to control it, this part of personality remains the same infantile, basic power throughout life and does not alter with age or experience because it is not connected to the outer world.

The ego emerges from the id and it ensures that the impulses of ID may be sustained in a manner fit for the outer world. The reality principle, which directs the ego's actions, seeks to accomplish the id's objectives in a way that is logical and socially acceptable. The reality principle determines whether to act on or suppress impulses by weighing the advantages and disadvantages of a course of action. Freud compared the ego to the rider of the horse and the id to a horse. The horse provides power and movement, and the rider offers control and direction. Without its rider, the horse would do as it wanted and travel wherever it liked. Without its rider, the horse would do as it wanted and travel wherever it liked. The rider gives the horse directions and instructions to get it where it wants to go.

The superego upholds the moral values that we have internalized from society and our parents. It rates one's deeds as either great or awful, or as right or incorrect. People who don't uphold moral norms experience anxiety, guilt, and feelings of inferiority. According to Freud, the superego first appears about age five. It serves as a voice inside the head that forces the ego to weigh both reality and the ideal. The superego seeks to elevate and tame our behavior. It tries to convince the ego to act according to idealistic ideals rather than actual ones by attempting to control all of the id's wrong impulses. According to Freud, for a personality to be considered healthy, the id, ego, and superego must all be in balance. A balanced and healthy personality develops when the ego can successfully balance the demands of reality, the id, and the superego. An imbalance between these factors, in Freud's view, would lead to a dysfunctional personality.

### 1.3 Multiple personality:

Human mind works in a very diversified and in very complex ways. Sometimes the old thoughts come back and hit us badly. Multiple personality, also known as Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), is a rare and complex psychiatric disorder in which an individual displays multiple distinct identities or personalities, each with its own set of behaviors, memories, and characteristics. These identities often have their own names, ages, gender, and even voices, and can take control of the person's behavior and thoughts. The exact causes of DID are still unknown, but it is believed to be a result of severe trauma, abuse, or neglect during childhood. Individuals with DID may experience gaps in their memory or periods of lost time, and may struggle with depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. DID developed by various researchers over years, it can be traced back to 19th century when French psychiatric Pierre Janet began studying hysteria and other dissociative phenomenon.

Due to some trauma, may be childhood, one might get disconnected with reality. Disconnection or disintegration from normal psychological conditions is an identity disorder. Individuals with DID may experience significant distress and impairment in their daily functioning, including difficulties with memory, identity, emotions, and interpersonal

relationships. They may also experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. DID is caused by severe and repeated childhood trauma, typically involving physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. The theory suggests that the mind splits into different parts or personalities as a way of coping with the trauma.

The structural dissociation theory identifies two types of dissociative parts:

- ANP (Apparently Normal Personality): This part of the personality handles everyday life and has no awareness of traumatic memories.
- EP (Emotional Part): This part of the personality is associated with trauma and holds traumatic memories and emotions.

Living with DID can be challenging, as individuals may struggle to integrate their different identities into a cohesive sense of self. They may experience gaps in their memory or periods of lost time, and may feel disconnected from themselves and their surroundings. DID developed by various researchers over years, it can be traced back to 19th century when French psychiatric Pierre Janet began studying hysteria and other dissociative phenomenon.

#### 1.4 Research Questions

- How the characters of the story represents Freud's concept of Id, ego and super ego?
- What traumatic experiences, setting and atmosphere of the story in Roderick Usher's past have led to the development of dissociative identity disorder?
- How does characters' behavior and experiences in *The Fall of the House of Usher* align with writer's personal life experiences?

#### 1.5 Significance of the Study

This topic has a great significance as it deals with the psychoanalysis of a famous short story by a renowned gothic writer. This study extensively looks at the personality in-depth of the characters their psychology and it's linked with the writer's personal life. Before this research there are various writings and reviews about the respective story but this study deals combines the previous researched with a new lens and have used both the Freud's theory, for the division of mind, and DID symptoms and analysis to evaluate the elements of multiple personalities of the writer. In the beginning, psychology was purely linked to the medical profession, later on its importance was realized in the literary studies. Now a days the importance of psychoanalysis in literature can't be denied. It helps us understanding how writers across various centuries and in various geographical locations wrote and what was their motive and pressure behind that writing. We also analyze the characters of the story and by analyzing them we develop a hypothesis about the life condition of the writer.

#### 1.6 Hypothesis

- Edgar Allen Poe was having inner personality conflict
- In the subconscious of Edgar Allen Poe concept of "Death" is merged
- Roderick Usher depicts the vulnerability of Edgar Allen Poe
- The House of Usher is actually the mind of Edgar Allen Poe

#### 1.7 Delimitations of the Study

In this study, the researcher has analyzed the psychological elements in the famous writing of Edgar Allan Poe *Fall of House of Usher* has been discussed by using some of the concept of Freud's Iceberg and DID. The researcher has used the multiple personality ideas as an implemented theory and has linked the life of Edgar Allan Poe with his works especially with *The Fall of House of Usher*. Discourse of the story *The Fall of House of Usher* in certain aspects will be done for analyzing the characters and meaning of the texts.

## 1.8 Publication

Edgar Allan Poe's famous story the fall of house of usher was published in 1839. First, it was published in the gentleman's magazine by Burton and later in 1840 included in the Collection of Tales of Grotesque and arabesque.

## 1.9 History

It is said that this is an inspired story and the idea came from Hezekiah Usher house located in Usher state. It was built in 1684. And in 1830 it was relocated. Some sources indicate that the owner of the house caught a sailor and his wife and buried or entombed them where they used to meet. Many years later when the house was relocated and torn down, there were two dead bodies in the called cavity.

## 2. Literature Review:

Many researches have been done on the psychological elements in the short story written by Edgar Allan Poe. Bahaa Aldin H. Al-Tibi wrote an article in 2012 in which he applied iceberg theory of Freud's on the famous writing of Edgar Allan Poe, *The Fall of the House of Usher*. In this essay he examined how the characters in Edgar Allan Poe's short story The Fall of the House of Usher represent the different parts of the human mind in light of Sigmund Freud's iceberg theory. Poe is a well-known critic, and his works frequently use psychoanalytic reading to illustrate how the human mind works. In Poe's story, psychoanalytic reading is used to illustrate how the human mind works. The possibility of this reading is revealed by Poe's presentation of his characters. Part of the author's psyche is represented by each character in the novel. The first character, Roderick, is a representation of the Id; he is creative and capable of making predictions before an event takes place. Madeline, his sister, is viewed as a reflection of his suppressed emotions and the part of him that is unable to express them.

Edgar Allan Poe is regarded as having the most complicated personality among the renowned American authors. His gothic aesthetic and in-depth psychological research of the characters set his stories apart from the norm. His own life's traumatic experiences are portrayed consciously or unconsciously in his great works. This study aims to analyses the characters' psychological elements from Freudian's perspective of id, ego and superego which is manifested through different characters in Poe's *The Fall of House of Usher* as well the psychological disorders such as multiple personality disorder and the influence on their behaviors. This study also represented how Poe's own life experiences, childhood traumas and sufferings made him reflect his personality in this work *The Fall of House of Usher*.

The study conducted by Hanafi et al. (2017) analyzed the psychological disorders of the characters in *The Fall of the House of Usher* and their impact on their actions. It also explains the symbolic significance of their mental diseases in American society. To explain the characters' psychology and behaviors, the study employs an analytical descriptive technique as well as Freudian psychoanalysis literary criticism. The novel is an allegory for the narrator's unreasonable fear, and the three main characters reflect different facets of American history, according to the study. Finally, the study hopes to uncover Edgar Allan Poe's intentions in depicting damaged psyches in his work.

Poe employed the signs of multiple personalities and schizophrenia numerous times in his haunting stories. An example of its manifestation is "The Fall of the House of Usher". Redbrick Usher's mental issues are described in "The Fall of the House of Usher" as Multiple Personality Disorder or Dissociation Identity Disorder. Usher may have multiple personality disorder as a result of the narrator's childhood trauma or any other unknown reason.

Shackelford (2017) uses Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" to conduct a groundbreaking study of shared psychotic condition in which a person with a psychotic disease inspires a seemingly healthy person to have a delusion or hallucination. Roderick has the mysterious traits associated with schizotypal personality disorder, and as the novel unfolds, he shows evidence of schizophrenia. The narrator becomes "infected" by Roderick's superstitions, resulting in a hallucination of Roderick's twin sister Madeline. Poe's powerful depiction of dread and its influence on perception demonstrates how psychologically prescient he was regarding common psychotic disease.

Reading Poe's renowned short story through a psychoanalytic lens reveals that Edgar's psychological being was most likely unstable at the time he wrote it. After reading Chloe Borut's critique *The Fall of the House of Usher* from a Freudian Perspective and knowing Freud's model of the psyche, it is possible to deduce that Edgar Allan Poe's psyche was divided into different characters. Freud's model of the psyche includes the ID, ego, and superego. The ID psyche is associated with Madeline, while the superego psyche is associated with Roderick Usher. The ego psyche communicates with the ID and superego, and acts as a mediator between the id and superego. This model of the psyche can be used to understand Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher".

### 3. Methodology

The present study's research methodology is both analytical and descriptive. The researchers have employed both qualitative and quantitative research approaches to infer the results. The text of the Fall of House of Usher is analyzed in the light of the Freud's Iceberg theory, for the division of mind, and DID models to investigate the personalities of the characters of the story and their relation to the writer. By using dissociate identity disorder the researchers have analyzed how the different personalities of Edgar and his characters in the story are related to each other. Each character in the story is related to a part of Edgar's personality which behaved differently.

The concepts like Dissociative identity disorder or multiple personalities are not easy to comprehend. These are complicated and controversial topics in many regards but they also provide important information about the writing, characters and the writer itself. The researchers have analyzed the story by using psychological elements present in the story. Two theories, including Freud's iceberg theory and dissociative identity disorder have been used to understand the deep psychological impacts of childhood losses and incidents in later life. The researchers have analyzed Edgar's life and how his traumas are related to his writings.

### 4. Data Analysis:

Psychoanalysis helps us to understand how writers across various centuries and in various geographical locations wrote and what was their motive and pressure behind any writing. The researcher also analyzed the characters of the story and by analyzing them this hypothesis have been developed that it is very much related to the life condition of the writer. The researcher have analyzed the story qualitatively to look for the answers of the research questions. In order to understand the psychological elements in the *Fall of House of Usher*, the life of Edgar Allan Poe has to be studied so that the incidents or subconscious traumas can be identified.

Edgar Allan Poe is one of the greatest writer of America. He has faced many difficulties in his life and there are elements in his writings where we can see it clearly. The frequent themes of death, horror and unidentified tensions. As Freud said there is always a subconscious trauma which leads to some conditions or permanent effect on the personality of the person. The life of Edgar Allan Poe has been a tragedy. Edgar Allan Poe's life experiences, including being raised by foster parents and the deaths of important people in his life, heavily influenced his writing. Poe's deep love for both of his biological and foster mothers, as well as their subsequent deaths, and the death of his wife, whom he loved passionately, had a profound effect on him and contributed to his emotional struggles. His father, David Poe left his mother Eliza Poe with three children and she was also very ill. She was suffering from tuberculosis and at the age of 24 she also died on 8<sup>th</sup> of December in 1811. John and Frances Allan took Poe when he was two years old. He was not adopted officially so there was always an issue between Poe and his foster father. So, Edgar got his second name from his foster parents and third name from his biological parents. Although he got a new family but the loss of father and mother left a great influence on the personality of Edgar Allan Poe. Later on, her mother died when he was in military academy and his foster father didn't let him know about her death. He lost a lot of money in gambling. Some says that when he went to UVA, because of high expenditure he needed more money, so he put his own money which was about 111\$ in gambling but he got a debt of 2000\$. In addition to this he faced many other difficulties as he was suffering from mental tension in his personal life because of which he also started drinking and according to some researchers it leads to his mysterious death.

Due to all these events we see that there was an urge in Edgar Allan Poe to write about death, horror, mysterious things and supernatural elements. In his stories we see that he often talk about bringing the dead man to life or about the people who are near to death, or strange animal or the decaying of things. As Marry Shelley wrote Frankenstein when her son died because she was in a stress and wanted to get her son back at any cost and the urge and wish resulted in the form of a brilliant novel in the same way the incidents, tragedies and losses of Edgar's life make him very much linked to death and lose. First his parents, then mother then finance and in the end her beloved also died. So according to Freud's iceberg theory we can deduce that it is because of all those events which have been occurring in his life which made him think and obsessed with death. In Ligeia the wife's soul came back in the body of the second wife. as it is written in the text that "**And now slowly opened the eyes of the figure which stood before me. " Here then, at least, " I shrieked aloud, "can me never --can I never be mistaken - these are the full, and the black, and the wild eyes --of my lost love --of the lady --of the LADY LIGEIA" (Poe, 1838).**

In addition to this it can be seen that Edgar was suffering from some psychological issues which were not properly understood because of the lack of psychological awareness at that time.

In those times persons with such issues were treated as outcasts... a brother of Edgar Allan Poe has been a victim to psychological disorder that's why he knew that what type of treatment is being done in mental hospitals. This maybe a reason that he never shared his problems with others but the issues went on increasing or they lead to the dissociative identity disorder of Edgar Allan Poe. It intends to investigate how the actions and experiences of the characters in *The Fall of the House of Usher* correlate with the symptoms and diagnostic criteria for dissociative identity disorder (DID). This makes it possible to analyses the characters' psychological profiles, mental states, and potential diagnoses in a more nuanced way. In light of the plot, it digs into the likely origins and causes of dissociative identity disorder. It is possible to have a greater understanding of the psychological elements

that might have contributed to Roderick Usher's mental state by looking at the traumatic events, environment, and setting of his past.

It tries to look at how different life experiences and historical factors affect how dissociative identity disorder is portrayed in Edgar Allan Poe's works, particularly "The Fall of the House of Usher." By doing so, it is possible to learn more about the historical and cultural context in which the story was written as well as any potential personal motives or experiences that may have influenced Poe's portrayal of mental illness. As in the story Roderick said: "**much of the gloom which lay so heavily on... indeed, the coming death — of a dearly loved sister — his only company for many years**". In this sentence, it is implied that he longs for the ties that Nature has gradually severed one by one. These tragedies led Poe to develop a persona who would be adored yet finally pass away in the lap of total stillness. The narrative's characters are a representation of Roderick Usher's deteriorating mental state in a physical form.

Madeline and *The Fall of House of Usher* may be seen as the physical representations of Poe, while Roderick Usher could be seen as the progression of his mental illness. Soon after Madeline died, his weak self-expired, and while being aware of the truth, the rest remained hidden due to his strange fear. In order for her and Roderick Usher, who represents her missing half, to pass away together, Dead Madeline is shown struggling to find him. Due to their interconnected nature, the mind and body must both pass away in order to be declared dead.

Usher's complete mental and physical collapse will be seen when Madeline departs and returns with him. Both characters die, and the House of Ushers crumbles along with them, signifying Usher's complete demise.

In order to examine the story's characters in light of Freud's psychoanalytic theory, particularly his ideas about the Id, ego, and super-ego the researchers made it possible to comprehend the motivations and actions of the characters as well as their inner problems and struggles. By analyzing the characters of the story *Fall of House of Usher* the researchers have analyzed if they are related to the concept of Id, superego and ego or not. The text of the story will be analyzed by looking for the evidences in the story. Roderick usher, Madeline usher and the visitor seems to be a part of Edgar Allan Poe's mind as different parts. There are many points in the writings of Edgar allay Poe, where we witness such cases.

For example, in *The Fall of House of Usher*, the researcher observed that Roderick Usher who is representation of Edgar's ego is trying to hide Edgar's ID, which is madeleine usher, from his superego, the visitor, because of some sort of guilt or a secret that Roderick usher has been trying to hide from visitor. It shows that Edgar Allan Poe who is living in this world is something different from the real person as there is three parts of Edgar Allan Poe. First one is for the teal world to deal with social situations, second one is the secret personality of Edgar all am Poe which is hidden in his mind and only he knew about that personality. The third one is the embodiment of his traumas, failures and dead wishes which haven collectively formed a structure which influence the mind in making decisions and choices. So, as Freud said that they are subconscious trauma or there are hidden secrets in our mind which control or shapes our personality we see that the id is responsible for his mysterious behavior. And in the story *Black Cat* as Edgar has described that whenever the person looks at the cat he gets some sort of mysterious feelings and with the passage of time he gets terrified of the cat and try to kill it and punish it or torture it in various ways here by analyzing the context we can say that he is in some trouble or trauma related to the cat in his childhood, the reaction of the man after looking at the cat and the assumptions he made that cat is looking at him or judging him or the attitude of cat is very different to him as compare

to others and refer to some traumas in the mind or some deep secrets related in the mind of the protagonist.

And in the Tell Tale heart the protagonist may have some knowledge or ideology that one should repent or his doings and the result of actions never leave him alone and the burden of sin is not easy to carry.

The characters in the fall of house of usher show a particular type of behavior according to their personality demands. In *the Fall of House of Usher* Poe describes dissociative identity disorder as having a feeling of instability and disintegration. The dissociative symptoms that Roderick Usher displays include a separation from reality, a feeling of detachment from his surroundings, and a sense of being split into numerous persons. Usher's condition is described as such by Poe: "**I looked upon the scene before me - upon the mere house, and the simple landscape features of the domain - upon the bleak walls - upon the vacant eye-like windows - upon a few rank sedges - and upon a few white trunks of decayed trees - with an utter depression of soul which I can compare to no earthly sensation more properly than to the after-dream of the reveller upon opium - the bitter lapse into everyday life - the hideous dropping off of the veil.**" Poe effectively captures Usher's sense of separation from reality in this passage, as well as his sense of being entrapped in a nightmarish condition. Usher exhibits conflicting feelings and desires, which is indicative of Usher's dualistic mental condition. He struggles between his feelings of love and anxiety for his sister Madeline due to her illness and eventual death. The belief that a person might have numerous selves or identities reflects this internal conflict and is a crucial component of dissociative identity disorder. Poe also used a variety of literary devices, including as gothic imagery, a disjointed narrative, and unreliable narration, to portray Usher's psychological state. As in the depiction of the House of Usher as a deteriorating and foreboding building. For instance, Usher's sense of decay and impending doom is reflected in the depiction of the House of Usher as a dilapidated and foreboding building. Usher's sense of uncertainty and confusion is also reflected in the narrative's fractured structure, which alternates between past and current events. Last but not least, the use of shaky narration, in which the narrator's perspective is questioned, symbolizes the notion that our sense of reality is subjective and erratic, which is a key theme of dissociative identity disorder.

Poe uses a variety of literary devices and gothic imagery in *The Fall of the House of Usher* to evoke a sense of disintegration, instability, and duality in his description of dissociative identity disorder. There are some common things between the fall of house of usher and other writings of Edgar Allan Poe as we can see that the atmosphere of the house is full of horror and terrifying imagery and weird sounds and irregular happenings as in *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Raven* themes of death and horror along with psychological terror as can be observed in the "Black cat" and *Pit and the Pendulum*. Poe usually employs untrustworthy narrators who cannot be totally believed in his stories. After reading *The Fall of the House of Usher*, which challenges the narrator's perceptions and interpretations of what transpired, the reader is left questioning whether the events in the novel are real or imagined. Poe also used unreliable narrators in "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Imp of the Perverse," among other works.

Edgar Allan Poe's personal life experiences and the historical context in which he lived may have influenced his portrayal of dissociative identity disorder in *The Fall of the House of Usher* and other works. Poe's own life was marked by tragedy, loss, and psychological turmoil, which may have informed his understanding of mental illness and his portrayal of characters who experience mental distress.

Poe's mother passed away when he was just three years old, and his father abandoned the family when he was a small child. John Allan, a successful entrepreneur, took him in, but their connection was rocky and Poe was often at odds with his foster father. Poe himself struggled with alcoholism and depression throughout his life, and he was said to have suffered from hallucinations and delusions. All of these personal experiences may have given Poe insight into the mind of someone with dissociative identity disorder and influenced his portrayal of such characters in his stories.

Additionally, the historical context in which Poe lived may have also influenced his portrayal of mental illness. Because mental illness was poorly recognized in the 19th century, many sufferers were institutionalized or stigmatized as social outcasts. Poe's own brother was institutionalized for mental illness, and Poe himself witnessed the mistreatment of patients in mental hospitals. This may have led him to portray characters with mental illness as sympathetic and deserving of compassion, rather than as objects of ridicule or fear.

Overall, Poe's personal experiences and the historical context in which he lived likely played a role in shaping his understanding and portrayal of dissociative identity disorder and other mental illnesses in his works. By examining the connections between Poe's life and his works, we can gain a deeper understanding of his contributions to the field of psychological literature and his enduring impact on popular culture.

The cultural interest with mental illness and the supernatural at the time of Poe's writing may have had an impact on how he depicted dissociative identity disorder in his writings. Growing interest in spiritualism, mesmerism, and other pseudoscientific disciplines that claimed to have answers to the universes and the human mind's riddles occurred in the 19th century. Poe's fascination with the paranormal may have inspired him to include the occult and the paranormal in his works, as well as to depict individuals with dissociative identity disorder. The elements of dissociative identity disorder can be found in Poe's use of literary devices and writing styles.

Poe was renowned for his use of shaky witnesses, disjointed stories, and intricate psychological issues, which may have made him a good choice for portraying persons with dissociative identity disorder. His work frequently blurs the distinction between reality and fantasy, which may be indicative of his interpretation of dissociative identity disorder as a disease in which numerous personas reside within one person. Last but not least, it's important to note that Poe's representation of dissociative identity disorder in *The Fall of the House of Usher* and other works is not totally true or realistic. The scientific expertise of Poe's time limited his understanding of mental illness, and his portrayals of persons with dissociative identity disorder are frequently sensationalized and exaggerated.

In spite of this, his contributions to the field of psychological literature served to popularize talks of mental disease and opened the door for more complex and truthful representations of psychiatric illnesses in literature and popular culture.

## 5. Conclusion

This study deals with the psychological elements present in the *The Fall of the House of Usher*. The researchers have analyzed how various psychological elements are hidden in this story and the researchers have used the story to understand the psychology of Edgar Allan Poe. In literature, the psychology of a writer's mind is deeply rooted in the writings which is based on the subconscious or childhood trauma. In this study the researchers have analyzed *The Fall of the House of Usher* using Freud's iceberg theory and dissociative identity disorder. They have analyzed how Edgar's childhood traumas and losses have

influenced his writings. Freud's iceberg theory has been implanted to observe the house of usher as the mind of Edgar Allan Poe and the characters as ID, ego and super ego. The relationship between the character Roderick usher and Edgar Allan Poe has also been examined. Edgar Allan Poe was deeply affected by his childhood experiences and by analyzing the characters of Roderick usher and the visitor we can conclude that he has been facing the problem of dissociate identity disorder. Edgar Allen Poe has a distinction in writing mystery, horror, psychological stories with plot isolated from the surrounding. In the targeted story there are three characters representing personalities of Edgar or showing various states of his mind in the written work. This study can further be used to analyze other aspects of Edgar Allan Poe's psychology as it provides an insight of writer's thoughts.

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