

# The Process of Personality Changing of Jess in Ficarra's Focus (2015)

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## Abstract

*This research is conducted to analyze the process of personality changing of Jess in Ficarra's Focus (2015) movie. There are two problem statements that the researcher used in this research. (1) How is the personality of Jess reflected in Ficarra's Focus?. (2) How is the process of personality changing of Jess in Ficarra's Focus ?. The researcher uses qualitative method in this research. The data source is the movie of Ficarra's FOCUS (2015) and the source of data is the script of movie. The method of collecting data in this research includes reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The method of analysing the data are done by displaying, explaining, and interpreting. The theory and approach that the researcher used is the psychology of literature based on Alfred Adler Theory. As a result of this research, first Jess has a smart calmness and obedient personality, she also learns from the mistakes. Second, the process of personality changing is based on Alfred Adler individual theory. Jess changes to become superior and knows the purpose in her life.*

**Keywords:** Adler, Personality changing, environment, pshychology.

## Introduction

Environment and personality are two things closely related. Environmental is an important factor in shaping someone's personality and personality influenced by the environment. Human life is identic with society, it includes the place and people around all of them influence personality. The environment is everything that affects individual except their gen. Human comes into the world automatically be a part of the environment, and that is important for the development of children characters.

According to Galton (1882-1911) said that "*if two identical twins were raised and educated in different environments, they would develop different characters*". The role of parents is very influential and important to teach a child about politeness, positive words, and give a child the best education. An adult can choose the circle of friends or socialize, but not about their childhood life. The

social environment in childhood very influences the way to choose good or bad environments. Lack of appreciation or being considered stupid because of differences is one of the things that make a person's mindset stuck, like the trauma of bullying. Some people are mentally strong enough to accept intimidation.

According to Adler (1997: 160) he said that proper guidance at the age of four or five, it can train children to adjust social schemes with human feelings that control it well in inferiority and superiority complex. Special conditions such as weakness/disability and indulgence that can cause someone to develop an inferiority complex or superiority complex. These two complexes are closely related. The superior complex is an attitude that includes overvaluing or overestimating an individual's mental ability, physical characteristics, or personality. Meanwhile, the inferiority complex is a feeling of insignificance that is very strong, unconscious, insecure, and cannot control the problem.

Human was born with Inferiority feeling, depends on others and because inferiority feeling someone struggle to be a superior. From birth to death the struggle for superiority takes the person from one stage of development to the next. The drive towards superiority can take the form of different ways (lifestyle), and that everyone has their concrete ways to achieve or striving for superiority. A bad social environment causes someone's fall into crime, abuse of drugs, sex, and alcohol. The theme of crime is nothing new in the world of cinema, an act of theft wraps in a very epic plot is very easy to find, usually, characters have extraordinary skill and additional caution.

*Focus* is a movie that first publishes in 2015, this movie was directed by Glen Ficarra. The researcher used focus movie as an object of the research because how the character Jess becomes criminal is caused she has a inferiority feeling (dyslexic) but she stongle bocomne superior. Hence, the researcher is interested in making it as material for this research and used the theory of individual psychology by Alfred Adler. This theory is deemed appropriate to explain the phenomenon of theft cases committed by the female character "Jess" because this theory explains the problem studied not only in a personal problem but also in a social context.

## Literary Review

### Personality Changing in Psychological Perspective

The term personality identifies with unconscious the which is outside consciousness. The personality of each person is different. In the psychology of personality, there is a relationship between memory and personality development. Therefore, childhood experiences with parents are important things in shaping personalities because family is smallest of social relation. According to Freud, behind human actions, there was motivation to seek pleasure and reduce tension and anxiety. Motivation is caused by physical energies that come from instincts (Semiun, 2006: 68).

To find out someone's personality deeply the researcher have to know about the behavior, habits, and thoughts of the individual. According to Murphy (1972) in *Understanding Unseens* divides it into nine parts. They are personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past life, conversational of others, reactions, direct comment, thoughts, and mannerisms (pp. 161-173). This is a short explanation of the nine ways of how to know personality character:

- a) Personal description, the author give a depiction of the character of the character directly, the depiction of the character of the character is stated directly by the author.
- b) Character as seen by another, the author's depiction of a character's character through an intermediary, namely the comments or responses of another character to a character.
- c) Speech, through the speech, the author provides an understanding to the reader that the reader is able to understand the character in depth from the character's speech or what the character said.
- d) Past life, character can also be seen from his/her past. Past memories provide clues to shaping the character. These clues can be seen from the author's direct comments, the character's thoughts, and the conversations between these characters and others.
- e) Conversational of others, the author provides some pointers through the conversation to find out about the characters.

- f) Reaction, a character's reaction to an event or situation can be a way to find out about the character.
- g) direct comment, the writer helps the reader to describe the character easily. The author will provide direct descriptions or comments about the characters in the story.
- h) Thoughts, what the characters in the story think can describe their characteristics.
- i) Mannerisms, behavior and habits, what is repeated can describe the character.

### **Theory of Individual Psychology by Alfred Adler**

Adler's personality theory focuses on the psychology of the individual. For researchers this theory is very useful to explain about what the basic motivation drives other motivations. In addition to revealing the reasons and effects of why people do something motivates the forces behind our behavior, claiming that our desire to fulfill our potential is becoming closer to our ideals. His theory is about six key concepts in personality. Adlers stated that "*Man is a conscious being*". It means humans usually aware of the reasons for their behavior, why they did it, and aware that they have inferiority. But it makes an individual creating their goals and striving for superiority. Moreover, he is a self-conscious individual who can plan what they want to do in their life and guide their actions with full awareness of meaning for their realization (Lindzey and Hall 1978: 118). There are six main concepts of personality based on Alfred Adler theory:

#### **Inferiority**

Everyone suffers from inferiority in a thousand different ways. Feelings of inferiority can be used as a stimulus and driven an individual to attract the desire to become superior and sometimes it can be used as a reason for not trying. According to Adler, feelings of inferiority are formed from early childhood. childhood experiences are very important in shaping the development of someone's personality of our next life. The environment and childhood experience in personality development (Burger, 1987:79). Adler states there are five types of inferiority feelings:

The first is a feeling of physical inferiority. This feeling begins with physical weakness and insecurity feeling, such as organ deficiency, physical disability, deformity, ugliness, weakness, abnormal height or weight, and disease. Some people who suffer from physical inferiority lose confidence and reason to remain to do nothing. However, for some people, physical inferiority is used as motivation to striving become superior, more confident, to maintain personal beauty and health, to introduce their talents. The level of social interest determined this decision.

The second is a feeling of psychological inferiority. This feeling comes from the human mind. An example of the negative situations provoke feelings of psychological inferiority is feelings of dislike or hate, self-shame, bad feelings, or guilt. The negative feeling in someone can motivate their life to strives to be superior, have a positive character, pride themselves, be liked, admired, and loved by others. Everybody has the freedom to actualize their life, no rule establishes how to become superior.

Next, is a feeling of intellectual inferiority. Usually, this feeling begins in someone who feels stupid or dropping out of school. Besides, feeling that they didn't have skills is also one of the causes of this inferiority. Not all children can learn and understand easily. Some have difficulty learning experience and boredom. Someone in this situation, be motivated to strive for knowledge and academic success. Skills such as music, art, drama, and literature are also a form of striving to be superior.

Fourth, feelings of social inferiority. This feeling begins when a person experiences solitude in their social life. Being excluded after making a mistake or suffer infectious disease and required to isolate. This situation causes someones to become less confident when socializing, not considered part of the environment. This feeling motivates someone to try to connect with other people, join membership in the organization, tolerance, and cooperation.

The last is a feeling of economic inferiority. Usually, this inferiority is experienced by someone who has financial difficulties such as low salary. For people who have a low social interest, this inferiority encourages someone to commit the crime. However, for some people, inferiority motivates them to

struggle financially as getting rich, finding a proper job, and safety for their finances.

### **Fictional Final Goals**

Adler (1997: 3) stated that every individual has goals and ideals in their mind. An optimistic nature or believing in the future makes them passionate and feel superior. Individuals can feel superiority this feeling useful to show that they can solve difficult problems because, in their minds, they believe that they can succeed. without a purpose, an individual's life will be meaningless. The final goal is the result of the individual's creative strength, the ability to shape one's behavior and create one's personality.

### **Striving for Superiority**

The effort for superiority is innate, it is a part of life, and it takes the person from one stage to the next higher stages of development. From birth to death, human strives for better adaptation to the environment. The impulses are inseparable and boost its strength from the striving for perfection. According to Adler, each individual has his way (lifestyle) to overcome feelings of inferiority and build a sense of superiority. Each person has a concrete way of achieving or striving for perfection. (Adler 1930: 398)

### **Social Interest**

Adler (1997: 154) the human needs another in this world and can't develop without others. Social interests are making individuals who help other individuals to achieve the goals of a perfect in society. "*Social interests are the true and inevitable compensation for all the natural weaknesses of individual human beings,*" Adler argues that social care is not only innate and learned but a combination of both. On the other hand, the lack of social attention for Adler is the definition of mental illness. Social interests enable people to strive for superiority and don't get lost in the wrong way as a psychotic, criminal, drunk, problem child, suicide, cheating. Criminals are an example of a lack of social interest that they think can't solve the problems of work, friendship, and sex without the belief that with cooperation. The goal is only for oneself (personal superiority) no one else gets the benefit from achieving their goal. (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978: 122).

## **Life Style**

Lifestyle refers to how a person expresses their life, or how an individual deals with problems and relationships interpersonal. A spirit of community, a sense of human friendship, and identity complete humanity require positive social relationships. Adler in Boeree (2006: 6):

## **Creative Power of the Self**

Adler in Feist (1998: 79) states that offspring gives A "certain ability" and the environment gives a "certain impression". Both of them collaborate individuals in interpreting and behaving towards life and relationships with the outside world.

## **Research Method**

To get answers of personality changing character Jess in Focus movie. The researcher uses qualitative research because the researcher will give an analysis and description of something. According to Creswell (1994:145) states that qualitative is a description in that the researcher is interested in process, meaning, and understanding gained through the words and the qualitative researchers are interested in meaning how people make a sense of their lives, experiences, and their structures of the words. There are many sources as references, which are criticism in related to gives description and explanation of the problem. The researcher picks up from books or internet related to the discussion.

## **Discussion and Findings**

### **The Representation Personality Character Jess Reflected in Ficara's Focus**

The result of this research about Jess's personality changing reflected in Ficara's Focus can be seen in data related to psychoanalysis and appeared throughout the storyline in the movie.

### **Smart and Calmness**

Being amazed by Nicky's skills, Jess asked him to teach many tricks. Jess follows Nicky to New Orleans and successfully persuades him to join the group. Nicky introduced his crew, including Farhad (Adrian Martinez) and Horst (Brennan Brown).

Horst : That was nice.

Jess : Okay. I got this.  
Horst : What?  
Jess : Give me some shade.  
Horst : Wait.  
(*FOCUS*, 2015, 00:13:50 )

The quotation above shows Jess's personality by the reaction another character. Horst praised Jess, after she had done her job well and was calm, even though she was still an amateur con artist. It means she is a smart woman. That's personality can be seen when Horst explains the strategy to Jess and she is not paying attention, but after a minute with confidence she says needs a space to do it herself. After seeing the other partner did the con she learns from it, it means she is a fast learner. Beside that, Jess adjusts the game it can be seen in conversation below:

Nicky : Really? Are you serious? Okay. You got a light touch. You know, you're kind of invisible out there. And you're calm. You know, you get upside down, you don't panic. You adjust. You actually rally... when the going gets tough, which is rare. And I been in this...for a really, really long time. And I've never seen anything like you.  
Jess : Thank you. But I was actually talking about the sex.  
(*FOCUS*, 2015, 00:26:20)

Based on explanation above, the personality of Jess is showed by the direct comment by Nicky. It can be concluded that Jess personality in Nicky's mind is she has a intelligence more than others. She is special, she can adapt easily and know about how to face unexpected situation. The writer helps the reader and the researcher describe the character easily through the comment another characters.

Jess is someone who has extraordinary calm. She can handle unexpected situation not to be panic easily, and always has an any idea to solve the problems. There is unexpected situation her faced :

### 1. Yelling in Airport

The situation that represents calmness character Jess is when Nicky suddenly yells at her in airport.



Nicky : There's a flight landing every two minutes at Louis Armstrong. Whoever's not here for the game's here for the party. Every one of them looking to drink big, bet big.....cheat on their spouses, and it all costs money. There are boost teams at all the major hotels. They hit quick and get out before anybody ever knows what happened. And if you think for one second...

Nicky :.(yell) ..I'm gonna let your mother talk to me like that, you are fucking crazy! I'm a grown-ass man!

Jess : Why are you yelling at me?  
(*FOCUS*, 2015, 00:14:05)

The conversation above shows personality of Jess by the speech. She was calm and whispered in answer. Nicky and the team are planning a theft at the airport. When Nicky yelled at Jess, automatically people around them quickly focused on the commotion. While everyone focused on Nicky, the other team tries to steal valuables such as watches, bags, wallets, and others. Even though Jess did not know about this plan her reaction made the plan work.

## 2. Guessing Players

The next unexpected situation Jess experiences is when suddenly Nicky asked her to pick a random player on the field. This game was a ruse by Nicky's team again and again, Jess is a victim she doesn't know about the plan.

Nicky : Just do it. Pick. Pick a fucking player.

Tse : He's crazy, I know. But it will be his fault. Not yours.

Jess : I don't know. I don't...

Tse : Look. I give you one chance to back down, okay? No hard feelings.

Nicky : Pick.

Jess : Wow. I guess... I guess number... Wait. Number 55.  
(*FOCUS*, 2015, 00:40:42)

In this situation, Jess does not panic and stays calm. She tries to pick a random player even she knows the odds of just 100:1. She looked at the field, and notices that there is her crew "Farhad". Farhad wears the clothes number "55", Jess automatically realizes that it was planned by Nicky. She guesses number 55, and

that answer makes millions of dollars from Tse. That situation represents that Jess has intelligence and extraordinary calmness.

### 3. Seeing Nicky at The Party

Nicky : You're here with...?  
Jess : Rafael? Yeah. Yeah, he, um... He owns one of the teams.  
Nicky : Is he a mark?  
Jess : No. We're together. Have been for a long time. I'm out of the game.  
Nicky : Jess, um... All right. About New Orleans, and just...  
Jess : Nicky. No. I really don't need an explanation. I mean, if anything, I should be thanking you. You did me a favor.  
Nicky : Well, that's fantastic.  
Jess : Take care of yourself, okay?  
Nicky : You too. Be well.  
Jess : Um, Nicky. He doesn't know about my past, so...you don't know me. Okay?  
Nicky : Okay.  
(*FOCUS*, 2015, 00:55:51)

According to Freud, the life instincts (Eros) manifests to grow and survive. Character Jess has calmness, sensitivity, confidence, and intelligence that is part of life instinct. Jess tries to depend on herself and believes that she can handle the problems. While According to Adler, Jess is a type of Getting Learning personality, this type is more likely to learn from others and is passive.

#### **Learn from Mistakes**

In this movie, the character Jess is not described clearly. The researcher has to examine in-depth to find out her thoughts through the dialogue. Jess is a smart person, but her weakness is easily to trust others. The weakness causes her to betray experienced. But, the positive effect is, she learns from it. In the future, she becomes vigilant and careful.

Nicky : It's 80. The job is over. You did great.  
Jess : You're kidding, right? You're...?  
Nicky : Take her to the airport.  
Jess : I'm not going to the airport. Wait, can you just talk to me?  
Nicky : I'm sorry. You did great. You did great.

Jess : Nicky? What's going on? Answer me! Nicky!Shit.  
(*FOCUS, 2015, 00:48:02*)

The quotation above shows Jess's betrayal experienced. Jess knows they love each other. She also believes that Nicky never leaves her. However, the fact is Nicky thinks that Jess is just a partner business. The incident makes Jess so sad, she cries and felt betrayed. Nicky leaves Jess because he does not want to get emotionally involved with his business partner. Falling in love with a team is a form of unprofessionalism as a business partner.

### **Obedient**

Moment which is showed Jess is obedient person is when she was training by hort. It can be seen in the conversation below:

Jess : Why do I have to wear this?  
Horts : No one looks at your hands when you got that  
working for you.  
Jess : I can't breathe.  
(*FOCUS, 2015, 0012:41*)

The conversation above shows that Jess is an obedient person when she has to wear uncomfortable clothes but she still uses it. She has said that she cannot breathe because the clothes are so tight. Jess obeys Horts who orders him to use it.

### **Process of Personality Changing Character of Jess**

#### **The Causes of Jess Become Criminals**

Human was born with an inferiority feeling and, life with purpose becomes superior. Jess is aware that she has inferiority feelings and she knows why she has it. Her inferiority feeling motivated Jess to create her goals and striving for superiority. everyone has a inferiority feeling. Character Jess has an inferiority feeling can be seen in the dialogue below:

Jess : So your father killed your grandfather?  
Nicky : That's the world you're in. Dabblers get killed.  
Jess : Look, I wasn't born into this like you. I was a  
dyslexic foster kid. No prospects, no future. I mean,

it's a minor miracle. I'm not a hooker right now.  
Tutor me.  
(FOCUS,2015, 00:06:26)

Based on the statement above, Jess's childhood experience as a foster kid with dyslexia becomes her inferiority feeling. This feeling comes from her mind called psychological inferiority. Jess Pessimist about her future and hopeless cause she was raised by a dyslexic. Family affects how the character of someone's shaped. Generally, the first contact they make is with family. Parenting in a family is a crucial skill for the development of children. The values, habits, rules, norms, expectations, even the problems that are carried by a family will involve in Jess children's character. Thus, the family has a meaning in the formation of a child's soul and personality, because both personally, the child's soul is very dependent on the family or both parents.

### **The Effect of Enviromental Condition in Shaphing Jess Personality**

The adult life chooses the environment influence by the childhood experience it can be proven in the conversation below :

Nicky : You're in.  
Jess : Really?  
Horst : Congratulations, you're a criminal.  
Jess : Okay, what now?  
Horst : Want me to do the primer?  
Jess : I got it.

(FOCUS,2015, 00:14:43)

The explanation above proved that Jess chooses a bad environment as criminals. It is caused by her inferiority feeling. Everyone has their inferiority feeling. Every human has various goals in his or her life. Jess's hopelessness with her future cause her childhood experience. It makes her decide to became a criminal. Jess thought that become a criminal is more useful more than a prostitute. Good environment forms a good personality and vice versa. Unconsciously people will be influenced and imitate or adjust the behavior of the people around them. The environment also influences the shaping of Jess's personality. Nicky is a con man who is enclosed by his crew. Automatically Jess will get into the influence of Nicky's environment. Indirectly Nicky's environment influence Jess personality. She will learn and live enclosed by a con.

### Jess's Successfulness Becoming Superiority

The transition from the old to the new environment had an impact on Jess's personality. The cultural differences between the two environments do not make Jess continue to develop her inferiority. Jess is very adaptable to her new environment, she knows how to survive. Jess's past, influence her personality development. The cause of Jess's personality change stems from her inferiority complex. She's a foster kid dyslexic. Jess's inferiority complex made her become a criminals. However, she finds a feeling of superiority, she had a strong motivation towards the goal. 2 statement in this movie describes her pessimism :

Jess : I was a dyslexic foster kid. No prospects, no future.  
(FOCUS,2015.00:07:07)

Jess : Can we skip the part where I speak through thinly veiled allure.....and lead you to believe there's someearth-shattering hump in the works?Because I suck at that kind of stuff. I just want in. I am hopeless.  
(FOCUS,2015, 00: 10:40)

Based on statement above, everyone has a strategy for achieving the final goal. Everyone has a different strategy. Aspiring to join and told the past is part of the strategy to attain those goals. Jess did everything to make Nicky believe it a part of her social interest. Jess aims to get attention from others. She monopolizes the attention of others by showing her inferiority or creating trouble, and then she tries to dominate others hoping to become superior. Jess has a sense of community spirit. She needs social relationships. Jess expects in a community, she will find a desire to develop. This sense is superiority feeling. Many people believe that they are superior and dominant when they express their fair social condition. Jess is disappointed by her own expectations of community life. In a new environment she did not trust others to cooperate. But jess is a smart person after what happened in the past. no one know her it made her must adapt in order to life in her new environment. Apart from fashion, Jess also adapts to food and drink and the situation. It can be proven in the conversation below:

Jess : Um, Nicky.He doesn't know about my past,  
so...you don't know me.Okay?  
Nicky : Okay.  
Jess : Thank you.  
Nicky : You're welcome.  
(*FOCUS*, 2015, 00:55:51)

Based on the explanation above, it's a part of adapt the situation. This is a strategy done so that she can survive in the new environment. Jess makes her plan to be a liar. Indirectly this becomes her habit, Jess before is a bad liar, she is a victim of lies Nicky, but she adapts to the new environment that makes her get a lying habit. The purpose of her lie is to make Nicky Jealous, besides that Jess also has a secret purpose in herself.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the analysis, the researcher concludes that in *FOCUS* (2015) contains the issue stated in problem statement. The first issue is about the Jess's personality reflected on the movie and the second issue is about the process of personality changing character Jess. The first problem statement includes of representation characters Jess. Jess is a minor character. In this analysis, the researcher focuses attention from the beginning until the end of the character. Jess is smart and calm, learn from the mistakes person. All those descriptions can be seen from the representation of the personality character Jess reflected in focus ficcaras. As an amateur criminal, Jess has smart and calm even faced with an unexpected situation. Jess learned from her mistakes, that is what caused her personality change. The second problem statement includes, the causes of Jess become criminals, the effect of enviromental condition in shaphing Jess personality and Jess successfully become superiority. Jess becomes criminals cause her inferiority feeling as a foster kid dyslexsic. Her personality influence by the environment, she learns and life in Nicky environmrnt and Gariggas environment. Jess becomes superior and knows what she wants.

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