

A Psychoanalytical Approach to Edgar A. Poe's Short Story 'The Tell-Tale Heart'

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Abstract : Sigmund Freud's Theory of Psychoanalysis was a groundbreaking contribution to the province of the human psyche and behavior. Nowadays, psychoanalytic theory is applied to numerous fields. One of them is literature. Literary criticism has put into practice the basis of Freud's idea to analyze literary works. This essay is about the analysis of Edgar A. Poe's short story 'The Tell-Tale Heart,' under the lens of Freud's psychoanalytical perspective. In 1919, it was published 'Das Unheimliche' (The Uncanny) by Freud. On this article, the famous Austrian psychoanalyst showed his explanations about what he called 'the uncanny,' and its relation to the human unconscious. In this paper, Freud's famous article has been used to analyze Poe's short story 'The Tell-Tale Heart,' and to find the analogies that exist between Poe's macabre short story and Freud's theory of 'the uncanny.'

Keywords : psychoanalysis, theory of the unconscious, the uncanny, unheimlich

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