

SIBLING RELATIONSHIP IN SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S STORIES: "THE ADVENTURE OF THE GREEK INTERPRETER" AND "THE ADVENTURE OF THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS"

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Abstract

This paper presents the sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes as seen in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's two stories "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" and "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans." The objectives of this research were to find out the sibling relationship among these two adults Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Microft Holmes. The methods applied in the research are the library research method for collecting the data and the descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data. The theoretical approach is the psychological approach. The finding is that the sibling relationship between Sherlock and Microft takes form in a positive way, a warm sibling relationship. The older Microft supports the younger Sherlock. They help each other in solving the cases.

Keywords: sibling, sibling relationship

Introduction

The existence of crime fiction began with the publication of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Murder in the Rou Morgue" (1829). Since then, many crime fictions have been written. Among these many crime fictions, Sherlock Holmes stories have gained some popularities. These series were written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, an English writer. The main character, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, worked as a detective. Together with Dr. Watson, they had solved many crimes.

The writer is interested to study on the portrayal of sibling relationship in Sherlock Holmes stories, particularly on the stories "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" and "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans". In Sherlock Holmes stories, the readers have already known the famous duo, who are Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Only few know the existence of Sherlock Holmes' brother, Microft Holmes. Therefore, the term 'sibling' in 'sibling relationship' refers to the Holmes brothers, Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes.

Who is Microft Holmes? Microft Holmes is Sherlock's older brother. The age difference of Sherlock and Microft is seven years. Similar to Sherlock, Microft also has the deductive skill and great knowledge. Working as a government official, Microft is less ambitious in solving cases as a detective. According to Sherlock, Microft is smarter than Sherlock. Among 56 stories of Sherlock Holmes in five books, the mentioning of this older brother of Sherlock can be found in the stories of "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter", "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans", "The Final Problem", and "The Adventure of the Empty House". For this study, the writer select the stories of "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter", and "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" as the main data sources.

The writer wants to deepen her knowledge on the theme of sibling relationship. The interest is whether the sibling relationship leads to sibling support or sibling rivalry. The latest, sibling rivalry, as its conflictual nature, has been consistently lingering in many literary texts, one of them is the Book of Genesis. There have been stories of: Abel and Cain, Isaac and

Ishmael, Rachel and Leah, and Jacob and Esau. In some folktales, we can easily find this sibling rivalry theme, i.e. Cinderella, Bawang Putih & Bawang Merah, etc. In Shakespeare's drama, we have the rivalries of Edgar and Edmund from *The Tragedy of King Lear*. To add with, the sibling rivalry has also been one common problematic fact in real life. Thus, in this research, the writer discusses the topic based on the stories of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The stories of Sherlock Holmes were written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, an English writer who was also a physician. Doyle was born in 1859 and died in 1930 in the age of 71. He had been a productive writer and was acknowledged by his genius in creating crime fictions. His character, Sherlock Holmes, has passed times and geographies and has been loved by many readers of different generations. Besides, he had also written many other wonderful stories, plays, poetries, and historical novels.

"The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" was published as part of the collection of 12 stories in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (December 1893). Yet, the first publication was actually happened in September 1893 in *The Strand Magazine* from UK and *Harper's Weekly* from US. In this short story, the detective case involves Mr. Melas, a Greek interpreter. Mr. Melas is kidnapped and hidden in house. In this house, the kidnapped person is starved to extort money. As a detective, Sherlock Holmes is trying to catch the extortionists.

The second story, "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" was published in 1917 as one of the eight stories in book *His Last Boy*. The first publication was in *The Strand Magazine* from UK and *Collier's* from US. Both were in 1908. In this story, a thief manages to steal ten pages of plans from the Bruce Partington submarine. Later, seven of these ten pages are found on the Cadogan West worker, who is discovered dead close to a London subway track. Sherlock learns that this worker died trying to save the blueprints from the thief who is later revealed as a spy.

The reason for choosing Doyle's stories of "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" and "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" is the representation of sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes. The writer wants to study the sibling relationship between the Holmes who are in their adolescences. This study tries to find the characteristics of this sibling relationship, whether it develops into a supportive or conflictual/rivalrous one..

The writer has found previous researches related to the sibling relationship. The first is the study done by Nur Parwati (2019) from Surabaya State University. Using the title "Sibling Rivalry as reflected in Julie Anne Peters' Luna", Nur Parwati analyzes the sibling rivalry case among the Bristow children and the impact. Applying psychoanalysis theory, the study finds that the Bristow children show sibling rivalry. The jealousy appears clearly on the elder brother, Liam O'Neil.

The second research under the topic of sibling rivalry is the one done by Rizka Akhwadiaz Alfi Syahrin from Islamic State University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. The research entitled "Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's First Love" analyzes the portrayal of sibling rivalry that occurs between adults (Josie and Meredith) and the causes. Applying psychology literary criticism, the study finds that the forms of the sibling rivalry are conflict, jealousy, and resentment. The causes of sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith are the parents attitude, competition, and feeling of envy.

The third previous research is from Atikasari Husna, Upik Wahyuningrum, and Akhmad Multazim. The title is "Revealing Murderer as reflected in Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of the Baskervilles." The objectives of this research are to reveal the intrinsic elements of the novel and to describe the efforts of the main character to reveal the murder of the story. The result of the research shows that the described intrinsic elements are: theme, setting, character & characterization, plot and point of view. The efforts are: analyzing the report and

interviewing the witnesses, solving the problem on the investigation, investigating the murder case secretly and building the strategies to reveal the criminal.

Different from the above previous researches, this research studies the portrayal of sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes. The study particularly seeks for the portrayal of sibling relationship between the Holmes brothers and what this sibling relationship develops into. In order to depict the sibling relationship between the Holmes brothers, the writer formulates the problems as follows: 1) How is the sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes?; 2) What does the sibling relationship develop into?

Research Methodology

In this research, the writer applies two methods which are collecting data and analyzing data methods. The first method is the library research method as the method of collecting data. The main data source is taken from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories: stories "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" and "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans". The stories are taken from book *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes Volume II* edited by Leslie S. Klinger and Patricia J. Chui and published by WW Norton & Company. 2007.

In the method of analyzing data, the writer applies descriptive analysis method. According to the book entitled *The Theory of Literary Criticism: A Logical Analysis* by Ellis and John Martin, they state that, "Descriptive analysis is an investigation of the value of a text purely as that, and that it is the only possible kind of investigation of value" (92). This method helps to find the answers to the research problems by criticizing, describing, and summarizing a whole text to find the text value.

Theoretical Approach

In this study, the writer applies the psychology approach to find the answers to the problem statements. Psychology studies people's thoughts and behavior, including personal experiences, trauma, conflict, and environmental influences (Sternberg and Hubley, 2004). The application of psychology in literary criticism is suitable since the object of study are characters, the literary representations of people in real life. To narrow which psychological theories helps the writer to solve the research problem, the writer makes use of the sibling relationship theory.

The Psychology Approach in Literature

As literature reflects human life, the study on human mind and behavior or psychology is applicable in the study of literature. This close relationship between literature and psychology helps literary scholars to study the psychology of the characters in literary works. Cohen assumes that "the psychologist's manner of conceiving and representing the personality is supported by the intuitive representations made by novelists, dramatists, and other creative writers" (1971:351). Fundamental figures in the use of psychology in literature include Sigmund Freud, whose "psychoanalytic theories changed our notions of human behavior by exploring new or controversial areas like wish-fulfillment, sexuality, the unconscious, and repression" (1971:351) as well as expanding our understanding of how "language and symbols operate by demonstrating their ability to reflect unconscious fears or desires" (1971:351).

The application of the Psychological theory in literature are also named as Psychological approach in literature. There are a number of approaches, but in general, it usually employs one (or more) of three approaches: (1) An investigation

of the creative process of the artist: what is the nature of literary genius and how does it relate to normal mental functions? (2) The psychological study of a particular artist, usually noting how an author's biographical circumstances affect or influence their motivations and/or behavior; and (3) The analysis of fictional characters using the language and methods of psychology. (Wellek and Warren, 1977: 81).

As the authors of literary works reflect the psychological phenomenon through characters in literary works, this makes literature can be analyzed using psychological theories. Literary psychology is defined as a discipline that views literary works that contain some events of human life played by imaginary characters or even factual characters. This research applies the psychological theory on the study of the relationship between characters. The particular relationship analyzed is the sibling relationship between the Holmes brothers.

The Sibling Relationship

To start with, the term "sibling relationship" consists of the word "sibling" and "relationship". In Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, the term sibling can be defined as one of two or more individuals with one common parent. While the term "relationship" in Merriam-Webster online Dictionary can be defined as the state of being related or interrelated.

The sibling relationship has been described as a love and hate relationship to reflect a common observation that playful companions can turn very quickly into bitter enemies; indeed, the conflict between siblings is one of the most common child-rearing problems reported by parents (Perlman & Ross, 1997). The nature and level of negativity between siblings are more likely to be quite different from what occurs between children and their friends. This negativity between siblings is known as sibling rivalry.

Sibling rivalry can be defined as competition between brothers and sisters. Another definition given by Zanise Lim in the website www.thepsychpractice.com explains the term as the competition, jealousy, and conflicts that can occur among blood-siblings, step-siblings, and foster siblings. In similar view, Papalia and Olds define "sibling rivalry" as the conflict, jealousy, or resentment between brothers and sisters (335). In this study, the writer wants to find out whether the sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes develops into support or rivalry.

The word "jealousy" in Merriam-Webster online Dictionary is described as jealous disposition or attitude. The word jealous itself is defined as being hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage. While the term competition in Merriam-Webster online Dictionary is defined as the act or process of competing, or the next definition is a contest between rivals. The term conflict is defined as competitive or opposing action of incompatibles: antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interest, or persons). The second definition on the word "conflict" is mental struggle resulting from incompatible needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands.

Siblings keep influencing one another as they age, explained Megan Gilligan, PhD, an associate professor of human development and family studies at Iowa State University who researches sibling relationships in older adults. The quality of those relationships continues to have implications for well-being. In a study of older adult siblings, Gilligan found participants generally reported high levels of warmth and low levels of conflict. Sister-sister pairs were especially likely to report warm relationships. Warm sibling relationships give positive impact to mental health. However, older adults who reported more sibling conflict and parental favoritism in adulthood were more likely to experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, hostility, and loneliness ([Journal of Family Psychology](#), Vol. 34, No. 2, 2020). "Siblings are really influential in mental health, well beyond childhood and adolescence," she added.

In childhood and adolescence, generally siblings live together and have emotionally intense relationships characterized by high levels of both warmth and conflict (Dunn, 1985; McHale, Updegraff & Whiteman, 2012 in Clare M. Stocker et al, 2019). To be compared with, in young adulthood, levels of sibling conflict and rivalry are lower and sibling warmth is comparable or higher than in adolescence (Conger & Little, 2010; Jensen, Whiteman & Fingerman, 2018; Milevsky, Smoot, Leh & Ruppe, 2005; Scharf, Shulman & Avigad-Spitz, 2005 in Clare M. Stocker et al, 2019). While in midlife, adults may become increasingly involved with their procreative families and careers. The sibling relationships in midlife are emotionally meaningful although less intense than sibling relationships earlier in the lifespan (Suitor et al., 2016 in Clare M. Stocker et al, 2019). As individuals move into older adulthood, they may no longer have spouses to rely on, and their adult children may be busy with their own families. The research to date on sibling relationships in later adulthood suggests that, in general, older adults report having positive relationships with their siblings (Bedford & Avioli, 2012; Cicirelli, 1995; Connidis, 2010; White, 2001 in Clare M. Stocker et al, 2019), and brothers and sisters often maintain contact with each other. In later adulthood, siblings report exchanging both emotional and instrumental support (Campbell, Connidis, & Davies, 1999; Connidis & Campbell, 1995; White, 2001; White & Reidmann, 1992 in Clare M. Stocker et al, 2019). In addition, research has shown that older adults often avoid negative interactions and focus on maintaining positive contact with the people they are closest to (Carstensen, Issacowitz & Charles, 1999; Gold, 1987; 1989; Lang & Carstensen; 1994 in Clare M. Stocker et al, 2019). In the study of the sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes, the writer wants to study the sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes.

Findings and Analysis

The sibling relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Microft Holmes are described as the relationship between two adult siblings. Both the brothers are described in their adulthood. To start with, the writer presents the facts concerning the Holmes brothers and elaborates it into the sibling relationship discussion. The discussion on the topic of sibling relationship between the brothers therefore refers to the relationship of adult brothers. The analysis is divided into some sub-titles which are the Comparison, the Support and the Dominance. For the data source, the abbreviations of the titles are used. "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" uses TAOTGI abbreviation. "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" uses TAOTBPP abbreviation.

The Comparison

The first comparison is in term of age. As the main character in Arthur Conan Doyle's detective stories, Sherlock Holmes is not described clearly of certain age. Yet, the age difference between the brother is stated in the story. Sherlock Holmes is younger and Microft Holmes is older. Microft Holmes is seven years older than Sherlock.

"My dear Watson," said he, "I cannot agree with those who rank modesty among the virtues. To the logician all things should be seen exactly as they are, and to underestimate one's self is as much a departure from truth as to exaggerate one's own powers. When I say, therefore, that Microft has better powers of observation than I, you may take it that I am speaking the exact and literal truth." "Is he your junior?" "Seven years my senior."

"How comes it that he is unknown?" "Oh, he is very well known in his own circle." "Where, then?" "Well, in the Diogenes Club, for example." (Doyle, TAOTGI: 737)

In this quotation, Sherlock explains about the age difference between him and Microft to his comrade Mr. Watson. Sherlock mentions that Microft is his older brother, "seven years my senior". In other stories, Sherlock Holmes is explained to have aged 60 years old. Therefore, Microft Holmes is around 67 years old, a very mature age.

The second comparison between the siblings is in terms of appearance, Microft is described as having broader and taller figure compared with Sherlock. In the following quotation, the figure of Microft Holmes is clarified:

Microft Holmes was a much larger and stouter man than Sherlock. His body was absolutely corpulent, but his face, though massive, had preserved something of the sharpness of expression which was so remarkable in that of his brother. His eyes, which were of a peculiarly light watery grey, seemed to always retain that far-away, introspective look which I had only observed in Sherlock's when he was exerting his full powers. (Doyle, TAOTGI: 742)

Microft is much larger and stouter man than Sherlock. Microft's body is larger. The word stouter comes from the word "stout" which means "rather fat or of heavy build" (Merriam-Webster online Dictionary). In describing the eyes, Dr. Watson pictures that Microft eyes are "were of a peculiarly light watery grey". Sherlock actually has grey eyes as well. But these "peculiarly light watery grey eyes" can only be found in Sherlock Holmes' eyes at certain times, for example when Sherlock is exerting his full powers.

In "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans", the difference on the physical appearance of the Holmes brothers is also explained. Compared with Sherlock and other people, Microft is described as having bigger figure. The words used in the narration is "tall and portly form" which means heavy body or in other words fat body usually refers to a man body.

A moment later the tall and portly form of Microft Holmes was ushered into the room. Heavily built and massive, there was a suggestion of uncouth physical inertia in the figure, but above this unwieldy frame there was perched a head so masterful in its brow, so alert in its steel-grey, deep-set eyes, so firm in its lips, and so subtle in its play of expression, that after the first glance one forgot the gross body and remembered only the dominant mind. (Doyle, TAOTBPP: 714-715)

Another phrase clarifies the Microft body is "heavily built and massive." This phrase strengthens the eye-catching figure. Yet, this is not enough, as the more impressive one is actually the face which reflects the great mind. The face has a very strong character that its impression is powerful enough to make people "forgot the gross body and remembered only the dominant mind." Sherlock acknowledges his older brother's superiority in terms of physical conditions. Sherlock shows that his brother has better figure than Sherlock.

The third comparison of the siblings is on the personalities and skills of the brothers. Sherlock describes his brother as someone of very limited movement.

"I said that he was my superior in observation and deduction. If the art of the detective began and ended in reasoning from an armchair, my brother would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived. But he has no ambition and no energy. He will not even go out of his way to verify his own solutions, and would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right." (Doyle, TAOTGI: 738)

"I" in the passage above is Sherlock who explains that his brother prefers to stay in his armchair. To add with, Sherlock states that "(Microft) has no ambition and no energy." Microft does not have the drive to find out the proofs. Microft is not bothered at all. Yet, Sherlock underlines that his older brother is better than Sherlock in terms observation and deduction skills. To highlight this older brother's superiority, Sherlock also explains that all of Microft's keen deduction has been done while Microft rests in his armchair. From this, we learn that Sherlock has been objective and honest in seeing the fact the his older brother is better than Sherlock. In Sherlock profession as a detective, Microft can actually be a more successful detective than Sherlock. But, the thing that may prevent this superiority is that Microft does not like to go outside. In

contrast, the younger brother, Sherlock is very mobile. He goes here and there to find evidences. Sherlock is active in visiting the places needed to visit.

Another interesting personality of Microft is his being introvert, unsociable. In the following text, Sherlock elaborates this particular nature of Microft:

“Very likely not. There are many men in London, you know, who, some from shyness, some from misanthropy, have no wish for the company of their fellows. Yet they are not averse to comfortable chairs and the latest periodicals. It is for the convenience of these that the Diogenes Club was started, and it now contains the most unsociable and unclubable men in town. No member is permitted to take the least notice of any other one. Save in the Stranger’s Room, no talking is, under any circumstances, allowed, and three offences, if brought to the notice of the committee, render the talker liable to expulsion. My brother was one of the founders, and I have myself found it a very soothing atmosphere.” (Doyle, TAOTGI: 739-740)

Microft has no wish for the company of others. He is very shy and enjoys being alone. Yet, in this quotation, Microft has joined an unusual Club, the Diogenes Club, the most unsociable and unclubbable club. The rule is that no member is permitted to take the least notice of any other members. To be compared with Sherlock, the younger brother is more sociable. Sherlock has warmer personality when meeting new people.

The Support

In both of the stories, the older brother, Microft Holmes, is the one who asks for Sherlock Holmes’ help. In “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter”, Microft asked Sherlock to help him with the case of the Greek interpreter, Mr. Melas.

“By the way, Sherlock,” said he, “I have had something quite after your own heart—a most singular problem—submitted to my judgment. I really had not the energy to follow it up save in a very incomplete fashion, but it gave me a basis for some pleasing speculations. If you would care to hear the facts—”

“My dear Microft, I should be delighted.” The brother scribbled a note upon a leaf of his pocket-book, and, ringing the bell, he handed it to the waiter. “I have asked Mr. Melas to step across,” said he. “He lodges on the floor above me, and I have some slight acquaintance with him, which led him to come to me in his perplexity. Mr. Melas is a Greek by extraction, as I understand, and he is a remarkable linguist. He earns his living partly as interpreter in the law courts and partly by acting as guide to any wealthy Orientals who may visit the Northumberland Avenue hotels. I think I will leave him to tell his very remarkable experience in his own fashion.” (Doyle, TAOTGI: 744)

Microft asked Sherlock to help him to solve the case of Mr. Melas, the Greek interpreter. Microft has actually developed his speculations, but he has some limitations in finding the details. Using Microft’s statement, “I really had not the energy to follow it up save in a very incomplete fashion, but it gave me a basis for some pleasing speculations.” Microft as explained before has the tendency of not going here and there. Microft does not find it possible to leave for many far places. He prefers to stay in his comfortable armchair in Diogenese Club. Therefore, Microft asks for Sherlock’s help to run the investigation and to find the required details and places.

In the second story, “The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans”, Microft is also the one who reaches for Sherlock’s help. Microft prefers his younger brother help.

It was the maid with a telegram. Holmes tore it open and burst out laughing.

“Well, well! What next?” said he. “Brother Microft is coming round.” “Why not?” I asked.

“Why not? It is as if you met a tram-car coming down a country lane. Microft has his rails and he runs on them. His Pall Mall lodgings, the

Diogenes Club, Whitehall⁴ —that is his cycle. Once, and only once, he has been here.⁵ What upheaval can possibly have derailed him?" "Does he not explain?" Holmes handed me his brother's telegram.

Must see you over Cadogan West. Coming at once.

MICROFT. (Doyle, TAOTBPP: 712)

Microft asks for Sherlock Holmes' help to solve the mystery related to the death of Mr. Cadogan West. Microft explains that the death relates to the government confidential matter. Learning from the urgency, Sherlock notices that the matter is really important and secretive. Microft reaches for Sherlock's favor as he believes his younger brother possesses the skills.

From Sherlock himself, he really believes that Microft, his older brother, has greater expertise compare to Sherlock. The type of the expertise is that of detective expertise, observation and deducting skills. In the following paragraph, Sherlock shares the moments when he always counts on Microft in solving some difficult cases.

"I said that he was my superior in observation and deduction. If the art of the detective began and ended in reasoning from an armchair, my brother would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived. But he has no ambition and no energy.

He will not even go out of his way to verify his own solutions, and would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right.

Again and again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an explanation which has afterwards proved to be the correct one. And yet he was absolutely incapable of working out the practical points which must

be gone into before a case could be laid before a judge or jury." (Doyle, TAOTGI: 739)

Sherlock recalls the moments in which he asks for Microft's help. Sherlock says that "Again and again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an explanation which has afterwards proved to be the correct one." Sherlock has reached for Microft's help several times. Sherlock has also proved that Microft's thinking is right.

Here, the sibling relationship between Microft and Sherlock goes well as the brothers depend on each other when they face problems. Microft, in both stories, is the one who initiates the contacts and asks the help from Sherlock. In the other way around, Sherlock also depends on Microft whenever he faces similar problems.

The Dominance

Microft is described as a simple and modest man. In the conversation between Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock reveals the occupation of his brother, Microft. Sherlock explains that Microft works for the British government.

(Dr. Watson) "You told me that he had some small office under the British Government." Holmes chuckled. "I did not know you quite so well in those days. One has to be discreet when one talks of high matters of state. You are right in thinking that he is under the British Government. You would also be right in a sense if you said that occasionally he is the British Government." "My dear Holmes!" "I thought I might surprise you. Microft draws four hundred and fifty pounds a year, remains a subordinate, has no ambitions of any kind, will receive neither honour nor title, but remains the most indispensable man in the country." (Doyle, TAOTBPP: 713)

In the quotation, Sherlock describes that Microft works for the British Government in a very special way that occasionally he is the British Government. In terms of salary, Microft earns four hundred and fifty pounds a year which in 1895 this means a high salary. In terms of honour or title, Microft has none, but his skill is very much needed by the British Government. Sherlock uses the word “the most indispensable man in the country.” With all those great skills, Microft remains a simple and modest man. He does not socialize. He likes to spend his time alone.

The meaning of this interesting phrase is later explained by Sherlock. Microft is very important in the British Government since he has very amazingly unique expertise which is seldomly found in people. Here Sherlock shows his admiration toward his brother. Sherlock is proud of Microft for having the rare qualities and the achievement in his profession.

“Well, his position is unique. He has made it for himself. There has never been anything like it before, nor will be again. He has the tidiest and most orderly brain, with the greatest capacity for storing facts, of any man living. The same great powers which I have turned to the detection of crime he has used for this particular business. The conclusions of every department are passed to him, and he is the central exchange, the clearing-house, which makes out the balance. All other men are specialists, but his specialism is omniscience. We well suppose that a Minister needs information as to a point which involves the Navy, India, Canada and the bimetallic question; he could get his separate advices from various departments upon each, but only Microft can focus them all, and say offhand how each factor would affect the other. They began by using him as a short-cut, a convenience; now he has made himself an essential. In that great brain of his everything is pigeon-holed, and can be handed out in an instant. Again and again his word has decided the national policy. He lives in it. He thinks of nothing else save when, as an intellectual exercise, he unbends if I call upon him and ask him to advise me on one of my little problems. (Doyle, TAOTBPP: 713)

Microft has his own way to his position in British Government, “he has made it for himself.” Sherlock describes Microft of high value, particularly in terms of Microft’s capabilities. Microft’s brain, Sherlock portrays, is “the tidiest and most orderly brain, with the greatest capacity for storing facts, of any man living.” Because of this extraordinary skill, Microft has been a kind of advisor or a consultant for the British Government. Microft can really focus on the matter and think clearly to find the factors involved, the impacts and others.

Unfortunately, Microft has one limitation. He is not the type of person who can move here and there easily. He prefers to stay in his comfortable armchair. This preference prevents Microft from finding the needed details for the problem. “Why do you not solve it yourself, Microft? You can see as far as I.”

“Possibly, Sherlock. But it is a question of getting details. Give me your details, and from an armchair I will return you an excellent expert opinion. But to run here and run there, to cross-question railway guards, and lie on my face with a lens to my eye—it is not my métier. No, you are the one man who can clear the matter up. If you have a fancy to see your name in the next honours list —” (Doyle, TAOTBPP: 718)

Microft acknowledges Sherlock’s expertise, the skill that Microft does not have.

Microft also admires Sherlock for his high mobility. This particular skill is needed to solve a crime or a problem. Sherlock has been very experienced in finding details or using Microft’s phrase “to run here and there, to cross-question railway guards” and to find evidences using a magnifying lens. Microft states that those kinds of skills are not his métier. In Merriam-Webster online Dictionary *métier* means an area of activity in which one excels.

In another scene, Microft shows his dominance over Sherlock. Microft asks Sherlock to act more. Microft insists on instructing Sherlock to do something based on Microft’s instinct. The temporary explanation does not satisfy Microft.

"Good, Lestrade, very good," said Holmes. "Your theory holds together. But if this is true, then the case is at an end. On the one hand the traitor is dead. On the other the plans of the Bruce-Partington submarine are presumably already on the Continent. What is there for us to do?" "To act, Sherlock—to act!" cried Microft, springing to his feet. "All my instincts are against this explanation. Use your powers! Go to the scene of the crime! See the people concerned! Leave no stone unturned! In all your career you have never had so great a chance of serving your country." "Well, well!" said Holmes, shrugging his shoulders. "Come, Watson! And you, Lestrade, could you favour us with your company for an hour or two? We will begin our investigation by a visit to Aldgate Station. Good-bye, Microft. I shall let you have a report before evening, but I warn you in advance that you have little to expect." (Doyle, TAOTBPP: 719)

Not to disappoint Microft, Sherlock is willing to act to find more evidences. Accompanied by Lestrade, the Scotland Yard detective, Sherlock then is ready to seek for more evidences. Sherlock as a younger brother believes in his older brother Microft's opinion. Sherlock agrees to go find new proof. Yet, Sherlock is open in terms of his pessimism in finding this expected new proof. Sherlock has made a promise to Microft that he (Sherlock) will give his report by the evening.

Similar finding in Microft's personality can also be found in the story of "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter". Here, the readers learn from Sherlock's point of view. Sherlock describes Microft's nature who prefers to stay in his armchair.

"You wonder," said my companion, "why it is that Microft does not use his powers for detective work. He is incapable of it." "But I thought you said—" "I said that he was my superior in observation and deduction. If the art of the detective began and ended in reasoning from an arm-chair, my brother would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived. But he has no ambition and no energy. He will not even go out of his way to verify his own solution, and would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right. Again and again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an explanation which has afterwards proved to be the correct one. And yet he was absolutely incapable of working out the practical points which must be gone into before a case could be laid before a judge or jury." (Doyle, TAOTGI: 738)

Sherlock explains to his fellow detective, Dr. Watson, about Microft's tendency of not going anywhere other than his armchair. Microft is more excellent than Sherlock in terms of reasoning skill. Sherlock acknowledge Microft's greatness using the statement "he would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived". Sherlock has gone to Microft for some number of times to notice that Microft's excellent thinking has proved to be the correct one. Sherlock is convinced by Microft's great thinking.

Microft's greatness that expels beyond his younger brother, Sherlock, is later witnessed by Dr. Watson. In the following quotation, Dr. Watson explains the moment when he (Dr. Watson) understands and believes the fact that Microft is smarter than Sherlock.

"Then, of course, his complete mourning shows that he has lost someone very dear. The fact that he is doing his own shopping looks as though it were his wife. He has been buying things for children, you perceive. There is a rattle, which shows that one of them is very young. The wife probably died in childbed. The fact that he has a picture-book under his arm shows that there is another child to be thought of."

I began to understand what my friend meant when he said that his brother possessed even keener faculties than he did himself. He glanced across at me and smiled. Microft took snuff from a tortoiseshell box, and brushed away the wandering grains from his coat front with a large, red silk handkerchief. (Doyle, TAOTGI: 743-744)

When the two brothers meet, they like to do the guessing game. The Holmes brothers will sit by the window to look at outside the window. Both brothers then will compete each other in identifying as many details as possible and explaining the reasons for concluding the details. In

the quotation, Dr. Watson finally understands Sherlock's story of Microft who, according to Sherlock, is more observant and keener in person. Dr. Watson states "I (Dr. Watson) began to understand what my friend (Sherlock) meant when he said that his brother possessed even keener faculties that he did himself."

Sherlock Holmes explicitly states that his older brother, Microft Holmes, is greater, better than Sherlock. Here is the quotation:

"But how do you know that it is hereditary?" "Because my brother Microft possesses it in a larger degree than I do." This was news to me indeed.⁷ If there were another man with such singular powers in England, how was it that neither police nor public had heard of him? I put the question, with a hint that it was my companion's modesty which made him acknowledge his brother as his superior. Holmes laughed at my suggestion.

"My dear Watson," said he, "I cannot agree with those who rank modesty among the virtues. To the logician all things should be seen exactly as they are, and to underestimate one's self is as much a departure from truth as to exaggerate one's own powers. When I say, therefore, that Microft has better powers of observation than I, you may take it that I am speaking the exact and literal truth."

"Is he your junior?"

"Seven years my senior." (Doyle, TAOTGI: 737-738)

Sherlock explains that his great mind is part of training and part of hereditary. In the hereditary background, Sherlock introduce the greatness of his older brother, Microft Holmes. In terms of observation power, Sherlock Holmes admits that his older brother is better than Sherlock. According to Sherlock, it is the exact and

literal truth.

Conclusion

This research's objectives are to find the portrayal of the sibling relationship between the Holmes brothers, Microft Holmes, and Sherlock Holmes. The relationship is described as the one of positive relationship. When Sherlock introduces Microft, Sherlock introduces the older brother in a nice and proud manner. In the other way round, Microft also shows similar response toward his younger brother. Microft trusts Sherlock and has positive dependency on Sherlock's skills.

In physical appearance, Sherlock and Microft are described as having similar eye color which is of grey color. In term of figure or body, Microft is described as having larger and more massive body compared to his younger

brother. Yet, in personality, Microft is the kind of person who prefers to stay in a room or a place. Microft does not like to go to places and interacts with people. Sherlock describes him as unsociable person. Sherlock is more mobile and more sociable.

In term of dominancy, Microft has been more dominant. This is natural as Microft is the older brother and Sherlock is the younger brother. Microft can easily asks Sherlock to do some activities, mostly to visit the crime scenes or other related places, or to do some interviews to gather evidences. Microft acknowledges Sherlock's expertise in finding clues and details needed in the their effort to solve their case. Sherlock happily does his part to go to those crime scenes to find evidences and also to do the interviews.

The finding shows that the sibling relationship among these two adults, Sherlock and Microft, develops into a warm relationship. Sherlock finds his brother to get help in his case. In the other way, Microft also finds Sherlock to help him in solving his problems. This fits to the

theory that the sibling relationship among adults tends to go into a warm relationship and less in conflicts. In Sherlock and Microft's relationship, both adults find supports from each other. They help each other to solve the crime mysteries.

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