



Gerald's Emotional State in The Last Wish

**Vina Agustiana, Wulan Rahmatunisa, Shifa Nuruliya*

Universitas Kuningan

*Correspondence: E-mail: vina.agustiana@uniku.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Psychology is a general concept that every human being possesses. Using Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory, this study investigates the types of Psychological Aspects found in Geralt, the main character in Andrzej Sapkowski's novel "The Witcher: The Last Wish" (Id, Ego, and Superego). The researcher used the qualitative method and a case study design to achieve the research goal. The data is gathered through document analysis in the form of the main character's utterances. The researcher discovered 806 data from Geralt's utterances, with 149 data (18.48%) included the Psychological Aspects. According to the findings, 34 data were assigned to the Id (22.81%), 40 data were assigned to the Ego (26.84%), and 75 data were assigned to the Superego (50.33%). The most noticeable Psychological Aspect of Geralt's character is Superego. The superego is the component of personality acquired from one's parents, and society includes the values and morals of society learned from one's parents and others. According to the story, Geralt has been an orphan since he was a child and has survived to grow up on his own.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This article looks into the psychological aspects of Geralt, the main character in the novel *The Witcher: The Last Wish*. *The Witcher: The Last Wish* is a novel from Poland that has been translated into several other languages, including English. *The Last Wish* (Polish: *Ostatnie yczenie*) is the first book in Polish fantasy writer Andrzej Sapkowski's *Witcher* series (the other collection being *Sword of Destiny*). The first Polish edition appeared in 1993, and the first English edition appeared in 2007. Andrzej Sapkowski's *Witcher* series has recently become an international phenomenon (Betram, 2021). Geralt of Rivia is a monster hunter with magical abilities known as "Witchers" in this story. *Witcher* refers to someone who casts spells or curses, which describes someone with magical abilities and, more broadly, someone who relies heavily on those abilities. This novel is a work of fiction; all names, characters, settings, and incidents are made up by the author or are used fictitiously.

Geralt of Rivia is a *Witcher*, a man whose magical abilities and lifelong training have transformed him into a brilliant fighter and ruthless assassin. He is, however, no ordinary assassin: he hunts the vile fiends who ravage the land and attack the innocent. The action of the *Witcher* story takes place in the medieval time period, in the fictional world called "The Continent". The Continent was originally inhabited by elves, also known as sorcerers or magic users. The "Conjunction of the Spheres" cataclysm resulted in the temporary merger of different magical worlds, allowing other races such as humans and dwarfs to migrate to the Continent (Sapkowski, 2021) in Troelsen (2021). Aside from humans and dwarfs, there were a plethora of monsters and magical creatures who crossed over with humans. All of the various races and monsters were forced to coexist in the same world. Many creatures and monsters have magical abilities as well.

Following the Conjunction of the Spheres, various types of monsters began attacking humans and other races while attempting to coexist with them in a new world. The task of containing monsters proved too difficult, so mages created witchers. Geralt of Rivia, the main character, is a witcher who was created by magic to fight monsters. Witchers are created by using forbidden mutagenic alchemy, which is a type of forbidden magic (Sapkowski, 2021). Their senses, strength, and speed are improved, as are their regeneration abilities. While witchers are not mages, they can use the most fundamental form of magic known as signs. It is not nearly as powerful as the magic used by sorcerers, but it is still a type of magic. Throughout *The Last Wish*, readers learn and experience the negative perceptions and treatment of Geralt and other witch (Pavlovskiy, 2022) in Maksym (2022).

The researcher examines the psychological aspects of the novel *The Witcher: The Last Wish*. That is, the author examines the personality of a fictional character in *The Witcher* novel and focuses on psychological aspects that influence the novel's main character. The psychological issue is very important in our lives and something that every human being should be aware of. Psychology, on the other hand, is widely recognized as the science that is prevalent in the human environment because it studies things that are related to an individual's behaviors and minds. The researcher employs Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory to investigate the psychological aspects of Geralt's character in *The Witcher: The Last Wish* novel from the perspectives of Id, Ego, and Superego.

The theory of personality organization and the dynamics of personality development is known as psychoanalytic theory. Sigmund Freud discovered it in the late 1800s. Since his work, psychoanalytic theory has undergone numerous refinements. In English, the term "psychoanalytic" is used. It is related to the study of the human psyche. Sigmund Freud's most

enduring and influential idea was that the human psyche (personality) has multiple aspects.

Literature is a medium of human expression that allows people to express themselves and communicate with their feelings and internal emotions in new ways. Literature is a reflection of human life in society in written or spoken literary works. Prose is one of the literary genres, and its development from its inception to the present day is inextricably linked to that of the novel, and it is possible to argue that the novel evolved from prose (Chen, 2020). The novel, on the other hand, is one of those literary works that fall under the category of fiction.

Novel is literary work that provides readers with a life model in the form of stories. It contains a large number of sentences to construct a story that is neither too long nor too short, and it is classified into two types: fiction and non-fiction. A fiction novel is a made-up story based on the author's imagination or something that did not happen in real life. The nonfiction novel is the polar opposite of fiction. The story, settings, and characters in a non-fiction novel must be true and not fabricated or based on the author's imagination. The author could base the story on his own experience, his family or friends, or any event that occurred in his immediate surroundings, as long as it is true.

The Last Wish Novel by Andrzej Sapkowski introduced the world to the iconic monster hunter Geralt of Rivia, his beloved ward and prophesied savior of the world, Ciri, and his ally and true love, the powerful sorceress Yennefer—and they took the world by storm (Sapkowski, 2021). Geralt is a Witcher, a man whose magical abilities have been enhanced by years of training and a mysterious elixir, transforming him into a brilliant fighter and merciless hunter. He is, however, no ordinary assassin. He seeks out the vile fiends that ravage the land and attack the innocent, holding the line against the monsters that plague the world. He is both revered and despised. But not everything monstrous-looking is evil; not everything fair is good...and there is a grain of truth in every fairy tale.

In terms of scope of discussion, literature and psychology are distinct disciplines. Sigmund Freud coined the term "psychoanalytic theory" to describe the personality of a human being. It explains the driving forces behind why and how humans behave in certain ways. Furthermore, Freud believes that intrapsychic processes and interpersonal patterns in the outer surface of a person's conscious awareness can be traced by his experiences as a child. Because of the contributions of various theorists, this theory has evolved significantly over time. Freud divided the human personality into three vital components in this theory: the superego, ego, and id which all develop at different stages of peoples' lives.

The first component is Id. Id acts based on the pleasure principle, which demands immediate gratification of a need regardless of situations and factors (Bernaldez, et al., 2022). The Id is the primitive and instinctual part of the mind that contains sexual and aggressive drives as well as hidden memories (Minderop, 2016). Additionally, the Id is a part of the unconscious that contains all of the urges and impulses, including what is known as the libido, a type of generalized sexual energy used for everything from survival instincts to art appreciation (Alwisol, 2014). The Id is also obstinate, because it only responds to what Freud called the pleasure principle (if it feels good, do it) and nothing else. The Id is the impulsive (and unconscious) part of our psyche that responds to basic urges, needs, and desires directly and immediately. Because it operates in the unconscious part of the mind, the Id is unaffected by reality, logic, or the everyday world. The pleasure principle dictates that every wishful impulse should be satisfied immediately, regardless of the consequences. When the Id achieves its demands, people feel pleasure; when they are not met, they feel 'un-pleasure' or tension.

The second component is Ego. Bernaldez et al stated that the ego must then present itself in order to realistically meet these needs while adhering to the reality principle (2022). According to Alwisol (2014), the ego develops from the Id so that people can deal with reality, so the ego

operates according to the reality principle. According to Feist & Roberts (2006), the ego is governed by the reality principle, which seeks to be a substitute for the pleasure principle of Id. The principle of reality is applied through a secondary process of creating a plan and then carrying out an action in accordance with a realistically thought-out plan. Ego activity can be conscious, unconscious, or both (Bertens, et al., 2013). The majority of the ego's operating areas are in consciousness, but there is a small portion of the ego operating in the preconscious and unconscious regions.

The ego is the part of the Id that has been influenced directly by the external world. It is an aspect of one's conscious personality. When a person thinks about themselves, this is what they are aware of. The ego is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of the Id and the super-ego. It is a component of personality that makes decisions. In an ideal world, the ego operates rationally, whereas the Id is irrational. The ego operates devising realistic ways to satisfy the demands of Id. It seeks pleasure and seeks to avoid pain. It is also concerned with developing a practical strategy for obtaining pleasure. The ego has no concept of right and wrong; something is good if it accomplishes its goal of satisfying without harming itself or the Id.

The third component is the superego. Bernaldez et al stated the superego or conscience, the last function to develop in personality, is the representative of social/parental ideals established in people's early stages (2022). According to Alwisol (2014), the superego is a moral force and personality ethics that operates on idealistic principles as opposed to the ego's satisfaction and realistic principles. The ego gives rise to the superego. The term "superego" refers to morality in personality. The Superego functions similarly to a conscience in that it recognizes good and religious values. It is a component of personality made up of internalized ideals acquired from our parents and society. The superego incorporates societal values and morals learned from parents and others. The superego works the urges of the Id and to persuade the ego to behave morally rather than realistically. As a result, the super-ego functions as a moral conscience.

The conscience is our "inner voice," which alerts us when someone has done something wrong. The conscience can punish the ego by instilling feelings of guilt in it. For example, if the ego yields to the demands of the Id, the superego may make the person feel guilty. The ideal self (or ego-ideal) is a fictitious image of how you should be, representing career goals, how to treat others, and how to behave as a member of society. The ego-ideal, as Freud defined it, emerges from the person's first great love attachment (usually a parent) (Schafer, 1960; Blos, 1974; Hanly, 1984).

Thus, it can be said that it is possible to conclude that the Id is a biological component of personality, that it operates on the pleasure principle, and that it develops an ego. The Id gives rise to the ego. It works on the basis of reality. The superego then emerges from the ego. It is a moral principle related to environmental norms and rules (family and society), as well as a personality system containing evaluative values or rules (good and bad). As a result, the Id, Ego, and Superego are all intertwined.

2. METHODS

Considering the aim of the study is to explore the kinds of psychological aspects found in Geralt's character in the *Witcher: The Last Wish* novel by Freud's theory, this research applied the qualitative method through applying a case study design. Based on Creswell (2013), case study research is a qualitative approach in which the investigator explores a real-life, contemporary bounded system (a case) or multiple bounded system (cases) over time, through detailed, in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information (e.g., observations, interviews, audio-visual material, and documents and reports), and reports a case description and case themes.

The novel "The Witcher: The Last Wish" by Polish fantasy writer Andrzej Sapkowski serves as the primary data source for this study. The data was analyzed in the following steps:

- a) Read the novel and organize the information using psychoanalytic theory.
- b) Investigate and code the data using the Id, Ego, and Super Ego indicators.
- c) Create a description based on the themes.
- d) Use tables and detailed discussion of the themes to represent and report qualitative findings.
- e) Interpret the findings by advancing personal viewpoints, comparing the findings to the literature, and suggesting limitations and future research.
- f) Confirm the findings' accuracy.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings show that there are 806 Geralt's dialogues as the novel's main character, and that there are 659 data from these dialogues that aren't included in the psychological aspects (81.52%), and 149 data (18.48%) that are included in the psychological aspects. From a psychological standpoint, Freud identified three parts of the human psyche: Id, Ego, and Superego, which are described below. The researcher discovered 34 data (22.81%) associated with the Id, 40 data (26.84%) associated with the Ego, and 75 data (50.33%) associated with the Superego. Thus, the most occurrences of psychological aspects on Geralt is Superego.

The first part of human psyche is Id. The Id, according to Freud (1923), is the impulsive (and unconscious) part of our psyche that responds directly and immediately to basic urges, needs, and desires such as eating, drinking, loving, and sexual. The Id operates in the unconscious part of the mind according to the pleasure principle, which states that every wishful impulse should be satisfied immediately, regardless of the consequences. When the Id meet its demand, people feel pleasure; when they are not met, they feel 'unpleasure' or tension. There are 34 (22.81%) Geralt dialogues that describe the Id, and the examples following are some of them.

This can be seen in the excerpt 1:

"Beer," said the stranger. His voice was unpleasant. (Extracted from Chapter 1, Page 6, Line 1)

Geralt says this to the innkeeper at the Old Narakot Inn after a long journey from the north, from Ropers Gate. The word "beer" is indicated, indicating that the Id is a natural human need, such as drinking. It operates on pleasure principles, and if it is not satisfied, it will feel tense or angry, as evidenced by how Geralt speaks when he wants a beer.

The Id is also shown in excerpt 4.

"I'll pay." The outsider spoke quietly, as if unsure, and the whole nasty affair began. (Extracted from Chapter 1, Page 6, Line 15)

Geralt asked the innkeeper at the Old Narakot Inn for a room for the night after arriving from the north, via Ropers Gate. The inn is also used to satisfy human desire for the opposite sex. "The whole nasty affair started" indicates that the Id is a natural human need, such as sexual desire. The Id operates on Pleasure principles, which are based on basic urges, needs, and desires.

Furthermore, the Id is shown in excerpt 119

"Is there any water?" asked Geralt calmly. "The horse is thirsty. And so am I, if that doesn't inconvenience you." (Extracted from Chapter 2, Page 51, Line 1)

Geralt said to Nivellen while on a trip, and then Nivellen invited Geralt to his house. The sentence "Is there any water?" indicates that Geralt and his horse are thirsty, and it includes the Id. The Id is the part of our psyche that reacts directly and immediately to basic urges, needs, and desires, and the example above demonstrates a natural human need, such as drinking.

"I'll tell you what happened. But maybe after supper. I'm hungry." (Extracted from Excerpt 614, Chapter 6, Page 227, Line 4)

The phrase "I'm hungry" then refers to Geralt wanting to eat because he was hungry, demonstrating that the Id is a natural human need. The Id responds directly and immediately to basic urges, needs, and desires, implying that every wishful impulse should be immediately satisfied.

He interrupted her with a kiss, an embrace, a touch, caresses and then with everything, his whole being, his every thought, his only thought, everything, everything, everything (Excerpt 772 in Chapter 6, Page 283, Line 18)

The sentence "He interrupted her with a kiss, an embrace, a touch, caresses and then with everything, his whole being, his every thought, his only thought, everything, everything, everything" demonstrates that the Id is a natural human need such as sexual. The Id operates on the pleasure principle within the unconscious part of the mind. Geralt making love to Yennefer with a kiss, an embrace, a touch, caresses, and then with everything regardless of the consequences, according to this dialogue.

The second part of human psyche is Ego. According to Freud (1923), the ego is a part of the conscious personality that operates on the reality principle. When a person thinks about themselves, this is what they are aware of. The ego is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of the Id and the super-ego. It knows something is good if it achieves its goal of satisfying without harming itself or the Id, and the ego recognizes that people have needs and desires. There are 40 (26.84%) Geralt's dialogues that described the ego. The followings are the examples.

"I'm not interested in the princess," Geralt said calmly. He was sitting motionless, his hands on his knees. "Just in the three thousand." (Excerpt 12 in Chapter 1, Page 10, Line 1)

Geralt addresses Velerad as the castellan of Wyzim in this dialogue. The sentence demonstrates that the ego recognizes that people have needs and desires, and it operates on the basis of reason in accordance with the reality principle. The phrases "I'm not interested in the princess" and "Just in the three thousand" indicate that Geralt is only interested in the money and not the princess. The ego knows something is good if it achieves its goal of satisfying without harming itself or the Id, as seen when Geralt didn't care about his pleasure in capturing the princess.

"Castellan," said Geralt, "why act in haste? After all, I really could have an accident at work, irrespective of my intentions. Just in case, the wise men should be thinking about how to save me from the king's anger and get those fifteen hundred orens, of which rumor speaks, ready." (Excerpt 28 in Chapter 1, Page 15, Line 33)

The phrase "Get those fifteen hundred orens, of which rumor speaks" demonstrates that the ego recognizes that people have needs and desires. The ego operates on Reality principles and works through reason. The dialogue above implies that Geralt works for money without considering the consequences.

"Where was I? My first noble deed. You see, they'd told me again and again in Kaer Morhen not to get involved in such incidents, not to play at being knight errant or uphold the law. Not to show off, but to work for money.(Excerpt 365 in Chapter 4, Page 124, Line 5)

The phrase "to work for money" then means Geralt works for money, which includes the ego. It demonstrates that the ego operates on the basis of reasons based on the reality principle. It knows something is good when it achieves its goal of satisfying without harming itself or Id. The ego then realizes that people have needs and desires.

"I did my job. I quickly learned how. I'd ride up to village enclosures or town pickets and wait. If they spat, cursed and threw stones, I rode away. If someone came out to give me a commission, I'd carry it out. (Excerpt 366 in Chapter 4, Page 124, Line 12)

The dialogue above is delivered by Geralt to Lola and demonstrates how the ego operates on the basis of reasons based on reality principles on the part of the conscious personality. When a person thinks about themselves, this is what they are aware of. "If someone came out to give me a commission, I'd carry it out," means Geralt would go to work for a commission/money because he needs it. The ego then realizes that people have needs and desires.

"I don't want any trouble. And I've been sitting here for too long anyway. I'm going south, Dandalion. Far south. I won't find any work here. Civilization. What the hell do they need a witcher here for? When I ask after employment, they look at me as if I'm a freak." (Excerpt 454 in Chapter 5, Page 171, Line 10)

Geralt says the above dialogue to Dandalion in the library corridor. The sentence that was highlighted described the ego. The ego recognizes that people have needs and desires, and the dialogue implies that Geralt doesn't want any trouble and just wants a job, but he can't find any. The ego operates on the Reality principle, which states that something is good if it achieves its goal of satisfying without causing harm to itself.

The third part of human psyche is Super-ego. According to Freud (1923), the superego incorporates societal values and morals learned from one's parents and others. He defines the superego as a component of personality made up of internalized ideals acquired from our parents and society. The super-ego acts as a moral conscience, suppressing the id's and attempting to make the ego behave morally rather than realistically. There are 75 (50.33%) Geralt's dialogues which belong to the superego.

Geralt bowed even lower. "Your Majesty, you know our code of practice forbids us to speak of our work." (Excerpt 33 in Chapter 1, Page 17, Line 1)

Geralt says the above example to Foltest as the King at the palace. The phrase "our code of practice forbids us to speak of our work" described the superego. The superego is a personality trait that refers to morality. The sentence then implies that Geralt is aware that the code of practice forbids him from discussing his work and that he does not want to violate it, and that in this sentence Geralt knew how to honour by bowing even lower his head. It's

because the superego incorporates societal values and morals learned from one's parents and others.

"It will be easier to remove Foltest from the throne if the striga frightens the people even more? If the royal madness completely disgusts both magnates and common folk, am I right? I came here by way of Redania and Novigrad. There is much talk there that there are those in Wyzim who look to King Vizimir as their savior and true monarch. But I, Lord Ostrit, do not care about politics, or the successions to thrones, or revolutions in palaces. I am here to accomplish my task. Have you never heard of a sense of responsibility and plain honesty? About professional ethics?" (Excerpt 72 in Chapter 1, Page 27, Line 5)

Geralt speaks to Lord Ostrit in the old palace, which has been abandoned for seven years. The superego is indicated by the underlined sentence. The sentence implies that he is simply working; he is unconcerned about politics, successions to thrones, palace revolutions, or anything else; he is only there to complete his task. The superego is the personality's morality. It functions as a moral conscience, similar to our 'inner voice,' which warns us when others have done wrong, as taught to us by our parents and others.

"Shut up, you brat," interrupted Geralt, smiling nastily. "Halt your uncontrolled little tongue. You speak to a lady who deserves respect, especially from a Knight of the White Rose. Admittedly, to become one it's enough, lately, to pay a thousand Novigrad crowns into the Chapter's treasury, so the Order's full of sons of moneylenders and tailors—but surely some manners have survived? But maybe I'm mistaken?" (Excerpt 210 in Chapter 3, Page 79, Line 22)

Geralt from Dorndal said the example above to Tailles. "Halt your uncontrollable little tongue. "You're speaking to a lady who deserves respect," the superego said. It demonstrates that the superego operates in accordance with the morality principle, which refers to morality in personality. It incorporates societal values and morals that are learned from parents and others. It's like our 'inner voice' telling us when someone has done something wrong and when someone has done something good, and Geralt understands that people must respect our elders.

"Evil is evil, Stregobor," said the witcher seriously as he got up. "Lesser, greater, middling, it's all the same. Proportions are negotiated, boundaries blurred. I'm not a pious hermit. I haven't done only good in my life. But if I'm to choose between one evil and another, then I prefer not to choose at all. Time for me to go. We'll see each other tomorrow." (Excerpt 272 in Chapter 3, Page 97, Line 15)

Geralt, as a wizard in the orchard, says the example above to Stregobor. The underlined sentence then described the superego, demonstrating that the superego functions as a moral conscience. The superego incorporates societal values and morals learned from one's parents and others. It is our 'inner voice' that tells us when we have done something wrong, and in the example above, Geralt understands that evil is still evil, whether it is lesser, greater, or middling, and he does not want to do it.

"Your Majesty,But I've never killed people for money, regardless of whether it's for a good or bad cause. And I never will." (Excerpt 406 in Chapter 4, Page 134, Line 2)

Geralt says the utterance above to Calanthe as Queen of the Cintra kingdom. "I've

never killed people for money, regardless of whether it's for a good or bad cause," says the sentence. And I never will," said the superego, implying that Geralt would never kill people for money, whether for good or bad reasons, because he only kills monsters, not people, which is evil. The superego refers to morality in personality; it incorporates societal values and morals learned from one's parents or others, and it functions as our "inner voice," informing us when others have done something wrong.

Based on 149 data that are included in the psychological aspects, the researcher discovered 34 data (22.81%) of the Id, 40 data (26.84%) of the Ego, and 75 data (50.33%) of the Superego. Thus, the most occurrences of psychological aspects on Geralt are Superego. This is in line with the study of Seo Jin-Woo character in remember korean drama which found that Seo Jin Woo's psychoanalysis includes unconsciousness in which he experiences fear and pain as a result of what happened to him and his father. Seo Jin Woo's personality is a super-ego, which allows him to think about reality in order to assist his father with this goal (Isna & Chitra, 2021).

However, the superego does not always appear to take precedence when analysing the main character. It is also revealed in Adnyana, Winarta, and Resen (2020) who state that the main character has several personality traits and that the Id is more dominant in the psychological condition. This demonstrates that Thor, the main character in the Thor Ragnarok film, is someone who wants to do something regardless of the consequences; everything he did was for Asgard and his people.

In Geralt's case, the Id is the lowest aspect. Geralt, based on Id, will respond directly and immediately to basic urges, needs, and desires that must be satisfied. If these needs are not met, especially if they are primary needs, he may die or commit criminal acts in order to satisfy them. Geralt does not appear to be concerned with the pleasure principle because, in order to fulfil the id, Geralt works by killing monsters in order to fulfil his needs and desires, based on morals taught to him by his parents and others.

Furthermore, it is the realistic part of the Ego that mediates between the desires of the Id and the super-ego. It knows something is good if it achieves its goal of satisfying without harming itself or the Id, and the ego recognizes that people have needs and desires. Geralt's ego can be seen in the way he works, as he kills monsters to survive and then fulfil his needs and desires. The ego knows something is good if it achieves its goal of satisfying without harming itself or the Id, as seen when Geralt didn't care about his pleasure in capturing the princess.

The researcher discovered that Geralt's character was dominated by his superego. The superego won because it incorporates societal values and morals learned from one's parents and others. In this novel, the Id, Ego, and Superego collaborate to create a behavior, and these three psychological aspects are intertwined. The Id generates demands such as basic urges, needs, and desires. The ego adds reality's needs, and it is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of the Id and the super-ego. The superego then adds morality to the action taken. The superego is the component of personality that has been acquired from one's parents, and society incorporates the values and morals of societies that have been learned from one's parents and others, which may be why the superego is the most prominent.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher discovered that Geralt's character was dominated by his superego. The superego won because it incorporates societal values and morals learned from one's parents and others. In this novel, the Id, Ego, and Superego collaborate to create a behavior, and these three psychological aspects are intertwined. The Id generates demands such as basic urges, needs, and desires. The ego adds reality's needs, and it is the realistic part that mediates

between the desires of the Id and the super-ego. The superego then adds morality to the action taken. The superego is the component of personality that has been acquired from one's parents, and society incorporates the values and morals of societies that have been learned from one's parents and others, which may be why the superego is the most prominent.

5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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