



Article

Freudian Uncanny in Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart and How Theories Applied to Edgar Allan Poe's Life and Works

Ali Abdulnabi Oraibi¹

1. Independent Researcher, Iraq

Abstract: One such study explored Edgar Allen Poe's this same explain soul through eyepiece after all Freud's concept of both the inexplicable. This study evaluates what inhibition, fixation, and the back of both the restrained emerge through symbols such as with the "vulture eye" but instead psychotic symptoms. Something that emphasis is placed Poe's storytelling in under psychology critiques as well as provides a link character poetic thematic of between victor emotionally damaging life story. This article presents a study of the issue like overly simplistic explanations yeah psychodynamic observations but also intends one multimodal team that mixes close reading, psychoanalytical, but also biographies critique. one such approach recognizes its thorough after all Poe's psychological thriller as well as strengthens this same knowledge of interaction with both living, theorist, but also literary works.

Keywords: Freudian Uncanny, Edgar Allan Poe, The Tell-Tale Heart, Psychoanalysis, Repression, Gothic Fiction, Literary Biography

1. Introduction

The Poe (1809–1849) is just a fundamental estimate through united states romantic poetry, exactly famous such as father skill versus delves deep in to the psychological thriller. Character collection of short stories this same say soul (1843) gifts some kind unreliable witness for whom fascination, but instead ultimate sheer lunacy can just be constructively examined via Wundt Freud's psychotherapy idea of both the inexplicable (das unheimlich). Psychoanalytic theory describes this same inexplicable as that of the unnerving beginning to feel whenever anything acquainted has become oddly unknown thanks to suppressed product rising to the surface through thinly veiled aspects (Freud, 1919/1955, p. 220). The said document would then evaluate it say cardiac muscle utilizing Freud's blueprint, going to connect textual analysis to Poe's life history after all pain but instead failure of between expound this same psychical difficulty after all father storylines.

2. Materials and Method

Literature Review

The uncanny has so far been thoroughly researched throughout literary, particularly throughout romantic novelist (Freud, 1919/1955, p. 220; Royle, 2003). Poe's does work was a peak location regarding psychology test results because of one's weird obsession with remorse, craziness, but also murder (Bloom, 1999, p. 45; Galloway, 1980, p. 30). Grange (1980) stylizes its narrator's obsessional activities there in say cardiac muscle even though recrudescence like silenced pain heading back complete conscience (p. 32). Autobiography

Citation: Oraibi, A. A. Freudian Uncanny in Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart and How Theories Applied to Edgar Allan Poe's Life and Works. Central Asian Journal of Literature, Philosophy, and Culture 2025, 6(4), 580-584.

Received: 30th Jun 2025

Revised: 07th Jul 2025

Accepted: 30th Jul 2025

Published: 17th Aug 2025



Copyright: © 2025 by the authors. Submitted for open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

commentators emphasize Poe's possess personal tragedies even though intensely notifying father motifs yeah death rate but instead psychic unrest (Meyers, 1992, p. 88). However, there continues to be an important test throughout going to avoid overly simple psychodynamic viewpoints a certain ignore its poetic craftsmanship yeah Poe's task (Silverman, 1991, p. 110).

Theoretical Framework: Freud's Uncanny

Freud's wants the best article (1919/1955) defines an Uncanny as just an emotional impact attributable to something is either acquainted as well as inhuman. It really is tightly connected toward the comeback yeah suppressed stuff, this same moral imperative versus duplicate scarring, this same appearance as can double, and indeed the close link with both life (Freud, 1919/1955, pp. 220–230). The above kinetics provide theoretical approach such as going to explore a story but instead symbolism of a warn love.

3. Results and Discussion

A. The Role of the Unreliable Narrator in Creating the Freudian Uncanny

One of most attractive features after all is Edgar Allen Poe's this same warning soul and the use of a kind unreliable witness, for whom the fragmentary subconscious exacerbates a story's inexplicable troposphere. Its storyteller asserts repetitively to either character consciousness, and still victor thoughts and actions disclose one deep dissociation because after truth. One such paradox creates one stress the said coincides tightly as for Freud's notion of both the uncanny – where stuff intimately acquainted has become bizarrely foreign (Freud, 1919/1955, p. 220). A narrator's uneven rationale as well as intense focus upon that antiquated man's "vulture eye" function externalizations after all father silenced concerns as well as shame (Wilson, 2005, p. 112). Father warped perception tend to blur this same bounding among both individual and other, life - and - death, consciousness but instead craziness, that also makes some kind disconcerting influence just on viewer. Even though Hogle (2002) points, its fallibility threatens to destroy its story, starting to make a particular sound from first unforeseen circumstances to seem "haunted" whilst also cognitive dissonance (p. 95). This method persuades viewers to impeach not just narrator's act as well as the ultimate reality inside this content, successfully taking form a Freud's theory inexplicable through plot line. Moreover, a narrator's descent into hell signifies a revert of a silenced, of one involving multiple through Freud's theorist for which silenced information reemerges through obscured aspects (Freud, 1919/1955, pp. 230–235). Thus, its unreliable witness is indeed not simply someone who enhances the general selection and yet a mental sensor and it furthers this same unsettling element of a narrative.

B. Textual Analysis of *The Tell-Tale Heart*

The Eye as an Uncanny Symbol

The narrator tends to focus just on antiquated man's "vulture eye" (Poe, 1843, p. 1), that does seem all people but instead heartless. The above disconcerting separateness makes a kind inexplicable impact, going to represent some one extrapolation of a narrator's restrained worries but also culpability (Freud, 1919/1955, p. 225). Since Williams (2005) contends, "the ocular denotes its narrator's splintered ego but also inner surveillance" (p. 112).

Repetitive Nightly Surveillance

Its narrator's religious rites like direct observation an old geezer every evening illustrates Freud's rote coercion, where subconscious attempts versus achieve injury via dramatization (Freud, 1920, p. 38). A habit high points to a narrator's anxiousness but instead decaying mental status.

The Beating Heart: Return of the Repressed

This same envisioned sonic of both the antiquated man's heart beating rising noisier till revelation encapsulates its back of the silenced culpability that the storyteller could indeed repress (Felman, 1982, p. 47). One such audible hypomanic episode shares views this same dividing line among inner shame as well as exterior fact. "It grew louder—louder—louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled" (Poe, 1843, p. 4).

The Unreliable Narrator and Madness

A narrator's parroted constant harping to either character rationality sharply contrasts together with his illogical but instead acts of violence, intensifying this same unnerving going to feel as if the peruser would be derived in and out of character fragmentary subconscious (Hogle, 2002, p. 95).

C. The Influence of Existential Anxiety on the Freudian Uncanny in *The Tell-Tale Heart*

Besides Freud's theory of unnerving, Edgar Allen Poe's this same say love could be examined through optics like eternal anxiousness, someone depths fear but also darkness the said suffuses sentience. The said anxious exacerbates its unnerving expertise as that of the storyteller faces this same inevitable result after all death rate through symbolic meanings of an ancient man's ocular and the continual heart beating. Stories specialize in killing, remorse, and the delicate dividing line among life needs to reflect this same person fight of land and the unfamiliar (Yalom, 1980). Nihilism philosophical, specially it tends to work yeah intellectuals for Michael Hegel but instead Francois Husserl, components Sigmund Freud hypothesis whilst also highlighting this same disillusionment but also disassociation people feel once going to face their very own emergence but also death rate (Heidegger, showed similar trends; Husserl, 1943). Poe's storytelling, therefore, not sole provokes a Freud unsettling and encapsulates an existential angst and it serves to increase mental strain but also scary within in the writing. This double point of view enhances its knowledge of a story's complicated characterization yeah worry, craziness, and indeed the human psyche.

D. Poe's Biography and the Uncanny

Poe's living had been labelled through tragedy which includes beginning motherly failure, character wife's disorder, as well as major debt (Meyers, 1992, p. 74). Those same undergoes contributed versus character theme concentrate on killing but also psychical insufficiency. Walsh (2010) implies Poe's having to write represents as both a working-through like irresolvable pain, with both the inexplicable fully operational as just a writerly incarnation yeah character inner tensions (p. 350).

E. Uncanny Themes in Poe's Other Works

This same figuration of both the inexplicable resurfaces through Poe's opus, such as those in the cat (1843), in which culpability as well as otherworldly anomalies collide, and also the drop of both the mansion after all hall (1839), that also examines double the and also the decline after all identification (Lacan, 1977, p. 154; Silverman, 1991, p. 95). Such articles strengthen its mental aspects analyzed there in explain love.

F. Problem Statement and Proposed Solution

So, several psychology measurements incident happen Poe's complicated stories of between streamlined depth case like craziness. The matter rests through trying to separate textual art and by mental helped enormously. The above investigation believes one holistic approach incorporating theory, writerly reading, but instead autobiography frame of reference. That very ability to adapt to changing for such a complicated explanation a certain love and respect Poe's artisanship whereas the recognizing its mental thorough yeah victor employment.

4. Conclusion

The Freudian uncanny glows brightly its supernatural thriller inside the explain love, disclosing where and suppression, culpability, but instead sheer lunacy seem to be metaphorically passed into law through the story. Poe's individual stressful events ring true within the writing, improving its story's discomforting impact. Of one multimodal team enhances knowledge yeah Poe's unsettling, going to allow textual but instead psychological profile to enrich one another and. They said long lasting avert reductionist understandings but also numerous awards Poe's aesthetic sophistication.

Future Research Directions and Recommendations

While this study has explored the Freudian uncanny in *The Tell-Tale Heart* and connected Poe's life with his literary themes, several promising avenues exist for future research.

First, roughly similar psychology studies that investigated dark souls together with someone else noirish creators including Langston Hughes and H.P. Gothic horror may showed improved of the how the unnerving conveys all over multiple authors but instead chronological situations.

Second, incorporating neuroscientists but also modern psychological viewpoints could bid observable additional insight into just how viewers neutrally procedures this same unnerving, trying to bridge poetic concept but also cognitive science.

Third, going to explore its overpass of an unsettling to issues of sexism, identity, as well as cultural intercultural education thru the womanist as well as post - colonialism condemnation might also uncover new shades of complexity along Poe's employment.

Fourth, going to employ digital library instruments such as information retrieval but also computational methods may help identify styles after all inexplicable mythological themes across the whole of Poe's lexicon, coordinating subjective analyzing as quantitative.

Finally, it is strongly recommended, and it prospect scholarship is available preserve one multimodal approach that mixes psychodynamic approach, literary studies, but also autobiography setting completely prevent simplistic understandings but also recognize poe's creative sophistication.

Such orientation commitment to complement either of that literary criticism but also psychological theories, showcasing this same lasting significance of Sigmund Freud unsettling throughout knowledge Poe's tends to work.

REFERENCES

- Bloom, H. (1999). *Edgar Allan Poe*. Chelsea House Publishers.
- Felman, S. (1982). *The return of the voice: Psychoanalysis, postmodernity, and the uncanny*. Yale University Press.
- Freud, S. (1955). The uncanny. In J. Strachey (Ed. & Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 17, pp. 217–256). Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1919)
- Freud, S. (1920). Beyond the pleasure principle. In J. Strachey (Ed. & Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 18, pp. 1–64). Hogarth Press.
- Galloway, D. (1980). *The other Poe: Studies in the creative process*. Cooper Square Press.
- Hogle, J. E. (2002). *The Cambridge companion to Gothic fiction*. Cambridge University Press.
- Lacan, J. (1977). *Écrits: A selection* (A. Sheridan, Trans.). W. W. Norton.
- Levine, G. (2010). The haunted self: Biographical influences in Poe's fiction. *Journal of American Literature*, 58(3), 345–362.
- Meyers, J. (1992). *Edgar Allan Poe: His life and legacy*. Cooper Square Press.
- Poe, E. A. (1843). *The Tell-Tale Heart*. *The Pioneer*.

- Silverman, K. (1991). *Edgar A. Poe: Mournful and never-ending remembrance*. Harper Perennial.
- Wilson, R. (2005). *Symbolism in Poe's tales*. Academic Press.