

Concept of Truth (Which Is True?)[REDACTED]
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Is everything that you hear the truth? It is because the words told by politicians may not be what is evidently the truth but it is what people want to hear, when such words may be lies told to entice the people. The words told by friends may also be lies to avoid telling the harsh truth, regardless of their intentions. If that is so, you may ask, what is the truth? The basic idea of the truth is that truth is a logical notion, not a causal-explanatory one (Gupta & Martinez-Fernandez 50), where causal-explanatory means explanation in chronological order. In the novel *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, the author had cleverly written the story of a teenage boy's challenges in such a way that either story mentioned by Pi, the protagonist, could be defined as the truth. In regards to that, there is evidence from the novel proving that the story without the animals told in part three of the novel was ultimately the truth. The evidence mostly regards Pi's actions where firstly, he illustrated the story without the animals with a lack of personal connection to the events, even though he experienced it firsthand. Subsequently, Pi refuses to accept a second party's opinion on the matter and strongly argued that the story with the animals is the truth. Furthermore, Pi repressed his id, which the instinctive component of personality, that he know is capable of violence and projected it as a different creature in the story with the animals. Following the

evidence of these arguments, it can be concluded that the story with the animals was fabricated to reinforce Pi's belief of ^{the} said story as he refused to accept the reality of his experiences. Thesis.

To begin, Pi told the second version of his story, which is the one without the animals, with no personal attachments to the events for he did not cry or ^{become enraged} ~~rage~~ while

telling his story. His action briefly defines the use of a defense mechanism because the concept of this mechanism is the protection of the conscious mind, which is the ego, from unpleasant feelings (Bjorklund 55; Freud 45-61), like for example, grief. In the

Put your citation at the end of the sentence.

second version of his story, Pi explained that he saw the butchering of the sailor and the decapitation of his mother, and there was no indication that he was in despair or grieving, when surely, one would become enraged or cry at the horror and loss. In this case, the

become enraged

protagonist had used the defense mechanism of isolation as he had separated his emotions from the self while he explained. The act of separating emotions from oneself, so that the threat is perceived as being further away than it actually is defines

of
This item should have been cited with some secondary research, since you didn't invent the idea of isolation.

the defense mechanism isolation (Bjorklund 56). This act of separating his emotions is the protagonist's method of protecting himself from the reality for he could have been guilty knowing his mother died saving him and refused to live with the guilt.

Ok, good ↴

However, despite the fact that isolation keeps the unpleasant feelings away, this defense mechanism will continue to exert a heavy influence on one's behavior. One

example of this is the protagonist's conversation with the Japanese officials in the Benito Juarez Infirmary, Mexico. Furthermore, isolation makes a person very rigid and dogmatic in their thinking, where the person may be very unaccepting of other

You failed to connect this with your previous point.

people's opinions (Bjorklund 56). Another example is when the protagonist had seemed calm while the officials interviewed him on the reason behind the sinking of the Tsimtsum. Pi had told them the first version of the story, which is the one with the animals, but the officials did not believe him. Likewise, in chapter 99, when they kept questioning him, Pi had episodes where he bursts into short rants in an attempt to persuade the officials into believing his story. This could be said that in his subconscious mind, Pi was still affected by the act of his mother saving him and later dying in cold blood, but consciously, he refused to accept reality. Having used

isolation, Pi had isolated the guilt from his mind and this is further backed up with his unwillingness to accept the officials' opinions. As a result, Pi's isolation of his guilt shows that he fabricated the story with the animals, so that he did not have to accept harsh reality.

Additionally, other than isolating his emotions while telling his story, the protagonist was in denial as well when the Japanese officials interviewed him in chapter 99. Pi's denial of the second version of the story might have been because he did not want to accept his state of helplessness when the traumatic events happened. Pi's rude behavior of cutting one of the officials off in midsentence and somewhat forcing his belief on them was clear evidence that he was adamant that the first version of the story happened. Out of the three categories of denial, the protagonist's state of denial was the denial of implications, which consists of subtle cognitive distortions that neutralizes the negative self-relevant information (Thompson, Robbins, Payne & Castillo 2817). This merely means that the subject will find ways to deny the implications of a potential personal threat and two of the examples are counter-argumentation and blunting the impact of the message through attention avoidance (Thompson, Robbins, Payne & Castillo 2817). According to research by Thompson and Robbins, it is clear that Pi uses these two methods to protect himself. To explain this in further detail, an example of counter-argumentation is in chapter 99, which are the parts Pi's conversation with the officials, as he would go off in a rant and giving long explanations to emphasize his belief of the story with the animals. He would redirect the logical facts the officials wanted to hear to a questioning of beliefs in love and life, to reinforce his belief of the story with the animals. An example of blunting the impact of the message through attention avoidance is Pi's short attention span on the interview as he frequently avoids the

You should have built on how Pi's short rants were dogmatic in nature, and really develop that idea.

topic by asking for food like cookies and accepting the chocolate bar, which makes the atmosphere less serious than it originally was. His actions of using the chocolate and cookies continue to delay the officials in their task, thus making them tired at having to deal with Pi's antics. This can be seen with Mr. Okamoto's statements, where he stated that they were losing sight of the investigation's point and were only there because of the sinking of the cargo ship. His statements were short and blunt and he wanted to get straight back to the matter. With this, perhaps it can be said that Pi's counter-arguments and attention avoidance had stressed the officials out. From the points above, it proves that Pi was in the state of denial, as he wanted to protect himself from the regret of being helpless in the second version of the story. He could not bring himself to accept the events of watching the sailor being butchered and his mother being decapitated, and not being able to do anything to stop it.

Good explanation and wrap-up.

It was previously indicated that Pi used defense mechanisms while he refused to accept reality. The protagonist has also used other forms of defense mechanisms to protect him from any potential threat. He had also used repression, where using this defense mechanism proves why Pi refuses to accept reality. An example is the presence of Richard Parker, which might have been the entity Pi fabricated to mirror his own violent nature of killing the cook whom had earlier decapitated his mother. Pi was a male who had the ability of committing acts of violence and this is especially true as Pi picked up the knife and stabbed the cook repeatedly, later stabbing him in the throat (Martel, ch. 99). According to Freud, he stated in *Civilization and its Discontents* that men are creatures whose instinctual endowment is to be reckoned a powerful share of aggressiveness (58). However, he also mentioned that despite the mental counter-forces that inhibit this aggressiveness out of action, this aggressiveness also manifests spontaneously when circumstances are favorable to it

(58). This implies that the aggressiveness in men will be expressed in situations that satisfy the conditions. Moreover, repression is another example of defense mechanism, which is an unconscious mechanism employed by the ego to keep disturbing or threatening thoughts from becoming conscious. Pi who repressed the aggressiveness within him had the sudden burst of violence in the moment of conflict with the cook as mentioned above, further enforcing Freud's statement of man's natural instincts ~~of~~^{for} violence. However, after repressing his violence, Pi had projected his violence as Richard Parker, the Bengal tiger to rationalize with himself the violence he realized he had, as a means of protection. One example of this is in the first version of the story, which is with the animals. In chapter 53, the hyena in the first version, which mirrors the cook in the second version of the story, wanted to attack the protagonist but was later saved by Richard Parker. This scene mirrors the moment when the cook and the protagonist were in a conflict, which the protagonist later won as told in the second version of the story. The result of Pi winning the conflict was his act of self-defense, just like Richard Parker killing the hyena in the act of saving Pi. In conclusion, Pi used repression to repress his aggressiveness and later projected it as Richard Parker to further deny his violence. Richard Parker was a figment of Pi's imagination and ~~the imaginary imagination was~~^a Pi's way to not accept reality.

The purpose of this essay is to prove that the protagonist was rejecting the harsh reality of his life to protect himself from ~~the~~ unpleasant feelings or thoughts. The ideas of isolating his emotions from the situation and denying the reality with counter-arguments and frequently changing the conversation topics supported this essay. In addition to that, the repression of Pi's violent nature and fabricating an imaginary entity to project said violence was Pi's way to further reject the reality that

created guilt within him. Some may state that the story with the animals was the truth because that story is easier to accept and that mankind has the ability to rationalize, so Pi's act of violence in killing the cook brutally was impossible. With that said however, according to Gupta and Martinez-Fernandez, truth is a logical notion and it is misguided to look for the physical traits to define the truth (50). To further support the concept of truth, Chiurazzi mentions that truth is a subjective matter as it is one's choice to accept it as the truth but it is what objectively makes people view the world in a new light (62). It is a hope that those who read this novel can view the novel in a different perspective and not merely accept the first version of the story as the truth because that is how the events were laid out. There is no truth objectively as the truth varies from person to person. It merely means to accept what is said as the truth to define the truth.

A bit difficult to understand, but overall all points were masterfully explained. Good job.



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