Introduction

When reviewing a piece of literature, numerous theories can be applied. For instance, one can look at a piece of literature written in 16th Century England, and gain a sense of what society was like, how people dressed, and what the social expectations or norms were of that time period. Some other ways of analyzing literature is through the eyes of women or through the discourse of the characters. One of the most fascinating theories looks at the conscious versus the unconscious and how those suppressed feelings are demonstrated through the actions and discourse of the characters. This particular theory is known better as Psychoanalytic Theory.

Psychoanalytic theory or criticism is the foundation of my research and presentation. The purpose of my research is to explain and apply psychoanalytic theory and criticism to two well known pieces of literature, Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Even though I used various sources for my research, I found my five books to be the most helpful. Without a doubt, both *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear* were among the four. The others were *Exploring Psychology, Representing Shakespeare*, and *The Critical Experience*. *Exploring Psychology* and *The Critical Experience* enabled me to grasp a deeper understanding of the Psychoanalytic Theory and Criticism. *Representing Shakespeare* enabled me to apply Psychoanalytic theory and criticism to *Romeo and Juliet and King Lear*.

In order to find my research, I used the Rebecca Crown Library’s card catalogue to find books that pertained to my topic. This was extremely helpful because I was able to refine search by key words, authors, and subjects. In order to find suitable websites, I used Google Scholar. I was not very successful with Google Scholar, and I seemed to struggle to find reputable websites. After endless attempts, I was able to find websites that were not only reputable but extremely helpful as well.

Website

“An Introduction to Shakespeare’s Life and Times.” Cambridge University Press. 8 Nov. 2010.

http://www.fathom.com/course/28701903/session4.html

This source is a website, and it is also a popular and substantial source of news and references pertaining to Shakespeare. The intended audience of this source is the general public. This source does not have any particular theses, main points, or conclusions. Rather, it is an online database in which the general public can search for pertinent and reliable information regarding any particular information regarding Shakespeare and his literary works.

The contributors of this site are reliable in the sense that they have gathered and cited particular information regarding the topics that the audience is able to search within. The authors are not cited by any of my other sources, and my other sources have not cited this site.

The source gathers information from previous research done by other authors. Therefore the contributors to this site have spoken to each other regarding their findings and research. I do not believe that the contributors are attempting to persuade me to think in any particular way. I believe the contributors are trying to relay historically correct information to the general audience.

I can trust this source because it is a widely known and used database. This source gives a historical background to two other sources, *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet*. I do not believe that this source contains any limitations.

This source adds to my knowledge of my research by establishing a historical perspective of King Lear and Romeo and Juliet. This source is just as reliable and helpful as my other sources. This source goes in conjunction with the others because it allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the literature I am analyzing. I would recommend this source to any student doing any type of research because it is a reliable source that anyone can use.

I was able to access this site through the search engine on the Rebecca Crown Library database search. Once there, I searched topics such as “King Lear” and “Romeo and Juliet”.

Book

Cowles, David. The Critical Experience. Ed. 2. Dubuque, IA. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1994.

This source is a book that is intended for either high school or college English students. I do not believe there is an actual thesis in this book because it is a collection of different theories. It is divided into sections that describe various theories and criticisms that enable the reader to grasp a deeper understanding of the theory being discussed. It also offers examples, and different ways in which these theories can be applied to well known pieces of literature.

Each section is written by a different author who is an expert in the topic or theory being discussed. The book does not give a background or any credible history of the authors, but each author gives various citations after each of their sections. None of the authors from this text are cited in any of my other resources nor do any of the authors in this text refer to any other sources that I used.

The source was published in 1994. Although the book was published more than 10 years ago, I still believe that this source current for my topic.

The information in this source comes from the author’s own knowledge of the topic, and it also summarizes the sources of others as well. I am not entirely certain on whether or not the author spoke to other experts regarding the theories, but the author did cite from other works that analyze psychoanalytic theory. I do not believe the author is attempting to persuade me to think in any specific type of way. I believe that author is trying to inform the reader of how to analyze a piece of literature from a psychoanalytic perspective.

I can trust this source for numerous reasons. One reason being that is a class requirement, and that it is geared to college scholars who are attempting to understand different literary theories. The second reason is that each author cites from other reliable works that help strengthen their criticisms. I do not believe that this book has any limitations.

This source was the most helpful in enabling me to understand what psychoanalytic theory is and how to apply it to different literary works. I will use this source in my presentation to explain the various topics included in psychoanalytic theory and how such topics can be applied to *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet.*  I would say that this source is more reliable than my other sources because of the type of information it contains, and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who may need help in understanding the different literary theories.

I found this source through my English 274 class. It was a required book for this class.

Website

Felluga, Dino. "Terms Used by Psychoanalysis." *Introductory Guide to Critical Theory*.28 Nov 2003. Purdue U. 8 Nov 2010. <http://www.purdue.edu/guidetotheory/psychoanalysis/psychterms.html>.

This source is a website that is intended for all of the general public to view. This website does not contain a specific thesis or conclusion. It does, however, gather and explain numerous main points in regards to psychoanalytic theory.

This is a credible website. According to the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries), a division of the American Library Association, the original Guide to Theory site was "one of the most-cited literary theory resources on the Web" ([March 2002 issue](http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ACRL/Publications/College_and_Research_Libraries_News/Back_Issues__2002/March/Literary_Theory.htm) of [Internet Resources](http://www.ala.org/acrl/resrces.html)).The website was last updated in 2003.

The information is gathered from the contributors own knowledge as well as knowledge from research done by other experts in the field. The contributors are not trying to persuade me think one way or another. Also, this source is not biased.

This source can be trusted because it is widely known and is referred by such famous periodicals as *American Psychology and Psychology Today*. This source does not contain conclusions, rather facts that describe and define psychoanalytic theory. I do not believe that this source contains any limitations.

This source, similar to The Critical Experience, puts Psychoanalytic theory into a more useful and understandable perspective. I will use this source as a reference to explaining psychoanalytic theory and how one can analyze literature by using this theory and form of criticism. I believe it is just as reliable and easy to understand just like the rest of my sources. I would recommend this site to any student who is attempting to grasp a better understanding of psychoanalytic theory and criticism.

I went to Google scholar and typed in “understanding psychoanalytic theory”.

Book

Myers, David G. Exploring Psychology. New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2008.

This source is a book that was also required for an intro to psychology class that I previously took. It is a printed source, and the intended audience is students, preferably college level or advanced placement high school students. Similar to the Critical Experience, this book does not have an intended thesis nor does it have a conclusion. Rather, it focuses on various aspects of psychology; these aspects range from defining what psychology is to how to diagnose and treat different psychological disorders.

David Myers received his psychology PhD from the University of Iowa and is currently teaching at Hope College in Michigan. He has published various works in reliable scientific periodicals as *Science, American Scientist, Psychological Science*, and *American Psychologist*. David Myers is not cited by any of my other sources, nor does he cite any of my other sources. The source was published in 2008, and so I would say that it is a relatively current source.

The information in this source comes from the author’s own personal knowledge as well as research and summaries done by other psychologists and experts in the field. Periodically, he does quote other authors throughout the book. Near the end in Appendix B, he dedicates a section to “references” and some of those references include page numbers in which they were referenced or quoted. The author does not attempt to persuade me into believing anything. He uses this book in order to allow other students to grasp a deeper understanding of psychology.

I can trust this source because it is a widely used book, and he uses various other sources to explain his thoughts and theories further. My other source, The Critical Experience, supports some of the claims that Myers makes in this book. I believe that the only limitation that this source has is that it only covers a small part of Freud and Psychoanalytic theory. I believe that the source would be a bit stronger if he broadened his explanations.

This source enables me to grasp a deeper of understanding of such terms used in psychoanalytic theory as conscious vs. unconscious, id and ego, and the Oedipus complex. I will use this source in my research to define the previous terms as well as some other unfamiliar terms. This source is stronger in some aspects in comparison to the others because it gives more definition and clarification, but it is just as reliable as the others. I would recommend to any other student doing the same research because he clarifies and defines such difficult terms as the superego in a simple way.

I found this source through an intro to psychology class I took previously. It was the required text book for that class.

Website

“Romeo and Juliet.” Enclyclopedia Britannica. 2010. Enclyclopedia Britannica Online. 05 Nov. 2010.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/508921/Romeo-and-Juliet>.

This source is a website, and it is also a popular and substantial source of news and references. The intended audience of this source is the general public. This source does not have any particular theses, main points, or conclusions. Rather, it is an online database in which the general public can search for pertinent and reliable information regarding a particular historical event, person, etc.

The contributors of this site are reliable in the sense that they have gathered and cited particular information regarding the topics that the audience is able to search within. The authors are not cited by any of my other sources, but some of my other sources have referred to the online Enclyclopedia Britannica database to clarify certain terms and topics. This source was published in 2010, and therefore it is current and up to date.

The source gathers information from previous research done by other authors. Therefore the contributors to this site have spoken to each other regarding their findings and research. I do not believe that the contributors are attempting to persuade me to think in any particular way. I believe the contributors are trying to relay historically correct information to the general audience.

I can trust this source because it is a widely known and used database. This source gives a historical background to two other sources, *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet*. I do not believe that this source contains any limitations.

This source adds to my knowledge of my research by establishing a historical perspective of King Lear and Romeo and Juliet. This source is just as reliable and helpful as my other sources. This source goes in conjunction with the others because it allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the literature I am analyzing. I would recommend this source to any student doing any type of research because it is a reliable source that anyone can use.

I was able to access this site through the search engine on the Rebecca Crown Library database search. Once there, I searched topics such as “King Lear” and “Romeo and Juliet”.

Website

“Romeo and Juliet.” Internet Shakespeare Editions. 7 April 2010. 8 Nov 2010.

http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/plays/r&jsubj.html

This source is a website, and it is also a popular and substantial source of news and references pertaining to Shakespeare. The intended audience of this source is the general public. This source does not have any particular theses, main points, or conclusions. Rather, it is an online database in which the general public can search for pertinent and reliable information regarding any particular information regarding Shakespeare and his literary works.

The contributors of this site are reliable in the sense that they have gathered and cited particular information regarding the topics that the audience is able to search within. The authors are not cited by any of my other sources, and my other sources have not cited this site. This source was last updated in 2010, and therefore it is current and up to date.

The source gathers information from previous research done by other authors. Therefore the contributors to this site have spoken to each other regarding their findings and research. I do not believe that the contributors are attempting to persuade me to think in any particular way. I believe the contributors are trying to relay historically correct information to the general audience.

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I was able to access this site through the search engine on the Rebecca Crown Library database search. Once there, I searched topics such as “King Lear” and “Romeo and Juliet”.

Critical Essay

Rudnytsky, Peter L. “‘The Darke and Vicious Place’: The Dread of the Vagina in ‘King Lear’”. Modern Philosophy, Vol. 96, No. 3 (Feb., 1999), 291-311.

This source is a critical essay, and it is both an electronic and printable source. The intended of this source is any scholar who is familiar with Shakespeare’s King Lear, and who has a brief understanding of Psychoanalytic theory. Peter is focusing mainly on how Shakespeare’s plays are written from a male perspective and show conflicts of masculine identity. The main points of this article are to express how Lear slowly disintegrates into a feministic man who loses his masculinity by giving up his crown to his daughters. Another main point is how the Castration complex is evident through both Edmund and Lear throughout the play. Its conclusion is that Lear self castrates himself by giving up his thrown to his daughters, and Edmund depicts the castration complex because he follows in the footsteps of his father by becoming a womanizer.

The author, Peter L. Rudnytsky, is an English Professor at the University of Florida. He is trained Renaissance scholar who specializes in Freud, the history of psychoanalytic theory, and psychoanalytic approaches to literature. The author is not called on by any of my other sources, nor do any of my other sources refer to him.

The article was published in February of 1999. Although it was published 10 years ago, I believe this article is a substantial piece of evidence, and I also believe that it puts the psychoanalytic theory into perspective through analyzing Shakespeare’s King Lear.

The information in this source comes from the author’s own knowledge and experience, as well as other authors’ works. He summarizes and critiques other works as well as uses Shakespeare’s King Lear to analyze. I do not believe the author is trying to persuade me to believe in a certain way. However, I do believe that the author is attempting to define his own beliefs and explain his beliefs to others. I can trust this source because it is a scholarly article written by an associate English professor trained in psychoanalytic approaches to literature. I do not believe this source has any limitations.

This source helps my application of psychoanalytic theory to King Lear stronger because that is exactly what Peter is doing in his article. I will use this article as my critical article in my research presentation. It is just as reliable and strong as my other sources and it helps with the application of the psychoanalytic theory. I would recommend this to any student who is interested in seeing how an expert in psychoanalytic theory analyzes a piece of literature.

I found this source using the database J-Stor. I searched for “psychoanalytic theory” “King Lear” and “Shakespeare”.

Book

Schwartz Murray M. Representing Shakespeare. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980.

This source is a book that is in printable form. The intended audience is any scholar who is interested in reading about how Psychoanalytic theory is applied to various works of Shakespeare. I also believe that this book is intended for the general public as well. The book is a collection of psychoanalytic essays so each section has its own thesis, main points, and conclusions.

I focused primarily on two or three sections from this text and each of the authors have different backgrounds. Murray M. Schwartz is a professor of English Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has written about Shakespeare, psychoanalytic interpretation and theory, and he is currently working on *Toward Shakespearean Identity*, a book about Shakespeare’s representation of himself through his art. Richard P. Wheeler is an associate professor of English at the University of Illinois. He has written Shakespeare’s Development and published articles on Shakespeare, Yeats, and D.H. Lawrence. “‘I wooed thee with my sword’: Shakespeare’s Tragic Paradigm” Madelon Gohlke. Madelon Gohlke is an Associate professor of English at the University of Minnesota. She is currently writing a book on Shakespeare’s language of masculine and feminine identity. The authors are not cited by any of my other works, but my authors do refer to other sources that I used.

The source was published in 1980. Again, it has been some time since the publishing of this source, but I believe the writings in it are current and still reliable, even 30 years later.

The information in this source comes from the authors’ own knowledge and experience, as well as other authors’ works. The authors summarize and critique other works as well as uses Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet* to analyze. I do not believe the author is trying to persuade me to believe in a certain way. However, I do believe that the author is attempting to define his own beliefs and explain his beliefs to others. I can trust this source because it is a scholarly book that focuses on the psychoanalytic criticism and essays pertaining to Shakespeare’s works. Also, the authors are all credited English professors who have had numerous works published in reliable sources across the nation. I do not believe this source has any limitations.

This source helps my application of psychoanalytic theory to *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet* stronger because that is exactly what the authors are doing in his their essays. I will use this book as my critical essay research in my research presentation. It is just as reliable and strong as my other sources and it helps with the application of the psychoanalytic theory. I would recommend this to any student who is interested in seeing how experts in psychoanalytic theory analyze a piece of literature.

I found this book through the Rebecca Crown Library Card Catalogue. I searched for “Psychoanalytic theory” and “Shakespeare”.

Book

Shakespeare, William. The Tragedy of King Lear. The Folger Shakespeare Library, 1993.

The source is printed in the form of a book, but it is actually a play written by William Shakespeare in the 17th Century. The intended audience of this source is the general public. I do not believe that this play pertains to a particular group or audience. I do not believe the play has a thesis, but many “main points” have been thrown about in regards to *King Lear*. The main points deal with deceit, power, family, and love, both true and incest. The conclusion depends on how perceives the word. The play ends in death and destruction, but the concluding thoughts of the play are left for the reader to decipher.

The author is famous poet and playwright that lived during the 16th and 17th centuries in England. He has written various works of art including numerous sonnets, tragedies, and comedies. The author and this particular source are cited by my other sources, including Peter Rudnytsky in his critical article and throughout *Representing Shakespeare*. The actual play was said to have been written sometime in the early 17th century, but considering it is a classic, I do not believe that this source is out of date.

The information in this source comes from the author himself. It was his work of art. Needless to say, some believe he used his own personal experiences to write his plays. The author did not speak to any experts on this topic, and the author is not trying to persuade the reader to think anything.

This source is reliable because it is Shakespeare’s own work. It was not revised nor changed in any way. Two of my other sources support the play, but this source does not present any limitations.

This source allows me to apply psychoanalytic theory and criticism in a way that I can understand. I will use this source as a way of portraying how *King Lear* can be analyzed through a psychoanalytic theory lens. This source goes in conjunction with my other sources because my other sources rely heavily on this play as well. I would recommend this to any student who would like an easy piece of literature to analyze from a psychoanalytic perspective.

I found this source through my English 274 class. This book was a class requirement.

Book

Shakespeare, William. Romeo and Juliet. Methuen Drama, 2008.

The source is printed in the form of a book, but it is actually a play written by William Shakespeare in the 17th Century. The intended audience of this source is the general public. I do not believe that this play pertains to a particular group or audience. I do not believe the play has a thesis, but many “main points” have been thrown about in regards to *Romeo and Juliet*. The main points deal with deceit, power, family, and love, both true and narcissistic. The conclusion depends on how perceives the word. The play ends in death and destruction, but the concluding thoughts of the play are left for the reader to decipher.

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I found this source through my English 274 class. This book was a class requirement.

Website

“The Id, Ego, and Superego.” Youtube. 13 February 2009. 8 Nov. 2010.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=6a8mwidjG8s&feature=related>

This source is an online search engine that allows the researcher to find videos pertaining to particular subjects. This source allows people to either post videos or search for videos. This site is geared toward the general audience and anyone can access this site. There are no particular theses, main points, or conclusions within this website. It is a video-based search engine.

This site does not have any particular authors. Rather, different people, corporations, and groups tribute to this site on a regular basis. None of my other sources use this site as a source. This site was created sometime in the early 21st century. Therefore, I believe that this site is current and is a reliable source.

The information in this comes from previous research done, summaries of research, and the contributor’s own personal knowledge. Some materials on this site may attempt to persuade the viewer to think a certain way, but that is not true for all the videos. This source is trustworthy because it is widely known and used in many various other sources and web sites. This source does not relate to the conclusions of my other sources, and I do not think that this site has any limitations.

I will use this site to show a video that better explains the psychoanalytic theory and criticism. This particular video put psychoanalytic theory into a better perspective for me. It is just as reliable and easy to understand as my other sources are. I would recommend this site to any student doing research on any type of subject for that matter because it enables students to find videos that can strengthen their understandings as well as their presentations.

I found this site by using Google search engine. Once on the site, I searched for “Freud psychoanalytic theory”.