

EXCESSIVE AMBITION IN JOHN BOYNE'S NOVEL *THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS* (2006)

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Abstrak

Makalah ini merupakan analisa novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2006) karya John Boyne. Permasalahan yang di bahas dalam analisa ini adalah mengenai ambisi tokoh yang berlebihan (Excessive Ambition) untuk mendapatkan status yang lebih tinggi yaitu untuk menjadi komandan Nazi. Tujuan dari penganalisaan ini untuk mengetahui sejauh mana novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2006) memperlihatkan ambisi tokoh yang berlebihan. Penganalisaan ini dilakukan berdasarkan teori psikisme manusia dari Sigmund Freud yang mencakup *id*, *ego*, dan *superego*. Tokoh Ralf dalam novel ini di kontrol oleh *idnya* sehingga dia mengabaikan *ego* dan *superegonya*. Dia sangat berambisi untuk menjadi komandan Nazi sehingga dia mau mengorbankan hati nuraninya dengan mengikuti sistem Nazi yang menggunakan kekerasan untuk mendapatkan posisi tersebut. Dia juga berlaku tidak adil dengan menerapkan peraturan yang dia sendiri tidak menjalankannya. Selain itu, Ralf juga berubah menjadi egois untuk mendapatkan posisi sebagai komandan. Dia memaksa istri dan anaknya untuk mendukung posisi tersebut tanpa mau mempertimbangkan alasan dari mereka.

Kata kunci: *excessive, ambition, id, ego, superego*

A. Introduction

People have ambition in their life. Some of them are ambitious to achieve that. They keep working hard in order to make it comes true. Ambitious people have dream of moving up in the world and getting a better life. By having ambition people have strong desire for attainment, professional advancement, power, or fame. Roy (2011) defines ambition as an ardent desire to attain success in life such as personal advancement, fame, power, rank, or position. It suggests that ambition is a positive driving force which motivates people to be enthusiastic in their life because there are goals they want to attain.

¹ Mahasiswa penulis Makalah Prodi Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris untuk diwisuda periode September 2012

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Bacon (1626) who is an English philosopher, author and pioneer of the scientific method, explains that:

Ambition is like choler; which is an humor that make men active, earnest, full of alacrity, and stirring, if it be not stopped. But if it be stopped, and cannot have his way, it become adust, and thereby malign and venomous. So ambitious men, if they find the way open for their rising, and still get forward, they are rather busy than dangerous...

From this quotation it can be seen that ambition is a positive driving force which is able to motivate people. When people are ambitious they become alive because there is a goal they want to achieve that it steers them to be active and enthusiastic.

Furthermore, Kurtus (2007) defines that ambition provides inspirations, responsibility and discipline. By having ambition, people do not easily give up. It inspires them to find ways to attain their goal. They become critical and analytical. Ambition also encourages them to dare to take risk for that. It shapes them to be responsible.

Gallozzi (2011) supports that ambition grants energy and willingness for people. When people have ambition, they automatically have aim in their life. It drives them to be persistent. They keep working hard and moving on in order to attain that.

Although being ambitious is a positive driving force, being too ambitious can result in a negative driving force. Some people are overly ambitious to succeed or to reach top position that it encourages them to do everything in order to obtain that though it is incompatible with morality. This excessive ambition that is an extreme desire for preferment, honor, superiority, power or the attainment of something can blind people from determining what is right and what is wrong. According to Keyishian (1989) excessive ambition is able to drive people to abandon what is really important in their life which are their family, friends, and most importantly their life in order to pursue their ambition. People can be manipulative, unjust or even able to damage other. Kurtus (2007) explains that being too ambitious will lead someone to do negative actions in order to achieve that. It enables them to be ruthless, dishonest and harmful to others. Their attention just focus on how to achieve their ambition without caring the destructive effects of their action toward other.

Based on the issue of excessive ambition, there are two fabulous names such as Vladimir Ilyich Lenin and Adolf Hitler who are overly ambitious to become a ruler that they want to sacrifice their conscience in order to get that. Lenin's excessive ambition to be the ruler of Russia drives him to sacrifice his conscience by killing people who threaten his position though some of them are innocent. He ordered his substitute to kill Romanov family that was held by Tsar Nicolas II who rule Russia at that time. Tsar Nicholas II along with his wife, Tsaritsa Alexandra, their 14-year-old son, Tsarevich Alexis, and their four daughters were killed in a half-cellar room in the Ipatiev house in Ekaterinburg, a city in the Ural mountain region where they were exiled. The daughters were

finished off with bayonets. Lenin did not want anyone from this family threatened his authority. He killed the entire family blindly include innocent children who knew nothing to end their family line. This identifies that people's excessive ambition drives them to sacrifice their conscience by doing violence toward other even they are innocent in order to achieve their ambition.

However, this phenomenon also occurs in Germany when Hitler and Nazi ruled the country from 1934 to 1945. His excessive ambition to govern Germany enabled him to do injustice especially toward Jew. He deliberately defamed Jew by spreading negative stereotype that Jew were a threat and traitor for Germany in order to gain support and trust from public. This condition enabled Hitler and Nazi to gain power by showing public that they were hero who saved country from danger. However, this situation that enabled Nazi to exile Jew to a concentration camp and execute them in a gas chamber.

The analysis of this study is related to Freud's psychoanalytic concept of mental process which involve id, ego, and superego. Freud in Guerin (2005) states that Id as an obscure inaccessible part of people's personality as a chaos, a cauldron of seething excitement (with) no organization and no unified will, only an impulsion to obtain satisfaction for the instinctual needs, in accordance with the pleasure principle. Its function is just to gratify people's instinct for pleasure without regard for social conventions, legal ethics, or moral restraint.

The next psychic zone of mental process is ego. The function of ego is to regulate the instinctual drives of id so that they may be released in nondestructive behavioral patterns. Freud in Guerin (2005) says that ego stands for reason and good sense while id stands for the untamed passions. It signifies that ego helps people to consider the effect of their action on themselves and society before they fulfill their id's desire.

The last zone is superego. Superego acts as a sort of conscience. Cherry (2009) says that superego acts to perfect and civilize people's behavior. It works to suppress all unacceptable urges of the id and struggles to make the ego act upon idealistic standards rather than upon realistic principles.

Related to this analysis, character Ralf is controlled by his id that it steers him to just gratify himself without considering the consequence of his action. His excessive ambition to be the commandant of Nazi encourages him to sacrifice his conscience by heading concentration camp used violence. He also becomes selfish that he authoritatively forces his family to follow him without considering their reason.

Based on the explanation above, the purpose of this study is to find out how far John Boyne's novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2006) evokes excessive ambition related to Freud's psychoanalytic concept of mental process.

B. Research Method

The method of this study uses qualitative method. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2005) qualitative method is a research that produces descriptive data that are written or spoken words from people or from their attitude which can be researched. The analysis data of qualitative method is done inductively and descriptively. Moleong (2005) states that descriptive method is a

research which focuses only on words. Thus, the result of this study are quotations which describe the topic of the study.

This study focuses on excessive ambition issue based on John Boyne's novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2006). The analysis of this issue is done by using qualitative method which focuses on the words in the novel. The result of this analysis are quotations in the novel which support the issue of excessive ambition.

C. Discussion

According to Freud's theory of psychoanalytic concept, the character Ralf is controlled by his id. His excessive ambition to be the commandant of Nazi enables him to sacrifice his conscience. He wants to head a concentration camp by using violence. He finishes off the Jew by exploiting and locking them in a gas chamber. Beside, he behaves unjustly that as a commandant he does not obey the rule as he applies this to his subordinates. This excessive ambition also pushes him to be selfish. He forces his family authoritatively to accept this position without considering their reasons.

1. Sacrificing Conscience

In order to get the position as the commandant of Nazi, Ralf wants to sacrifice his conscience by heading the concentration camp used violence. He finishes off the Jew by exploiting and locking them in a gas chamber. His achievement as a commandant can be seen in the next quotation:

There had been nothing but excitement for weeks. First, the Fury and the beautiful blonde women had come to dinner, which had brought the whole house to a standstill, and then this new business of calling Father 'Commandant'.(p:89)

From narrator in the quotation above can be identified Ralf's achievement as a commandant. Sentence *and then this new business of calling father 'Commandant'* shows the elevation of his position that he now becomes a commandant. This quotation also stresses that Ralf works for Fury (Fuhrer), the leader of Nazi, because he is elevated to be a commandant after his meeting with Fury.

In order to attain the position as the commandant, Ralf wants to sacrifice his conscience. It can be seen in the next quotation:

Christmas Day father wore his brand-new uniform, the starched and pressed one that he wore every day now, and the whole family applauded when he first appeared in it...Grandmother was the only one who seemed unimpressed...

'I wonder- is this where I went wrong with you, Ralf? She said. 'I wonder if all the performances I made you give as a boy led you to this. Dressing up like a puppet on a string.'

‘Now, Mother,’ said Father in a tolerant voice. ‘You know this is not the time.’

“Standing there in your uniform,” she continued, “as if it makes you something special. Not even caring what it means really. What it stands for.”

“This is party, Mother,” said father with a sigh.” And it’s Christmas. Let’s not spoil things.”

“That’s all you soldiers are interested anyway,” Grandmother said, “Looking handsome in your fine uniforms. Dressing up and doing the terrible, terrible things you do. It makes me ashamed...” (p:92)

The quotation above is about conflict between Ralf and his mother. His mother disagrees with his position as the commandant of Nazi. The sentence *standing there in your uniform, as if it makes you something special. Not even caring what it means really. What it stands for* signifies this. However, the sentence *standing there in your uniform* and *what it stands for* refer to the party Ralf supports. Ralf does not want to think over his position as the commandant of Nazi. He just accepts that without considering it first. It can be seen in this sentence *not even caring what it means really* because Ralf does not deny that, he just answers that simply by *saying this is party, Mother*. This indifference shows how he sacrifices his conscience in order to get that position. He is overly ambitious to attain that. It identifies that he is controlled by his id that he does not want to consider his position first. It can be seen in the sentence *That’s all you soldiers are interested anyway...Looking handsome in your fine uniforms. Dressing up and doing the terrible, terrible things you do*. This quotation represents Nazi soldiers includes Ralf. As a soldier Ralf is considered to be a protector but actually he is a destroyer. He is the person who is obliged to stop crime but in fact he commits that.

However, the fact that Ralf sacrifices his conscience can also be seen in the next quotation:

“...And after your grandmother retired, of course my mother stayed friendly with her and received a small pension, but times were hard then and your father offered me a job, the first I had ever had. A few months later my mother became very sick and she needed a lot of hospital care and your father arranged it all, even though he was not obliged to. He paid for it out of his own pocket because she had been a friend to his mother. And he took me into his household for the same reason. And when she died he paid all the expenses for her funeral too.”

“Well,” he said, “I suppose that was nice of him.”

“Yes,’ said Maria, standing up and walking over towards the window, the one through which Bruno could see all the way to the huts and the people in the distance. ‘He was very kind to me then,’ she continued quietly, looking through it herself now and watching the people and the soldiers go about their business far away. ‘He has a lot of kindness in his soul, truly he does, which makes me wonder...’ she drifted off as she watched them and her voice cracked suddenly and she sounded as if she might cry.

“wonder what? Asked Bruno.
‘Wonder what he...how he can...’
‘How he can *what*? Inisited Bruno.
The noise of a door slamming came from downstairs... (p: 62)

From quotation above it can be seen that Ralf has changed since he becomes a commandant. He actually loved to help people for nothing. But he has changed since he becomes a commandant. It is described in this sentence ‘*He was very kind to me then, she continued quietly, looking through it herself now and watching the people and the soldiers go about their business far away He has a lot of kindness in his soul, truly he does, which makes me wonder... she drifted off as she watched them and her voice cracked suddenly and sounded as if she might cry... ‘Wonder what he...how he can...’*. The sentence *watching the people and the soldiers go about their business far away and she drifted off as she watched them and her voice cracked suddenly and she sounded as if she might cry... ‘* are interrelated to each other. Maria who is Ralf’s maid are going to cry when she looks at the soldiers and prisoners in the camp which is headed by Ralf. This stresses that something terrible happens in the camp. Ralf is considered to be noble but it seems that he has lost his conscience. It can be seen in this sentence ‘*He has a lot of kindness in his soul, truly he does, which makes me wonder...Wonder what he...how he can...’*. The phrase *how he can* signifies Ralf has lost his conscience because he does something terrible that is outside himself.

By being the Commandant of Nazi, Ralf handles the camp by using violence. He finishes off the Jew by exploiting and locking them in a gas chamber. The exploitation is shown when prisoners undergo force labor in the camp. It is revealed in the next quotation:

Everywhere they looked they could see people, tall, short, old, young, all moving around...some where formed into a sort of chain gang and pushing wheelbarrows from one side of the camp to the other...(p:36)

The setting in the text above refers to the situation in that camp. The prisoners that include children are undergoing force labor. This force labor is intended to finish off them. They are exploited in this camp. It can be seen in this sentence *all moving around...some where formed into a sort of chain gang and pushing wheelbarrows from one side of the camp to the other....* They are forced to work hard without getting deserved meal. This is shown in the following quotation:

As if to prove something that Bruno already knew, Shmuel held his hand out and Bruno couldn’t help but notice that it was like the hand of the pretend skeleton that Herr Liszt had brought with him one day when they were studying human anatomy. (p: 167)

Shmuel is the representative of Jew prisoners. *Pretend skeleton* signifies the tragic condition of prisoners in the camp. They are like skeleton caused by the

exploitation in the camp without getting deserved meal. The effect of force labor is shown in the next quotation:

There were three others who were quite skinny and only ever spoke to each other in whispering voices.

...

The pajama people (prisoners) all jumped to attention whenever the soldiers approached and sometimes they fell to the ground and sometimes they didn't even get up and had to be carried away instead. (101)

From quotation above it can be seen the effect of force labor toward Jew. This force labor is actually intended to finish off them. It is shown in the sentence *there were three others who were quite skinny* and in the sentence *sometimes they fell to the ground and sometimes they didn't even get up and had to be carried away instead*. The prisoners become skinny and finally die. It is shown in the sentence *sometimes they didn't even get up and had to be carried away instead*.

Ralf's excessive ambition drives him to lead mass murder toward Jew. The prisoners are treated like inanimate things because they are burnt alive in a gas chamber. It can be seen in the next quotation:

The whistles blew again, and this time the group of people, which must have numbered about a hundred, started to march slowly together, with Bruno and Shmuel still held together in the centre. There was some sort of disturbance towards the back, where some people seemed unwilling to march, but Bruno was too small to see what happened and all he heard was loud noises, like the sound of gunshots, but he couldn't make out what they are.

... Bruno's feet brought him up a set of steps, and as he marched on he found there was no more rain coming down any more because they were all piling into a long room that was surprisingly warm and must have been very securely built because no rain was getting in anywhere. In fact it felt completely air-tight...

Shmuel may well have opened his mouth to say something, but Bruno never heard it because at that moment there was a loud gasp from all the marchers who had filled the room, as the door at the front was suddenly closed and a loud metallic sound rang through from the outside. And then the room went very dark...(p: 211-213)

The setting in the quotation above reflects tense atmosphere and crowded situation when prisoners are lead to gas chamber. Sentence *Which must have numbered a thousand* identifies the murder on a great scale. The prisoners are treated inhumanly. The soldier also automatically shoots them when they do mistake. The sentence *where some people seemed unwilling to march* and *like the sound of gunshots* identify this. The prisoners are then killed with poisonous gas. This is stated in the sentence *there was a loud gasp from all the marchers who had filled the room, as the door at the front was suddenly closed and a loud*

metallic sound rang through from the outside. And then the room went very dark. The sentence *A loud metallic sound rang through from outside* stresses that the prisoners are intentionally murdered. They are locked in that gas chamber. Furthermore, the phrase *a loud gasp* from the sentence *there was a loud gasp from all the marchers who had filled the room* signifies the condition when the prisoners inhale the poisonous gas. Then, the sentence *And then the room went very dark* symbolizes the condition when the prisoners are death because *very dark* exemplifies that nothing could be seen and found anymore. This mass murder stresses the ruthlessness of Nazi organisation include Ralf because they are willing to do the genocide in order to attain their ambition. Their excessive ambition has been able to demolish their conscience. It directly portrays that they are controlled by their id.

Ralf's excessive ambition also drives him to sacrifice his conscience by behaving unfairly. He applies rule that he himself disobeys that. He hides his mother's view as an anti-Nazi while he demotes his subordinate who does this. This is reflected in the next quotation:

"I asked you where he went," he repeated. "Your father. The professor of literature. Where did he go when he left Germany?"

...

"Did he go to Switzerland to take the air?" explained father. "Or did he have a particular reason for leaving Germany? In nineteen thirty-eight," he added after a moment"

"I'm afraid I don't know, Herr Commandant," said Lieteunant Kotler. "You would have to ask him."

"Well, that would be rather difficult to do, would'n it? with him being so far away, I mean. But perhaps that was it. Perhaps he was ill." Father hesitated before picking up his knife and fork again and continuing to eat. "Or perhaps he had...disagreements."

"Disagreement, Herr Commandant?"

"With government policy. One hears tales of men like this from time to time. Curious fellows, I imagine. Disturbed, some of them. Traitors, others. Cowards too. Of course you have informed your superiors of your father's views, Lieteunant Kotler?"

"Never mind," said father cheerfully. "perhaps it is not an appropriate conversation for the dinner table. We can discuss it in more depth at a later time."

"Herr Commandant," Said Lieteunant Kotler, leaning forward anxiously, "I can assure you-?"

"it's not an appropriate conversation for dinner table," repeated father sharply, silencing him immediately...(p: 147-148)

The quotation above reflects injustice. All of Nazi soldiers are obliged to obey fazism because as stated above it is *government policy*. It is showed in the

sentence *of course you have informed your superiors of you father's views, Lieteunant Kotler?*. This sentence stresses that they are obligated to report everyone who disobeys this party. On the contrary, Ralf violates this rule. He just applies this to his subordinate. As discussed before the character's mother is an anti-Nazi. But, he just lets his mother with her own view till the end of the story.

Moreover, it shows that Ralf sacrifices his conscience when he does this deceit. He is very furious noticing the violation that is done by his subordinate as if he himself does not do that. It is reflected in the sentence *perhaps it is not an appropriate conversation for the dinner table. We can discuss it in more depth at a later time*. It demonstrates that this is a big case that must be faced seriously. However, this rule does not prevail for him as the Commandant who has power. He is able to punish his subordinate by demoting him as the sanction for this violation while he hides his own violation.

Ralf's excessive ambition also encourages him to be selfish. He just concerns to achieve his own priority without regard for other's. He authoritatively forces his family to accept this position. He insists his wife to accept this without listen to her reason. He also compels his son to accept their condition in that camp without giving any solutions to his problem.

Ralf insists his wife to accept his position. He does not want to listen to her reason. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“...expect them to grow up in a place like...”said Mother.
“...and that's an end to the matter. I don't want to hear another word on the subject...”said Father.” (p: 124)

The setting in the quotation above stresses tense atmosphere. From narrator it can be seen the external conflict between Ralf (father) and his wife (mother). From this external conflict it is shown clearly the Ralf's selfishness who just concerns to attain his own priority. He ignores to consider his wife's reason. The sentence *expect them to grow up in a place like* identifies his wife's contradiction to his position and at once shows her reason that his position as a commandant will give bad impact on their children's growth. It is due to the fact that they have to move to a concentration camp if the character becomes a commandant, a place for prisoner that is full of violence. However, the character directly rejects the idea without considering it first. His excessive ambition completely subverts his reasoning ability. The sentence *and that's an end to the matter. I don't want to hear another word on the subject* exemplifies that he authoritatively insists his wife to obey him. He does not want to consider the bad consequence of his position toward his own children. He also automatically closes any further argues on that matter. It has been an absolute and final decision for them by saying *I don't want to hear another word on the subject*. It signifies that the character just cares to attain his own priority, his id, without thinking over the bad impact of his action toward other. It directly identifies that character's selfishness unconsciously drives him to break his commitment as a good husband who has to be able to protect his family.

This contradiction drives Ralf to have a quarrel with his wife. The character absolutely keeps winning himself. This condition suggests that his selfishness has been able to break the harmony of his family. It can be seen in the next quotation:

Bruno went up the stairs slowly towards his room, but before going inside he looked back down towards the ground floor and saw mother entering Father's office, which faced the dining room and he heard her speaking loudly to him until father spoke louder than mother could and that put a stop to their conversation. (p:10)

The quotation above identifies the external conflict that happens between character and his wife. She actually contradicts him. This exemplifies his wife's rebellion. But, the character asserts his power by speaking louder than his wife could. This *speaking louder* suggests that the character forces his wife to obey him. It means that he insists to win his priority. Apparently, this is able to withdraw his wife's rebellion because she does not give any further arguing. The sentence *that put a stop to their conversation* approves this.

However, this defeat causes restrained anger in his wife's self. Ralf's selfishness makes her lose her personal freedom to propose opinion. This idea is stated in the next quotation:

"We don't have the luxury of thinking," said mother, opening a box that contained the set of sixty-four glasses that grandfather and grandmother had given her when she married father. "some people make all the decisions for us." (p:14)

The sentence *we don't have the luxury of thinking* implies that she does not have the chance to make choice in her life. The phrase *the luxury of thinking* demonstrates that thinking is something magnificent and expensive that it signs the existence of people when they have right to think over their life. However, this is what she can't acquire. The sentence *some people make all the decisions for us* asserts her inability to sustain her opinion but just to follow Ralf's decision. This directly emphasizes the selfishness of the character who must be absolutely obeyed. It shows that he just focuses to fulfill his id without considering his ego and superego.

Ralf's excessive ambition also pushes him to behave authoritatively toward his son. His job is the most important thing for him. He ignores to consider his son's complaint about their condition in that camp. It can be seen in the quotation below:

"I don't like here," insisted Bruno. "Karl's not here and Daniel's not here and Martin's not here and there are no other houses around us and no fruit and vegetable stalls and no streets and no cafes with tables outside and no one to push you from pillar to post on a Saturday afternoon."
"Bruno, sometimes there are things we need to do in life that we don't have choice in," said Father. "and this is my work, important work." (p:48)

This quotation uncovers the external conflict that happens between Ralf and his son. His son, Bruno, protests their condition in that camp because he does not have friends there. The sentence *Karl's not here and Daniel's not here and Martin's not here* suggests this. There is just loneliness around and by living in that camp they have lost their social life. Moreover, the sentence *no fruits and vegetables stalls* underlines that there is no beauty in that camp, just vagueness, because fruit and vegetables stalls symbolizes bright color, a beauty and spirit. There is also no cheer and togetherness. It is reflected in the sentence *No cafes with table outside* because this place is used to assemble for people, a place to relax and make joking. His son feels that there is no interaction with other people. It also can be found in the sentence *No one to push you from pillar to post*. In short, above explanation signifies that his son can't get a normal life in that camp. But, Ralf does not comprehend how important is this for his son. He just tries to calm his son down by insisting how important is his job for him. The sentence *this is my work* approves this. This emphasizes his selfishness that he just cares to achieve his own priority as the commandant of Nazi by stressing his job without giving any solutions to his son's problem.

Furthermore, Ralf accentuates how important is his job for him in the next quotation:

“Do you think that I would have made such a success of my life if I hadn't learned when to argue and when to keep my mouth shut and follow orders? Well, Bruno? Do you?” (p: 49)

This quotation indirectly compares Ralf and his son. His son represents people who seek happiness, cheer, and peace in their life. On the other hand, the character represents people who want to sacrifice their happiness, peace and choice in order to achieve their ambition. It is shown in the sentence *if I hadn't learned when to argue and when to keep my mouth shut and follow orders*. It identifies that he is willing to do everything that is ordered to him in order to get his position as the commandant of Nazi. It does not matter for him to live in that camp. That is also why he can't comprehend his son's wish because his priority is the most crucial thing for him. He wants to do everything that is ordered to him by his association, Nazi organisation, even it is against morality. It emphasizes that he disobeys his ego and superego in order to satisfy his id.

However, Ralf keeps winning himself. This condition steers him to be a selfish father who assumes that father who just can think the best and make decision. It can be seen in the following quotation when his son keeps complaining about their condition in that camp:

“I remember when I was a child,” said Father, “there were certain things that I didn't want to do, but when my father said that it would be better for everyone if I did them. I just put my best food forward and got on with them.”
“what kinds of things?” asked Bruno.
“oh, I don't know,” said father, shrugging his shoulders. “it's neither here nor there anyway. I was just a child and didn't know

what was for the best. Sometimes, for example, I didn't want to stay at home and finish my schoolwork: I wanted to be out on the streets, playing with my friends just like you do, and I look back now and see how foolish I was."
"so you know how I feel," said Bruno hopefully.
"yes, but I also knew that my father, your grandfather, knew what was best for me and that I was always happiest when I just accepted that." (p:49)

The quotation above suggests that Ralf is trying to ensure his son in order to acquiesce in him. He just tells him repeatedly that as a father he knows the best and thus he must absolutely listen to him. It is revealed from these sentences *but when my father said that and I also knew that my father, your grandfather, knew what was best for me*. This repetition implies that the character stresses his authority. He asserts that as a father he is actually the decision maker who can decide everything. The sentence *I remember when I was a child and I look back now and see how foolish I was* signify this. This condition emphasizes character's selfishness that he just wants to acquire his own priority as the Commandant of Nazi. He is controlled by his id that he ignores to consider his son's problem.

D. Conclusions

According to Freud's psychoanalytic concept of mental process, the character Ralf is controlled by his id. His excessive ambition to be the commandant of Nazi enables him to sacrifice his conscience. He wants to head a concentration camp by using violence. Besides, he behaves unjustly that as a commandant he does not obey the rule as he applies this to his subordinates. This excessive ambition also pushes him to be selfish. He forces his family authoritatively to accept this position without considering their reasons.

Notes: This article is written based on the Nelda Hayati's paper under the supervision of Muhd. Al-Hafizh, S.S., M.A.

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