Hidden Desires and Social Norms in 'Young Goodman Brown': A Psychoanalytic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Literature has provided a deep understanding of the human psyche and behavior. "Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a literary work exploring the psychological component. This study attempts to discover the conflict between hidden desires and social norms and the anxieties and fears from a psychoanalysis point of view. This study uses qualitative descriptive techniques to delve into the context. In addition, this study uses Freudian Psychoanalytic which are Id, Ego, and Superego. The research contributes to the broader field of literary analysis related to psychoanalytic theory, facilitating a deeper understanding of the story by revealing the character's actions. By focusing on the protagonist's personality traits, readers are expected to gain a comprehensive understanding of the story's central conflict. This study is intended to engage scholars, researchers, and students in the interpretive analysis of this short story.

Keywords: *psychoanalysis, hidden desires, social norms, anxiety, fears*

1. Introduction

Hidden desires and social norms play an important part in developing our personalities and psychological states. This may be evident in how people tend to follow anything that goes viral or trending among people. The pressure to conform to expectations of beauty, prosperity, and happiness can be extremely stressful, making it difficult to combine one's public image with personal goals. This conflict is reflected in the rise of mental health disorders as people struggle with these demands, emphasizing the necessity of understanding how hidden wants and social standards influence us today. Humans experience many things throughout their entire life. They have already reached out and found knowledge to share with another community. The best and easiest way to do by adopting literary work. Literature serves as a powerful tool for communication, allowing individuals to convey complex ideas, emotions, and perspectives (Eagleton, 2008). Wellek & Warren (1948) in the book titled "Theory of Literature" mentioned that literature reflects and expresses even ambiguous life. It contains any messages that the readers can achieve through reading it, especially moral.

Literature, throughout history, has long provided insights into the human psyche and behavior, acting as a cultural mirror closely linked to human life (Furqaan, 2019). It serves as a resource for analyzing psychological phenomena, including inner conflicts. Jung (1912) viewed literature as a bridge between the conscious and unconscious mind, offering insights into the deeper self. Sigmund Freud, a pioneer in psychology, explored the mind's structure, detailing how the Id, Ego, and Superego constantly interact to shape thoughts, feelings, and behaviors (Freud, 1923).

There is a research gap in understanding how hidden desires and societal norms affect human character development and psychological states. While the impact of social norms is well-studied, little

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research examines how personal aspirations interact with these norms. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" explores the human psyche through symbolism and psychological tension, inviting readers to reflect on their inner worlds (Frye, 1957). The story follows Goodman Brown on a nighttime journey into a dark forest, where he encounters figures that challenge his beliefs and morals.

This study examines "Young Goodman Brown" through Freud's psychoanalytic theory, focusing on the interaction of the Id, Ego, and Superego. By applying Freud's framework, the research aims to uncover the psychological motivations and conflicts driving the protagonist's actions and shaping the story. Analyzing Goodman Brown's psyche offers deeper insights into his character development, the symbolism used by the author, and the story's broader implications.

The previous study entitled "Nathaniel Hawthorne's Young Goodman Brown" by Kristoff (2014) uses Freudian psychology to explain the protagonist's detachment at the story's end, attributing it to the conflict between his inner desires and the strict Puritan social norms, leading to repression. Similarly, Asuncion et al., (2023) in their study, "Traversing the Psychoanalytical Realm of the Sadness Collector by Merlinda Bobis: The Interaction and Conflicts among the Characters' Id, Ego, and Superego" analyze the character Rica using Freudian theory, revealing how her morality and personality are shaped by the interaction of her Id, Ego, and Superego.

Different from those studies above, this research will analyze the short story "A Young Goodman Brown" using Freud's psychoanalytic theory with a focus on the interaction between the Id, Ego, and Superego. This research will focus on the conflict perspective between hidden desires and social norms. In addition, it will also delve deeper into anxiety and fear related to the subconscious and the dark side of humans.

This study attempts to answer several questions: (1) How is the conflict between hidden desires and social norms expressed in the story "A Young Goodman Brown" from the perspective of psychoanalysis? and (2) How does the conflict in the story "A Young Goodman Brown" reveal the anxieties and fears?

Fear, anxiety, and popular culture frequently appear in literary work, especially short stories, reflecting and exploring the intricacies of human emotions and societal standards. Short stories dive into the depths of personal psychology, frequently analyzing the characters' worries and concerns. Popular culture may provide an extensive weave of allusions and symbols for authors to use to portray their inner conflicts. Popular culture can heighten or face worries such as failure, social rejection, and mortality.

Short stories are brief literary works, often read in one sitting, focusing on a specific event or series of events with only a few characters. (Tucan, 2014). They vary in style—ranging from intuitive and lyrical to mythic and oral—and can be between 1,000 and 4,000 words long (Parui & Avishek, 2019). Unlike novels, short stories are not seen as a distinct literary genre but can be categorized by their style, such as literary or popular, the latter focusing on entertainment with clear plots and characters. The themes, characters, setting, and plot reflect the author's mental, psychological, historical, and social influences (Daneshzadeh, 2015).

The theme is a crucial element in a short story, representing its main idea or central meaning. It underlies the core of the story (Dashela, 2021) and is often implicit, allowing for varied interpretations (Tiana, 2015). A theme emerges through character development, dialogue, setting, and plot, guiding the reader to understand how the author evolves the story (Nurhandayani, 2014).

Characters are central to any story, whether human, animal, or non-human. They are defined by their dialogue and actions (Latif, 2016) and play a crucial role in engaging the reader, evoking empathy, and driving the plot. Characters can be analyzed through their physical appearance, thoughts, actions, words, and the perspectives of other characters or the narrator. Understanding the various types of characters and their roles enhances the appreciation of a story's complexity and richness.

The setting refers to the time and place where the story unfolds. It can either serve as a backdrop, like a city or woodland, providing context for the action, or be integral to the plot, requiring readers to immerse themselves in the environment (Fauzan, 2016). Meanwhile, the plot is the sequence of events that drive the story, typically structured into rising action, climax, and falling action, leading to a resolution. A linear plot has three major parts: the beginning, where characters and settings are introduced; the middle, where characters face conflicts while pursuing goals; and the end, where the resolution occurs (Irawan, 2015).

Point of view is the perspective from which a story is told (Abood, 2018). It depends on the narrator chosen by the author and their knowledge of the story. There are four main types: omniscient, where the author knows all characters' thoughts and actions; limited omniscient, where the author reveals only one character's thoughts; first person, where a character narrates the story; and objective, where the author reports actions without delving into characters' thoughts (Xiaokang, 2021).

Meanwhile, understanding conflicts involves exploring hidden desires, social norms, anxiety, and fears. Hidden desires are suppressed or unexpressed longings that lie beneath the surface. The desire-satisfaction theory suggests that life quality is linked to how well desires are fulfilled; the more fulfilled desires, the better one's well-being (Yu, 2022). These desires can stem from personal ambitions, relationships, or work goals and may not align with societal norms or personal circumstances. For example, someone may secretly wish for an artistic career while working in a corporate job or hide romantic feelings to preserve a friendship. Conflicts arise as individuals navigate their true desires against practical realities, frequently resulting in a complex interplay of emotions in which the pursuit of personal fulfillment collides with the need to make pragmatic decisions, balancing passion and responsibility in ways that shape their choices and, ultimately, define their life paths. Furthermore, suppressing hidden desires can lead to psychological issues, including dissatisfaction, resentment, and mental health concerns like anxiety and depression. The internal conflict between true desires and external actions can create a sense of inauthenticity, affecting self-esteem and overall contentment.

Social norms are unwritten rules defining acceptable behavior in a community and arise from unplanned interactions (Bicchieri et al., 2018). They shape human behavior through social networks, as individuals are influenced by those around them (De et al., 2021). Understanding these norms is crucial for creating interventions that address deep-rooted beliefs and drive collective change. Social norms can heavily influence hidden desires, often causing individuals to repress their true wants if they conflict with accepted standards. For instance, fear of social rejection may prevent someone from pursuing a passion. This repression creates internal conflict as people struggle to balance personal desires with societal expectations. Social norms can evolve, either easing or intensifying suppressed urges. For example, shifts in attitudes toward gender roles have allowed more expression of previously repressed impulses, while rigid norms may perpetuate repression despite personal changes. Understanding social norms is crucial for grasping their impact on individual and collective behaviors.

Anxiety is a common mental health issue that affects various aspects of life, including academics. It is defined as a feeling of discomfort or fear about current or potential events (Cambridge English Dictionary, 2024) and involves dread, uncertainty, and worry over real or imagined threats (Anxiety Centre, 2024). Anxiety can stem from stress, trauma, environmental factors, and genetics (Milne & Munro, 2020). It leads to mood disorders and physical and psychological changes (Adwas et al., 2019) and is characterized by distress, impaired sleep, and difficulties in concentration and daily functioning (Xi, 2020).

Fear affects thoughts, feelings, and behaviors by activating the nervous system and increasing physiological responses like a rapid heartbeat and dilated pupils. It also triggers adrenaline production, narrowing blood vessels and reducing blood flow to the skin (Dodhy, 2017). Reactions to fear vary based on personal experiences, cultural background, and genetics. While some may develop phobias,

others might show resilience. Personal experiences, cultural background, and genetics all influence how people react to terror. Personal experiences are important; for example, past traumatic events might contribute to the formation of specific phobias, whereas individuals who have not had such experiences may not be as fearful. Fear perception and management are also influenced by cultural background, as different cultures address anxiety and phobias differently. Furthermore, genetic variables influence an individual's susceptibility to fear and anxiety; some people are naturally prone to experience high levels of fear or anxiety, whereas others may have a natural resilience. Thus, these interrelated variables affect the variety of ways in which fear is experienced and dealt with.

This diversity in responses highlights the need for personalized approaches to psychological treatment and support. Fear serves an evolutionary purpose by acting as a protective mechanism that enhances alertness and readiness to respond to danger, aiding survival. However, in modern society with less immediate threats, this primal response can become maladaptive. Therefore, learning to recognize and manage fear is crucial for maintaining well-being.

This study uses Freud's psychoanalysis theory to analyze the human mind. Freud's approach, known as Freudian psychoanalysis, explores how unconscious conflicts, desires, and early experiences shape thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The human mind is divided into three layers: conscious, preconscious, and unconscious (Sibi, 2020). Freud's Structural Model of Personality divides the mind into the id, ego, and superego, each playing a role in shaping thoughts, behaviors, and emotions, linking the brain's physical structure to conscious experience.

The id is the primal part of the psyche, driven by unconscious urges and the pleasure principle, seeking immediate gratification without regard for consequences (Gomez, 1997). It acts totally on an unconscious level, driven by basic needs and desires like hunger, thirst, and sexual drives. The pleasure principle controls the id, which wants rapid gratification of desires regardless of the consequences or reality. It disregards morality, societal conventions, and the potential long-term consequences of its acts. Essentially, the id is all about meeting basic desires and obtaining pleasure as soon as possible, sometimes leading to impulsive and occasionally irrational conduct if left uncontrolled by the more rational elements of the mind, such as the ego and superego. It focuses on satisfying basic needs like hunger and desire, ignoring morality and reality. Meanwhile, the ego, emerging from the id during infancy, operates on the realism principle, balancing the id's demands with reality and the superego's moral standards (Sharma, 2020). It acts as a mediator, using defense mechanisms to manage anxiety and conflicts between the id and superego. Furthermore, The superego represents the conscience, developed through internalizing societal and parental rules in early childhood (Zhang, 2020). It adheres to the morality principle, striving for perfection and imposing moral standards on the ego, often causing guilt and self-reproach. Together, the id, ego, and superego interact and conflict, shaping personality, behavior, and psychological functioning in Freudian psychoanalysis.

Analyzing literary works involves exploring characters' unconscious desires, conflicts, and psychological mechanisms, as well as the narrative's symbolic meaning. It entails investigating how characters' unconscious desires—those emotions and sentiments that they may not be completely aware of—influence their behaviors and decisions. This approach also focuses on the internal conflicts that characters face, such as those between their moral ideals and prohibited urges, as well as how they manage through psychological processes such as repression or denial. Start by understanding the plot, setting, and characters, noting key events and motifs. Subsequent readings should reveal emotional undercurrents and symbolic elements. Next, identify aspects to analyze from a Freudian perspective, such as character development, relationships, or recurring themes. Apply Freud's model of the id, ego, and superego to examine psychological layers. Finally, interpret the story's symbols and themes through a Freudian lens, focusing on objects, situations, or recurring images to uncover their deeper psychological significance.

The study aims to analyze Goodman Brown's internal turmoil in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" using Freud's psychoanalytic theory. Hawthorne, known for his exploration of moral and psychological issues, was deeply influenced by his Puritan heritage, which is reflected in his dark narratives. This study will explore the protagonist's inner conflicts, desires, and challenges, contributing to psychoanalytic literary analysis. It seeks to enhance understanding of the character's actions and engage scholars, researchers, and students in interpreting the story.

2. Methodology

This study set out to determine the traits offered by Nathaniel Hawthorne in the short story Young Goodman Brown and how the main character is portrayed. This study investigated data using a qualitative descriptive technique, which describes natural events and the relationship between one phenomenon and another (Hidayah, 2019). This method facilitated a comprehensive examination of the literary elements, enabling a nuanced understanding of the characters' motivations and behaviors, and revealing the underlying themes that drive the narrative forward, such as the complexities of human emotions and the socio-cultural factors influencing their actions. The primary sources of information were phrases and words from Young Goodman Brown's short story, which characterized the characters' personalities and obsessions while also showing the deeper psychological and moral problems they experienced as they negotiated a world fraught with ambiguity and hidden sin.

The study uses a qualitative descriptive technique to analyze Goodman Brown's personality and obsessive tendencies in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown." This method identifies key phrases and words that reveal the protagonist's psychological state and moral conflicts. It signifies that the strategy being employed focuses on locating certain phrases and words in the text that reveal the protagonist's mentality and internal conflicts. By identifying these important characteristics, the analysis can gain a deeper understanding of the protagonist's ideas, feelings, and moral quandaries, as well as shed light on the character's inner world and how they perceive and react to their surroundings. It also helps understand how Hawthorne develops a complex character driven by both conscious and unconscious impulses and sheds light on broader themes like the conflict between personal desires and societal norms. Nathaniel Hawthorne's Young Goodman Brown not only reveals the characters' personalities and obsessions but also helps the reader grasp the intricate methods in which Hawthorne builds his characters. It focuses on how Hawthorne's characters are motivated by a combination of conscious and unconscious impulses—aware acts and ideas, as well as deeper, often concealed wants or anxieties that they may not completely comprehend themselves. Furthermore, these character insights shed light on bigger themes in the novel, such as the friction or conflict between an individual's inner aspirations and what society expects or asks of them. This implies that the story delves into the conflict between personal freedom and societal restraints, demonstrating how characters must navigate the push and pull between their desires and the conventions imposed by the community around them.

By applying Freudian psychoanalytic theory, focusing on the Id, Ego, and Superego, the study uncovers Goodman Brown's fundamental psychological conflicts. The study is anticipated to investigate how Goodman Brown's actions and ideas reflect these three components of the psyche. It could look at how his Id leads him to temptation, how his Ego tries to navigate and mediate his impulses with reality, and how his Superego imposes emotions of guilt or morality, resulting in internal conflict. By doing so, the study hopes to gain a better understanding of Goodman Brown's character and the psychological challenges he faces. This approach clarifies his actions and explores themes of repression, guilt, and the tension between hidden desires and societal expectations, offering insights into Hawthorne's portrayal of human nature and moral complexity. In essence, it means that by carefully examining the text, we can obtain a greater grasp of the characters and ideas, allowing us to appreciate Hawthorne's nuanced portrayal of human nature and moral quandaries.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Result

3.1.1. The Conflict between Hidden Desires and Social Norms Expressed in the Story "A Young Goodman Brown" From the Perspective of Psychoanalysis

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown," the protagonist's actions reveal a profound conflict between his hidden desires and the social norms of his Puritan community. Through a psychoanalytic lens, this conflict can be examined in detail to understand the interplay between Goodman Brown's internal impulses and external societal expectations.

1) Attending Satanic Rituals

One of the most significant actions in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" is his decision to attend a satanic ritual in the forest. This act represents a direct rebellion against the strict moral code and social norms enforced by his Puritan community, which values morality and piety above all else. This action is motivated by his Id's drive for new pleasure and curiosity.

> *"With this excellent resolve for the future, Goodman Brown felt himself justified in making more haste on his present evil purpose."*

His curiosity about something unknown and his desire to explore the dark forest reflect his Id's need for novelty and excitement. The Id is also responsible for Goodman Brown's rebellion against the moral codes and social norms imposed by his Puritan community. Goodman Brown's Ego rationalizes his decision to attend the satanic ritual by convincing himself that it is not wrong and it needs to be done to fulfill his desires.

> *"My love and my Faith," replied young Goodman Brown, "of all nights in the year, this one night must I tarry away from thee. My journey, as thou callest it, forth and back again, must need be done 'twixt now and sunrise."*

This rationalization allows him to agree with his Id's desires. However, the Ego sometimes presents a conflict. When Goodman Brown attends the ritual and realizes the true character of those in attendance, he is disappointed that it does not match his expectations. The stark reality of the ritual's proceedings contrasts sharply with his expectations, leading to profound disillusionment.

> *"The cry of grief, rage, and terror was yet piercing the night when the unhappy husband held his breath for a response. There was a scream, drowned immediately in a louder murmur of voices, fading into far-off laughter, as the dark cloud swept away, leaving the clear and silent sky above Goodman Brown."*

Meanwhile, the Superego in this story represents the moral component of Goodman Brown's personality which is deeply influenced by his Puritan upbringing and the strict social norms of his community. The Superego represents the internalized standards and values that guide an individual's sense of right and wrong. In Goodman Brown's case, this aspect of his psyche is initially robust, reflecting the strong moral code instilled in him through his Puritan education and the rigid expectations of his society. This strong Superego is evident in Goodman Brown's initial reluctance to participate in the satanic ritual. His hesitation reveals a deep-seated respect for the moral principles and religious teachings he has been taught since childhood. This moral conflict is illustrated by his internal struggle as he debates whether to attend the ritual, despite his growing curiosity and desire. His regret upon deciding to leave his wife behind further highlights the Superego's influence, as he experiences guilt and a sense of betrayal for deviating from the ethical path expected of him.

Hawthorne masterfully employs the concept of social background to explore its impact on Goodman Brown's reactions and behavior. The story critiques how an individual's social and moral upbringing profoundly shapes their actions and decisions. Nathaniel Hawthorne's Young Goodman Brown carefully

explores the subject of social background and how it affects Goodman Brown's behavior and reactions. The story criticizes the significant influence that an individual's social and moral upbringing has on their behaviors and choices. Goodman Brown's experiences and perceptions are strongly ingrained in the beliefs and traditions of his Puritan community. Hawthorne shows how Brown's strict commitment to these societal and moral demands causes a crisis of faith and internal struggle. By depicting Brown's viewpoint as affected by his upbringing, Hawthorne emphasizes the larger theme that our actions and choices are heavily influenced by the social and moral conditions in which we are raised. The study emphasizes the significant impact that cultural influences can have on personal views and conduct.

Goodman Brown's internal conflict between his suppressed desires and the moral standards of his Puritan society illustrates the tension between personal inclinations and societal expectations. This statement implies that Goodman Brown struggles within himself because his passions and urges contradict the rigorous moral precepts of his Puritan civilization. His internal turmoil reflects a larger tension between his personal feelings and the demands imposed by the society in which he lives. Essentially, it demonstrates how individual goals can clash with societal norms and demands, resulting in constant internal and external conflict. Despite the Superego's strong influence, Goodman Brown remains trapped in his inner turmoil, reflecting the broader theme of how societal pressures can create internal conflict and moral ambiguity. The text implies that, despite being greatly influenced by his Superego (the part of the brain that preserves moral norms and societal regulations), Goodman Brown experiences internal problems. This mental battle reflects a larger theme: societal pressures and expectations can cause confusion and moral doubt in individuals. Essentially, the Superego's influence provides external moral norms, but Goodman Brown's conflict demonstrates how these standards can cause inner anguish and confound one's sense of right or wrong.

The influence of a person's social background is very important in their reactions and behavior. A person's social background has a significant impact on their attitudes and behavior since it molds their values, perceptions, and responses to diverse situations, eventually dictating how they interact with the world and interpret their experiences. In this story, Hawthorne uses the concept of background well but Brown remains lost to criticize the way society places great emphasis on background to determine the importance of the person in society (Kharbutly & Omoush, 2021).

"With almost a serene deportment, he passed through the crowd, staring in amazement at the varied and vivid figures around him.".

The statement conveys the idea of how social context influences perceptions and reactions, which is consistent with the critique of society's reliance on background to determine one's importance. The quote above demonstrates Brown's delight and eventual disillusionment with his attempt to reconcile his background-based assumptions of society with the reality he encounters. The line above simply depicts Goodman Brown's evolving perspectives as he encounters a variety of individuals in the forest, posing a significant challenge to his previously held ideas. This reaction demonstrates the influence of his social background on his early perceptions of societal rules and practices. Brown's disbelief illustrates the contradiction between his upbringing-shaped concept of social roles and the complex world he now faces. His answer criticizes society's emphasis on social background to determine one's importance, demonstrating that moral worth and true character are not correctly reflected by exterior appearances or social standing. The phrase emphasizes the story's broader commentary on the difficulties of evaluating people purely on their social situation.

2) Questioning the Morality of Others

Another way in which Goodman Brown's actions go against social norms is in questioning the morality of others which is driven by the conflict between his Id, Ego, and Superego. His Id desires to explore the unknown and experience something forbidden, leading him to attend the satanic ritual. His Ego rationalizes this decision by convincing himself that it is necessary to fulfill his desires. However, his

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Superego is weakened by the exposure to the dark aspects of human nature, leading him to question the morality of everyone around him, including his wife Faith.

"Old Deacon Gookin was at domestic worship, and the holy words of his prayer were heard through the open window. "What God doth the wizard pray to?" quote Goodman Brown."

When Goodman Brown discovers that even those he holds in high regard and trusts implicitly are participants in the satanic ritual, he experiences a profound crisis of faith and trust. This revelation shakes the very foundations of his moral and ethical beliefs. The realization that respected figures within his community, including his wife, are involved in such nefarious activities forces him to reassess his previously held notions of morality and integrity. The boundaries between good and evil, which were once clearly defined in his Puritan worldview, become blurred. This newfound uncertainty leads him to question the sincerity and virtue of everyone around him, causing him to doubt the moral fabric of his entire community.

As Goodman Brown delves deeper into the ritual, his internal conflict intensifies, revealing a significant aspect of his defense mechanism: self-denial. This defense mechanism manifests as he begins to reject not only his previously unwavering belief in Puritan values but also starts to question his own identity and sense of self. His journey into the forest, driven by a desire to confront and understand his hidden desires and fears, paradoxically leads him to a deeper state of confusion and self-doubt. Brown's encounter with the ritual forces him to confront the uncomfortable reality that the moral absolutism he once relied upon is far more complex and compromised than he ever imagined. This internal strife, marked by a profound disillusionment with both himself and the society he once revered, illustrates a deep psychological struggle with identity and moral certainty (Kharbutly & Omoush, 2021).

3) Loss of Faith in Humanity

Goodman Brown's loss of faith in humanity and his own moral identity is a result of the imbalance between his Id and Superego due to doing something against social norms. As he became disillusioned with the darker aspects of human character, he began to question the foundations of his own moral identity. This psychological imbalance arises from her involvement in behavior that directly conflicts with the strict moral standards of his Puritan community. When he roams into the forest and witnesses satanic rituals, which include many things he previously held in high esteem, his Id's curiosity and desire for novelty clashes violently with his Superego's deeply ingrained sense of morality and social propriety.

"On the Sabbath day, when the congregation was singing a holy Psalm, he could not listen because an anthem of sin rushed loudly upon his ear and drowned all the blessed strain."

This loss of faith is a direct result of his exposure to the evil and sin he sees around him. Eventually, Goodman Brown's rejection of society and its norms is seen in his inability to trust anyone, including his wife. This rejection is a result of his Superego that everyone, including those he once considered, to have a good moral, can be sinful and evil. His disillusionment culminates in an inability to trust even his most intimate relationship—his wife, Faith. Her name, symbolizing his lost virtue, becomes a poignant reminder of the moral decay he perceives in the world.

This realization undermines his previously unshakeable moral certainty, leaving him in a state of profound skepticism and isolation. His belief that everyone, regardless of their outward virtue, can harbor dark, sinful inclinations shakes the very foundation of his moral understanding. As a result, Brown's psychological state deteriorates, manifesting in heightened anxiety, fear, and an overarching disillusionment with the society he had once held in high esteem.

The psychological rift in Brown's psyche reached a critical point when his hostility towards his Puritan heritage became manifest. This hostility was not a reactionary blow-up but a deep and honest response to the truth he felt. Far from being a failure, Brown's refusal to continue following the rigid norms of his community signifies a dignified attempt to reconcile his internal conflict with the harsh realities he encounters. His struggle to integrate the shocking revelations of human fallibility with his previous moral

convictions reflects a deeper existential search for authenticity and truth. This transformation underscores the complexity of his character and highlights the intense psychological and moral conflicts that define his journey (Kharbutly & Omoush, 2021).

3.1.2.   The Conflict in the Story "A Young Goodman Brown" Reveals Anxieties and Fears

In the short story "A Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, a range of psychological issues is vividly explored through the experiences of the protagonist. These issues include profound self-doubt, concealed desires, fear, and anxiety, all of which are central to Goodman Brown's internal and external conflicts.

1) The Fear of Inherent Sinfulness, Disillusionment with Perceived Virtue, and Lack of Spiritual Faith

The anxiety that pervades the character of Goodman Brown in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" is deeply rooted in his fear of inherent sinfulness, both within himself and others. This fear intensifies as he confronts the devil in the forest, who exposes the townspeople's hidden flaws. The devil's argument that "Evil is the nature of mankind" profoundly impacts Goodman Brown, leading him to confront the unsettling realization that sin is a fundamental aspect of human nature. This revelation sets off a profound internal conflict as Goodman Brown grapples with the understanding that no one, including himself, is immune to the corrupting influence of evil.

"Depending upon one another's hearts, ye had still hoped that virtue was not all a dream. Now are ye undeceived? Evil is the nature of mankind. Evil must be your only happiness. Welcome again, my children, to the communion of your race."

The devil's argument that "Evil is the nature of mankind" leads Goodman Brown to confront the belief that sin is a basic aspect of human nature. This revelation begins a deep internal conflict as Goodman Brown struggles with the realization that no one, including himself, is free from the corrupting effect of evil.

Besides that, the disillusionment with perceived virtue caused a severe anxiety effect on Goodman Brown. Goodman Brown's anxiousness becomes worse by his frustration with the perceived virtues of people around him. Throughout his journey, he sees important people of his town, like Goody Cloyse, Deacon Gookin, and even his wife, Faith, interacting with the devil. These encounters undermine his idealistic beliefs about their piety and moral integrity. For example, when Goodman Brown sees Goody Cloyse, his catechism teacher, he is shocked to learn her actual nature:

"That old woman taught me my catechism!... And this simple sentence was full of meaning."

This revelation creates feelings of betrayal and loneliness, as Goodman Brown finds that individuals he trusts and looks up to are flawed and immoral. The discovery that even those he considered virtuous are participating in the devil's communion further erodes his faith in humanity.

Additionally, the implication of Goodman Brown's fears is his lack of spiritual faith. His wife's Faith is a representation of his devotion to religion and faith in the goodness of God. Despite this, his confidence is completely shattered when he realizes that she is taking part in the witches' sabbath. In a state of despair, he screams,

"My faith is gone!".

This exclamation represents not just the loss of his wife, but also the breakdown of his spiritual convictions. The novel finishes with Goodman Brown returning to the community as a transformed man.

"a stern, sad, darkly meditative, distrustful, if not desperate man".

This shift emphasizes the devastating impact of his loss of faith, which resulted in a life marked by cynicism and despair.

According to Dodhy (2017), fear is a common aspect of human psychology that affects one's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. This indicates that fear can influence a person's cognition, emotions, and

behavior in a variety of settings. Ultimately, Goodman Brown's fear is a lack of spiritual faith and the downfall of his religious beliefs represents his wife Faith represents his religious dedication and belief in God's kindness.

The anxiety that pervades Goodman Brown's character is a complex interplay of fear, disillusionment, and loss of faith. His confrontation with the devil and the subsequent exposure of the townspeople's flaws lead him to question the very nature of humanity. The novel highlights how fear can lead to a breakdown in spiritual convictions and a shift towards cynicism and despair. Goodman Brown's story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked fear and the importance of maintaining faith in a seemingly corrupt world.

2) The Loss of Innocence

The massive sense of wickedness and sin that Goodman Brown experienced while traveling through the woodland was the primary source of his fear. The anxiety arises from the contrast between the Puritan belief that Satan is omnipresent and the possibility of wicked activities committed by humans. The enigmatic wanderer represents the devil, who introduces Goodman Brown to the world's hidden crimes, causing him to miscalculate its holiness.

"Depending upon one another's hearts, ye had still hoped that virtue was not all a dream. Now are ye undeceived? Evil is the nature of mankind. Evil must be your only happiness. Welcome again, my children, to the communion of your race."

As an example, sin is a part of human nature as mentioned by the traveler, and "Evil is the nature of mankind. Evil must be your only happiness". This quote emphasizes the dread of the Conformists towards sin as the inevitable essence of the human race, which is why Brown is deeply afraid of his soul.

Goodman Brown's fear is exacerbated by his loss of innocence, a common theme in Hawthorne's novels. The excursion into the forest marks a rite of passage for Goodman Brown, who is confronted with the harsh realities of human nature. The discovery that respected persons, such as Goody Cloyse and Deacon Gookin, are in alliance with the devil causes him immense disappointment and disillusionment.

"Young Goodman Brown stepped forth from the shadows of the trees and approached the congregation, with whom he felt a loathful brotherhood by the sympathy of all that was wicked in his heart"

Based on the quote above, it is clear that this loss of innocence, along with the knowledge of his tendencies for evil, heightens Goodman Brown's anxiety and sense of moral corruption. Meanwhile, Goodman Brown's fear is further driven by isolation and alienation. As his faith in the righteousness of his community dwindles, he is increasingly estranged from everyone around him. This isolation is both physical and psychological, as indicated by his alone trip through the forest and subsequent seclusion from society.

"A stern, a sad, a darkly meditative, a distrustful, if not a desperate man did he become, from the night of that fearful dream"

Goodman Brown's loss to reconcile his experiences in the forest with his past convictions leads to a severe sense of alienation, which fuels his anxiety. Furthermore, Goodman Brown's concern stems from a lack of clarity about the nature of morality and faith. The uncertainty of his encounter in the forest—whether it was a dream or reality—keeps him in a state of constant uncertainty.

"And when he had lived long, and was borne to his grave a hoary corpse, followed by Faith, an aged woman, and children and grandchildren, a goodly procession, besides neighbors, not a few, they carved no hopeful verse upon his tombstone, for his dying hour was gloom"

Based on the paragraph above, this ending represents the long-term influence of doubt on Goodman Brown's life, as his inability to determine the validity of his experience results in a life missing hope and filled with fear.

In line with this, Dein (2010) argued that sin is the outcome of how fear and anxiety react. Dein's notion that sin is the ultimate result of how fear and anxiety react implies that if fear and anxiety are not managed effectively, they might lead to undesirable behaviors and moral failures. Dein's concept says that sin or moral failing is often caused by how fear and anxiety are handled. If these emotions are not properly handled, they might result in unwanted behaviors and poor decisions. Unmanaged fear and anxiety can drive people to act in ways that go against their moral convictions, resulting in immoral or unethical behavior. Thus, acknowledging and managing these emotions is critical to avoiding moral failings.

Fear and anxiety can distort perception and decision-making, leading people to act in ways that damage themselves and others. This psychological output of distress can distort perception and decision-making, causing individuals to act in ways that harm themselves and others. These emotions can cloud judgment, causing people to make rash or foolish decisions that they would not otherwise make. When confronted with dread and worry, people may lash out, mislead, or indulge in self-destructive behaviors as a coping technique. This misconception may disrupt relationships, weaken trust, and have negative implications in both personal and social contexts. Thus, skillfully managing fear and anxiety is critical for maintaining healthy behavior and making informed decisions.

In the story, the enormous sensation of wickedness and sin that Goodman Brown felt while wandering through the woods was the root of his anxiety, which was exacerbated by his loss of innocence, loneliness, and lack of morality and religion. Goodman Brown's deep sense of wickedness and sin throughout his time in the woods serves as the story's central source of concern. This overwhelming emotion is heightened by his loss of innocence, which stems from understanding the darker side of human nature that contradicts his previously held ideas about his community's kindness. His loneliness in the bush worsens his misery, as he feels cut off from the customary support of his church and community. This disconnection from his religious and moral grounding exacerbates his sense of moral and spiritual confusion. Finally, the confluence of these reasons causes his inability to reconcile his horrific experiences with his previous values, resulting in a serious psychological and moral crisis.

In conclusion, Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" clearly depicts the fundamental reasons for fear and anxiety through the protagonist's perilous journey. The story shows how Goodman Brown's meeting with evil and sin, his consequent loss of innocence, his isolation and alienation, and his ongoing doubt and confusion all lead to his chronic anxiety. These components jointly reflect the worries present in Puritan culture and the broader human condition, emphasizing the fragility of religion and the ambiguities of human morality. Hawthorne's study of these topics offers a poignant case of inflexible moralism while also reflecting the common struggle with disillusionment and fear of the unknown, ultimately demonstrating fear's transformational and consuming power.

3.2. Discussion

The study "Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne delves into the profound psychological and moral conflicts that arise when individuals confront the darker aspects of human nature. This exploration is deeply rooted in the character of Goodman Brown, whose actions are driven by his hidden desires and reveal the inherent anxieties and fears that are part of human nature. Goodman Brown's decision to leave his village on a journey can be seen as both literal and allegorical. This journey symbolizes his inner conflict and his desire to confront the darker aspects of human nature. This is in line with (Kharbutly & Omoush, 2021) which focuses on Brown's psychological motivations. These motivations stem from a deep-seated need to understand and confront the evil that he perceives in the world around him. This perception is rooted in the Puritanical society in which he lives, where the fear of sin and the devil is omnipresent.

Furthermore, Brown experiences a condition of sadness towards the end of the novel that culminates in his psychological uncertainty, placing him among the group of romantics known as the "dark" romantics of the era. This study is in line with Khabutli and Omoush's study titled "Socio-Psychological Alienation

in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown," because both discuss moral conflicts, also called inner conflicts. Last but not least, the findings of this study are also related to Kharlbutli and Omoush's finding that Goodman Brown's action is driven by his hidden desires. They reveal the anxieties and fears causing the psychological confusion in Brown's psyche, which reaches its peak in a state of depression.

This study entitled Hidden Desires and Social Norms in 'Young Goodman Brown': A Psychoanalytic Analysis has a deeper analysis to examine the trigger of Goodman Brown's hidden desire because it delves into Goodman Brown's psyche to comprehend his actions, which are against social norms, which can be considered a new object of analysis in this short story in the psychoanalytic field. Aside from that, this study also has many weaknesses, such as a lack of supporting ideas and bad grammar, which impact whether this study is legitimately valid for another researcher.

3. Conclusion

Based on the examination of the short story "Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, it can be concluded that the story is a deep exploration of the psychological and moral conflicts that arise when individuals confront the darker aspects of human nature. The story delves into the protagonist's Goodman Brown journey which is marked by decisions that go against the moral codes and social norms of his Puritan community. Goodman Brown's action is driven by his hidden desires, revealing the anxieties and fears that are inherent in human nature.

Goodman Brown's experience with satanic rituals in the forest led him to question others' morality, including his wife, Faith. This disillusionment causes a loss of faith and innocence, leading to a deep sense of alienation and isolation. His inability to reconcile his experiences in the forest with his past beliefs results in a life characterized by cynicism and despair. The story ultimately reflects the broader human condition, emphasizing the fragility of religion and the ambiguity of human morality.

Aside from discussing the findings of this study, this research also presents various ideas connected to the aims and outcomes of the debate. The researcher suggests future researchers deeply explore and examine this whole project in different fields of criticism in literature to get different points of view about this subject.

For additional analytical interest, the author proposes conducting this psychoanalysis research in another literary work, such as a short story, novel, or narrative. This will be valuable if another researcher wants to collect the same data in the future. Additionally, the researcher expects that this study will serve as a reliable reference for further studies or research into literary work analysis for the reader and scholar.

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