

Analysis of the Character Dr. Thomas Stockmann in the Play “An Enemy of the People” by Lacanian Three Orders

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Abstract : The study of the personal development of dramatic characters through psychological theories is a scientifically valid pursuit. Jacques Lacan is one of the prominent psychologists who have delved into theoretical frameworks regarding personality evolution. Lacan's tripartite division of the psyche consisting of the imaginary, symbolic, and real orders serves as a foundational concept for understanding psychological growth in individuals. Furthermore, within dramatic characterizations, particularly with crucial characters, noticeable transformations resulting from narrative progression and causal relationships are discernible. Hence, this progression is analogous to the developmental trajectory of personality growth. The character of Dr. Stockmann in Henrik Ibsen's play "An Enemy of the People" serves as an example of such developmental evolution. This research seeks to elucidate the connections between Lacan's concepts of these psychological orders and the characterizations of Dr. Stockmann. It also explores the application of Lacanian theory in dramatic writing and assesses the fidelity of Dr. Stockmann's character to these theoretical underpinnings. By explicating Lacan's three psychological orders and their implications, this study provides a framework for analyzing these theories within the context of dramatic literature. Through alignment with textual examples and narrative elements from "An Enemy of the People," this study concludes that Dr. Stockmann's character development, consciousness, and personal growth adhere to Lacan's articulated path of psychological evolution, grounded in the triadic system of psychological orders.

Keywords : Jacques Lacan, Henrik Ibsen, triple orders, an enemy of the people, Dr. Thomas stockman

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