

IV. Home, Neurosis, and Crime

A. The Influence of Home

Among all the environmental effects on people, family may be the most influential one that builds up people's characteristics and thoughts. It is a fact that has undergone for centuries, no matter how the society changed and how technology progressed. The home is not just the place where domestic skills are practiced, like what Heasman said, "it is where family relationships are made and attitudes and beliefs formed" (6). However, the home may also be the seedbed which gives birth to neuroses and crimes. The knowledge by far shows the tendency that family problems are possibly the origin of young people's abnormal behaviors, for "the failure to prepare young people is seen in the increasing number of family breakdowns" (Heasman, 5). The research of how those family breakdowns affect people, therefore, will help us reconstruct the mental world of Pinkie and Alex and realize the pattern of their behaviors. "Family systems psychotherapy," Todd F. Davis and Kenneth Womack mentioned, "provides readers with a powerful mechanism for reflecting upon the role of the family in literary texts" (21). So we can find the sources of family breakdowns by analyzing family systems, including backgrounds, forms, and relationships between parents and children.

The backgrounds of Pinkie and Alex are actually quite similar because both of them are born in normal British families. One minor difference may be the apparently poorer situation of Pinkie's family than Alex's: "The houses which looked as if they had passed through an intensive bombardment, flapping gutters and glassless windows, an iron bedstead rusting in a front garden the smashed and wasted ground in front . . ." (BR 90). However, in spite of living in an apartment of Municipal Flatblock with dirty words and pictures on the wall, Alex's family seems

not to provide him enough resources either. That may be the reason that Alex liked to be a gangster—for the joy of spending money and leading a group. So when facing his father’s question Alex said: “I never ask for money, do I? Not money for clothes or for pleasures? All right, then, why ask?” (CO 40) And what Pinkie wanted was even more because he liked to possess, no matter wealth, power, leadership, and people’s chance for living. That means, the poorer the situation is the more desires people may have.

Although not all criminals come from “poverty stricken or poorly educated backgrounds” (Cullingford, 3), as young offenders, Pinkie and Alex present their greed aroused from poverty which may cause their criminal activities. In one way, in contrast to affluence, strong and firm relationships cannot easily be made in this poor circumstance. In another way, poor people also have to face much more social deprivation in the realistic world. According to Cedric Cullingford, poverty matters because “it deprives people of all kinds of other, more developed interactions” (5), so that there is obviously a strong link among poverty, social deprivation, and crime. Moreover, family background relates to not only physical conditions but also emotional interactions. At home, children may feel alienated because of their hard-working and cool parents; in the school, children also feel alienated when sensing their poorer backgrounds than other classmates’. As what Cullingford said, at the heart of criminology is “the relationship between the sense of being ‘alienated’ from the norms of society and its expression in action” (2). The emotional interactions made by the children with poor family backgrounds, are thus interrupted or blocked. It is not certain that if it will lead to criminology, but it surely shades children’s minds.

The consequences of poverty on children are the attitudes to parents and to

money, which exacerbate tensions and difficulties. Affluent families have the same tensions, but impoverished ones do not allow for mitigation. It may be the reason that Ida fails to interrupt Pinkie and Rose and Alex's post-corrective adviser cannot realize and help him, due to their middle-class conception of family life. They don't understand the fact that, whether the family Pinkie and Alex have or the circumstance they live in, is conditioned by poverty. Therefore, whoever wants to interrupt and help should emphasize on the whole family, for the effect of poverty on adults along with family relationships may be more significant.

The contemporary British family has been quite different due to its small size, which is the result that an increasing number of parents have decided to restrict the size of their family. Though middle class parents were the beginner to do so, working class parents also learned birth control with the standard of living rising and the education improving, so that "by the time of the period between the two world wars both middle and working class families were greatly reduced in size" (Heasman, 18). Family life then has tended to be much more home-centred than it was in the past. Furthermore, in my opinion, the attitude of parents to children has also changed. In one way, the parental authority rises without the disturbance of grand-parents; in the other way, with new ideas of education and the improvement of living standard coming, children are much more esteemed than before and the parental authority reduces. As what Heasman argues, "In the past the welfare of the child was secondary to that of parents . . . now the child is all-important and his or her requirements are given priority . . ." (20) The conflict thus comes up due to the fact that parenthood combines both intimacy and authority, so either emphasizing on just one side will make problems.

Pinkie's and Alex's parents showed totally different views in the conflict of

parenthood. Under the influence of the climate of the society, Pinkie's parents tended to present their intimacy in an authoritative way. The old tradition of "spare the rod and spoil the child" was typical of Britain in Victorian times, but the situation of working class family did not get better in post-Victorian times. As to what kind of family Pinkie's was, the situation of Rose's family can provide some similarities since they both came from slum districts. When Pinkie came to Rose's home to propose to her, the attitude of Rose's parents revealed the common situation of families in Nelson Place:

They watched him with silent and haughty indifference: a small thin elderly man, his face marked deeply with hieroglyphics of pain and patience and suspicion: the woman middle-aged, stupid, vindictive. (BR 142)

And Rose also said that it was no use when her parents got a mood, so obviously authority was the way they showed intimacy instead of communication. In contrast, after Pinkie stepped in the "drab dynamited plot of ground they both called home", he felt mixed up again with his past home experience: "When the man opened his mouth he heard his father speaking, that figure in the corner was his mother: he bargained for his sister and felt no desire . . ." (BR 143). Therefore, like most parents in Nelson Place, Pinkie's parents also presented the intimacy in an authoritative attitude, which possibly leads to the consequence of family breakdown.

However, after the 1920s more and more people were taught by psychologists that the absolute authority of parents and the heavy punishments on children could have lasting bad effects upon their behaviors as adults. The relationships between parents and children have been undergoing a profound change. Instead of authority and punishment more freedom and space are given by parents now, but it does not

mean that children can get the intimacy and esteem which they want. Alex's parents gave him total freedom to choose his way of life in place of their parental intimacy or authority, since they were both busy at work. The laissez-faire attitude then brought Alex full freedom and at the same time full isolation. Hence, Alex could only release all his emotions by listening to the classical music and hanging out with his gang in the streets. Alex's parents showed almost no comment about the loud symphonies at night: "Pee and em in their bedroom next door had learnt now not to knock on the wall with complaints of what they called noise . . . Now they would take sleep-pills" (CO 29). Alex's parents showed their indifference also when facing Alex's behaviors outside, and Alex must have sensed it so that he isolated himself in the family relationship: "I gave him a straight dirty glazzy, as to say to mind his own and I'd mind mine" (CO 40). Accordingly, the importance of parental intimacy and authority are revealed to be both necessary by the change of time, and they are the elements of the relationships between parents and children.

As what Cullingford argued, "Parenting style is bound to have a strong, perhaps definitive, influence on children's development" (17), so under the effect of poverty the attitudes of Pinkie's and Alex's parents are worth analysis. The relationships between parents and children in the two families then come to be a vital issue for discussion. The failure of family relationships may cause the dysfunction of the home, and to young offenders it is "a major factor in what happens to them, whether they are aware of it or not" (Cullingford, 33). Therefore, the genesis of delinquency in fact lies in the home. As to the function and the role of the family, it serves "both as an agent of change and as a mechanism for maintaining stasis" (Davis, 22). Pinkie's and Alex's parents can hardly maintain stasis, but they can not make any change due to their poverty. However, this difficult position of maintaining stasis

results in children's sense of insecurity at home, and the changelessness of the family also frustrates them. The failure to make the two functions of the home is related to the conditions of the dislocation of home.

Within the conditions of dislocation, what comes first is the instability in the home, no matter economically, physically, or emotionally. The economic instability results from poverty, which forces children to be too mature and doubt the identities of the family and themselves; physical instability is the lack of a house—a realistic home, and “the dislocation of place is matched by the dislocation of relationship” (Cullingford, 37). The two factors then contribute to the emotional instability, which adds to the sense of insecurity at home. Pinkie's and Alex's families bring them the economic instability for certain, but meanwhile, they also get the physical instability due to the loss of his house. When Pinkie went back to his hometown, he saw that “half Paradise Piece had been torn up as if by bomb bursts”, and his home was gone: “a flat place among the rubble may have marked its hearth; the room at the bend of the stairs where the Saturday night exercise had taken place was now just air” (BR 141). The emotional instability on Pinkie is thus strengthened, so he left home and tried hard to get rid of Nelson Place. Alex sensed the physical instability after coming out of the jail, for he found out his parents rented his room out to somebody and threw all his stuff away. So the combined functions of the emotional instability on them constructs their abnormal behaviors, and we can see the floatation of their identities with the emotional instability functioning.

The other condition of the dislocation of home is isolation, which shows up in the family because of hard-working, cool, or irresponsible parents. The carelessness of parents and the constant absence of parents in life often give children the feelings of isolation and being ignored. Violence, to some degree, also makes children feel

scared and isolated, because it is far from their recognition of family life. As children sensed the isolation at home, they may also be isolated at school and in their relationships of people. The isolation at school results from their observation and perception of their different family conditions from others. Besides, problems at home are directly related to children's achievement at school, which provokes their frustration, despair, and anger to the home. The isolation of children at home and school then turns out to be the isolation on society. Therefore, children at home have developed "the inability to strike the right balance between the habits of individual relationships and the rules of society" (Cullingford, 154), because they mix up social orders with personal animosities.

The isolation at home undoubtedly lies in the attitude and the way parents treat their children, and those are crucial factors of developing the relationships between parents and children. One of the potentially dangerous attitudes of parents is physical and psychological neglect, since "parenting is often associated purely with emotional warmth and physical care" (Cullingford, 159). What really matters is the psychological neglect, because it reveals parents' lack of giving emotional warmth to their children. The *laissez-faire* attitude and indulgence of parents then become a symbol of loneliness and despair due to children's awareness of being blanked out. The other dangerous attitude of parents is mental and physical violence. The influence of harsh acts and words make children more violent and reinforce the sense of insecurity. And within the harshness the inconsistency and the negativity result in children's aggressive manner and antisocial behaviors. "Both harshness and neglect are signs of indifference," Cullingford argues, "of the breakdown of the normal interactive, iterative relationship that children need" (170). Accordingly, children's feeling of isolation comes from the indifference showed by their parents, and it is the

reason of all family problems.

Pinkie's family, just like Rose's, presents the scene of indifferent parents by psychological neglect and violence. In Rose's description her parents were harsh and unreasonable: "They got a mood . . . They wouldn't let me do a thing. Not even light the fire" (BR 142). And the only thing Rose's parents cared about was whether Rose sent them money or not. Families in Nelson Place might be very similar: Pinkie had graduated in pain, for beside psychological neglect and violence he faced the physical neglect from his parents. Probably because of witnessing the intercourse of his parents often, Pinkie's feeling of "blank out" was strengthened along with the isolation he felt: "He was filled with hatred, disgust, loneliness: he was completely abandoned: he had no share in their thought . . ." (BR 186). In contrast, Alex felt neglect due to his busy working parents. Alex tried to present like an adult to show his independence at home but in fact committed many crimes outside. Being the only one child in the family, Alex doubted about his identity when facing the indifference of his parents. So Alex responded to the feelings of uncertainty and change "by trying on different costumes, behavioral modes, and verbal mannerisms in an effort to establish what he perceives to be a stable sense of identity" (Davis, 24). All Alex did was to prove his maturity to his parents, but his antisocial behaviors ruined it.

The disequilibrium and the dislocation of Pinkie's and Alex's families, therefore, are proved to lead to their abnormal and antisocial acts, which reveal Pinkie's and Alex's desires for home. While Alex said it out loudly, "Home, home, home, it was home I was wanting" (CO 119), Pinkie tried every way to deny the relationships in marriage and family. Both of them behave antisocially at best to reflect their feelings of losing the home and the good relationships with others. The isolation at

home and at school extends to the isolation on society and the indifference of their parents turns out to be the indifference of them. As what Cedric Cullingford notes, “The connection between the breakdown of relationships with parents, and the subsequent difficulties in making normal relationship with others, is clear” (170). The consequence is the failure in their relationships with people. Then they will reach the ultimate loneliness “once the whole of society is perceived as a perpetual enemy” (Cullingford, 188).



B. The Neuroses and Crimes of Pinkie and Alex

The disequilibrium and the dislocation of the home, in my opinion, have an influence on children's abnormal and anti-social psychology. As we all know that psychology affects people's acts, the abnormal psychologies of Pinkie and Alex then result in their neuroses and crimes. To say that people are not guilty due to the conditions of neuroses is not correct, but indeed, the crimes they commit are caused by them. Moreover, the symptoms of neuroses also come from the home since the genesis of delinquency lies in the home. So there may be a connection between neuroses and crimes, and the analysis of Pinkie's and Alex's symptoms of neuroses will help us realize the patterns of their psychology of crime.

In the way of using Freudian theories in contrast with the family conditions of Pinkie and Alex, we can find the possible causes of their neuroses. Freud was convinced not only that "neuroses were rooted in sexual conflicts" but also that "the roots of these conflicts developed very early in life" (Kepbart, 515). Therefore, the family experience plays a significant role in the abnormal psychology of young offenders. As what Cullingford argues, "those earliest of formative influences create the potential for what will happen to children in the rest of their lives" (190). Parents are undoubtedly crucial.

In Freud's theories, "libido" serves as the sexual instincts of human beings, just like the need to take nourishment, and the transformation of libido make much influence on all kinds of neuroses. According to Freud, furthermore, the symptoms of neuroses are formed as "a substitute for something else which remains submerged", and under normal conditions certain mental processes would develop until the person became aware of them consciously (Psychoanalysis, 247). However, it has not happened, and instead the interruption and the interference of those processes lead to

the symptoms which arise from them. The symptom is a substitute for some other process which was held back by repression, and it serves the purpose of both sexual gratification and its opposite because of the double-sidedness or polarity. So in fact, symptoms are “the effects of compromises between two opposed tendencies acting on one another” (Psychoanalysis, 265).

Those symptoms, in Freud’s view, result from the Oedipus complex which is regarded as “the kernel of the neuroses”, and the sense of guilt of mankind as a whole may be acquired in the beginnings of history through the Oedipus complex. That means, the Oedipus complex is closely related to committing crimes because of the sense of guilt and neuroses. The Oedipus complex serves as a barrier, and people who cannot leap over it will be troubled by the sense of guilt and neuroses. On the other hand, while people overcome and reject “the distinctly incestuous phantasies”, the attraction of the son to the mother and of the daughter to the father, “one of the most important and painful psychic accomplishments of puberty” occurs—the breaking away from the parental authority (Theory of Sex, 585). It is so important for cultural progress that forms the opposition between the old and new generations.

In the connection between the Oedipus complex and the symptoms of neuroses, the floatation and transformation of the libido take an important role with two major dangers—fixation and regression. Fixation means that single portions of every separate sexual impulse may remain in an early stage of development, though meanwhile other portions of it have reached the final goal. Fixation may help the permanence and function of abnormality. The second danger is regression, which happens that those portions having proceeded further may easily revert in a backward direction to earlier stages. There is a close connection between fixation and regression: “The stronger the fixations in the path of development the more easily will

the function yield before the external obstacles, by regressing on to those fixations” (Psychoanalysis, 298). We can see how the two dangers function on Pinkie and Alex in the next section.

The floatation and transformation of the libido then participate in the development of neurotic symptoms. When the possibility of satisfaction for the libido is removed, people fall ill in neuroses in a consequence of a “frustration”, and their symptoms are actually substitutes for the missing satisfaction. The reducing want of satisfaction then results in the incomplete development of the libido, which leaves behind the “libido-fixations” upon early phases of organization and types of object-choice. Thus the fixation of libido is regarded as the second powerful factor which works together with frustration in the causation of illness. We can say that frustration is the external factor of neuroses, and libido-fixation is the internal one. In addition, in the people who suffer from neuroses we can find the signs of contradictory and opposed wishes, which represent their mental conflict. There will be no neurosis without such a conflict, because in order to become pathogenic external frustration must be supplemented by internal frustration. The internal frustration results from some non-sexual instincts to be against the libidinal longings proceeding, and Freud included them under the name “ego-instincts”. Therefore, the pathogenic conflict is one between the ego-instincts and the sexual instincts; that is, a conflict between ego and sexuality.

The abnormal and antisocial psychology of Pinkie and Alex is shown in the presentation of their symptoms, and corresponding with the above theory of aetiology, some of their behaviors can be explained reasonably. The first thing people may notice is the violent acts of the two young offenders. In my opinion, the failure of home experiences here takes a significant part, just like what Cullingford said, “The

link between the frustration of home life and the inability to deal with it, transferred to other circumstances, is also clearly made” (182). That the family breakdown causes Pinkie’s and Alex’s frustrations processes that the external frustration turns into the internal frustration. Then when their needs from the id and the libido can not be fulfilled, they stop being mature and socialized and get back to the fixation point for making the libidos free—that is, violence. Violent acts, maybe in their early experience, served as a tool for attracting and get their parents’ attention or caresses. Therefore, Pinkie and Alex tried to keep being mature or persevering at home, but committed many crimes with their violent acts outside. Violence is the outcome of their own shortcomings—the lack of self-control and the lack of self-esteem. Accordingly, they transfer to another circumstance of the gang, in which part of their wishes is fulfilled and the self-confidence is found.

Not all the purposes of Pinkie’s and Alex’s violent acts are the same. In contrast with Rose’s family in Nelson Place, the situation of Pinkie’s family is quite poor. “Quarrels between parents and unhappy marital relations between the same,” Freud said, “determine the severest predispositions for disturbed sexual development or neurotic diseases in children” (*Theory of Sex*, 587). That was correctly the situation of Pinkie’s family. Quarrels between the parents had strengthened the Oedipus complex of Pinkie, and the object-cathexis to his mother was also strengthened while the identification to his father had not established yet. Only by violent acts, therefore, might Pinkie get rid of the internal frustration of the inability to change the circumstance. Alex faced the same problem. However, apparently the effect of the Oedipus complex on him was not so strong because he had made the identification with his father, so Alex’s feeling of internal frustration might not be so strong either. Alex’s frustration possibly came from the indifference of his parents,

for the pressure of living led to their ignorance of Alex's behaviors.

What accompanies violence is always robbing and hijacking. According to Pinkie's and Alex's family conditions, their intention of getting money is for certain, because it is money that establishes the external frustration in their families. As what is mentioned before, their greed aroused by poverty may cause their criminal activities like robbing or hijacking. Pinkie and Alex may think it is the fastest way to improve the external frustration caused by poverty and release their emotions with internal frustration. Whereas, poor circumstances are often not improved, and the internal frustration still exists, or even deepens. Another thing along with violence is abuse. In Freud's stages in his theory of sex, the pregenital organizations include the oral and the sadistic-anal ones, and the latter represents both pain and pleasure when holding excrement. The sadistic acts of Pinkie and Alex symbolize the regression of the libido to the stage of the sadistic-anal organization, which determines the form taken by the symptoms. Freud noted, "The impulse to love must then mask itself under the sadistic impulse" (Psychoanalysis, 301), so in fact, in the unconscious the real thoughts of them are to love and to be loved. Sadism is a death-instinct which is driven apart from the ego, while sex is referred to a life-instinct. Thus, the emphasis on only death-instinct can not make Pinkie and Alex balanced and there must be some problems in their attitudes of sex, which will be discussed in the next section.

In the heart of violence is the lack of self-esteem, which is closely connected to frustration, anger, and anxiety and they all participate in the development and the possibility of violent acts. Within them, anxiety plays an especially important role in their possible symptoms of hysteria and obsessions. Pinkie and Alex reveal their sense of insecurity by showing anxiety, which is closely related to the gratification of the libido. Freud illustrated this connection between anxiety and libido:

The child behaves here like the adult; that is, he changes his libido into fear when he cannot bring it to gratification, and the grown-up who becomes neurotic on account of ungratified libido behaves in his anxiety like a child. (Theory of Sex, 584)

Thus we can see that anxiety originates from the libido's lack of satisfaction, and it causes people's neuroses. That may be the reason that Pinkie and Alex often present the desire to get power with anxious feelings, because losing power may restrict or stop the gratification of the libido. Furthermore, Pinkie's symptom of hysteria and Alex's symptom of obsessions are connected to the feeling of anxiety. Pinkie shows his symptoms of hysteria and paranoia by the unknown sense of insecurity of being betrayed and backstabbed; Alex shows the symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder by keeping his sadistic behaviors going in his life.

In fact, we do not have to categorize their symptoms of neuroses in every detail, but we should know the common symptom of all their neurotic conditions—anxiety. Through analyses and observation Freud realized the relationship between the libido and anxiety, just like the one between the libido and symptoms. First, anxiety serves as a substitute as long as the libido is short. Second, the anxious feeling unrelated to certain objects is long-existing and makes its function when the symptom of hysteria occurs. Third, usually when people show compulsive acts they would like to get rid of anxiety in some abnormal ways. So after Kite's death Pinkie's confidence and identification with Kite and the gang were shaken. He found himself in a great danger and his anxiety appeared, and with the realization of his inability to lead a gang, he showed the symptom of hysteria and paranoia and became a cruel murderer. In the same way, Alex showed his anxiety when sensing the loss of the leadership of the gang, and the compulsive acts of abusing and raping people revealed his desire for

the power. The possibility of losing all the power and pleasure then aroused his anxiety, which resulted from the repression of his libido. Therefore, in the question of neuroses anxiety is the one to be concerned.

What's more, Pinkie's and Alex's lack of self-esteem, frustration, and anxiety are obviously in relation to the development of the libido and the symptoms it causes, and anger is associated with the complicated affection to the home and the society. According to Cullingford, the anger of young offenders is "mixed with fear, sadness with inadequacy" (187), within which the inadequacy represents their poor relationship with people because they learn certain behaviors and approaches to others in their own home. The inadequacy at home then turns out to be the inadequacy on society. Accordingly, as soon as Pinkie and Alex mixed up social orders with personal animosities, the order of their life was lost and their moving identities confused the way they viewed people and society.

Synthetically speaking, Pinkie's and Alex's symptoms of neuroses result in their violent acts. Among those neurotic symptoms, such as hysteria, paranoia, and obsessions, anxiety takes a vital role and serves as the substitute of the insufficient libido. Meanwhile, those symptoms present to be the substitute for some processes which was held back by repression, and they relieve the stress and tension of the libido. Whereas, in Freud's view neuroses are rooted in sexual conflicts, and only emphasizing on the relationships of the symptoms and the libido is not enough to prove it. So about the sexual conflicts of Pinkie and Alex we should go further in the question of sex.

C. Attitude toward Sex

The whole theories of Freud are fundamentally based on the analyses of sex and the development of sexual instincts. The wishes of the id, a presentation of the libido, are undoubtedly under the influence of the home, which causes people's symptoms of neuroses if the libido is not brought to the gratification. Moreover, within those symptoms anxiety is also regarded as the result of repressing the libido. The development and the transformation of the libido then show up again in the issue of sex. It is the environmental effects of the society and the home that make great function on Pinkie's and Alex's attitudes toward sex. That is, sex is the root of their abnormal and antisocial psychology.

The societal influence includes the climate on society and the religious factor. At Pinkie's time, the freedom of intercourse was not yet "generally prevalent in human societies" (Coser, 60). The crucial factor was the influence of Christianity which stated the importance of charity. Dan McCall mentioned about it: "Evil consists in sin against order; the evil is judged and the order is maintained by a traditional Catholic vocabulary" (294). So under this circumstance, Pinkie's libido was repressed for sure as a Catholic, and he did not dare to sexually harass or rape people even though he had done many violent acts. However, the overmuch repression of the libido led to his ignorance and murder. The ignorance of love and sex then made Pinkie a cruel and sensitive boy, for who dared to invade his most innocent and sensitive part would suffer from being murdered. People in the gang were womanizing when clubbing, yet Pinkie was scared about "the game of which they all knew so much more than he did" (BR 132). And due to the approaching practice of sexual behavior, it was marriage that made him feel the hideous loneliness of his innocence most. When at Alex's time, the religious power had obviously

weakened and the societal climate was much opener, so he did not suffer from the hideous loneliness of his innocence like Pinkie. On the contrary, Alex was so sophisticated that he committed many crimes, including rape. The social condition of the paralysis of the authority and the police resulted in the prosperity of the gangs, in which Alex's libido was set free and the crimes related to intercourse were committed.

The familial influence plays a more important role in Pinkie's and Alex's attitudes toward sex. As what is mentioned before, the Oedipus complex influences people's wishes of the id (object-cathexis) and the formation of the super-ego (identification). Yet the libido has the possibility to suffer from fixation and regression in its progression, and they are closely related to people's symptoms of neuroses. Therefore, the process of that the libido finds its object contributes to people's attitudes of sex, and the key actually lies in their parents.

Pinkie presented his views of sex in a childish and cruel way. With the witness of the intercourse of his parents on Saturdays, the Oedipus complex in Pinkie was invoked and his anger was provoked, and his wishes of the id got much stronger since his object-cathexis was repressed. The witness of his parents' intercourse had a bad effect on Pinkie:

“Saturday,” he thought, “today's Saturday,” remembering the room at home, the frightening weekly exercise of his parents which he watched from his single bed. That was what they expected of you, every polony you met had her eye on the bed: his virginity straightened in him like sex.

(BR 90)

Thus the road of Pinkie's attitude toward love was deflective, because under this bad effect his identification with the father was not possible to be made and his

object-cathexis could not successfully turn to other girls or women. Pinkie's attitude toward sex was also negative, for "sexual desire disturbed him like a sickness". So there was a correlation forming: Pinkie's innocence made his attitudes toward love and sex, and they made his innocence. Not until Pinkie married Rose did he sense his own serious innocence of sex: "You could know everything there was in the world and yet if you were ignorant of that one dirty scramble you knew nothing" (BR 149). Even after having sex with Rose he still feared for the possibility of pregnancy and was back in "his state of appalled ignorance".

Furthermore, it was the innocence of love and sex that leads to Pinkie's murder. In one way, Pinkie looked down on love and sexuality: "That how they judged you: not by whether you had the guts to kill a man, to run a mob, to conquer Colleoni" (BR 90); in the other way, he feared for them: "Was there no escape – anywhere – for anyone? It was worth murdering a world" (BR 92). The association between sexuality and murder is then revealed, for the sense of insecurity from the lack of self-esteem and the innocence would result in Pinkie's murder. According to David G Wright, "the use of the phallic pink rock as a lethal weapon" also presents the association between sexuality and murder (53). Pinkie used it to murder Hale for faking his natural death, but at the same time Rose and him used it to celebrate their wedding, and the process of eating it symbolized sexuality. In addition, the use of pink rocks also represents Pinkie's immaturity and innocence.

Pinkie's murder and violent acts all reveal his sadistic tendency which results from the witness of his parents' intercourse:

. . . little children cannot understand anything sexual, they cannot help conceiving the sexual act as a kind of maltreating or overpowering; that is, it impresses them in a sadistic sense . . . such an early childhood

impression contributes much to the disposition for a later sadistic displacement of the sexual aim. (Theory of Sex, 564)

That was why Pinkie had a bad and evil attitude toward love and Rose, but to some degree he could not help but need her company. It is said that “what was most evil in him needed her” (BR 126), and the most evil part in Pinkie was the object-cathexis to his mother, which then turned to another female from Nelson Place, Rose. And being the only witness to prove Pinkie’s crime, Rose’s love is “the greatest safety he could ask” (Ruotolo, 429). However, ironically, Pinkie chose to destroy Rose as soon as he found that Rose knew all along he was a murderer; moreover, he realized that she was not so innocent as he had supposed. That means, Rose betrayed the common innocent state Pinkie had thought. Hence he intended to commit another murder, just like what Ruotolo noted, “Rose’s love threatens him far more than the demands of Colleoni” (429). Pinkie’s innocent and abnormal attitude toward love and sex then failed the diversion of his object-cathexis.

With great possibility Pinkie suffers from anxiety hysteria and paranoia, and the senses of insecurity and anxiety caused by them lead to his constant murders. In my opinion, those symptoms of neuroses originating from the Oedipus complex are also associated with Pinkie’s attitude toward sex. According to Freud, the symptoms of hysteria receive their force from the sexual instinct:

The hysterical character shows a fragment sexual repression, which reaches beyond the normal limits. It is an exaggeration of the resistances against the sexual instinct which became known to us as shame and loathing. (Theory of Sex, 542)

The consequence of it is a complete sexual ignorance, which is correctly Pinkie’s case of deliberate ignorance and indifference of sex. That is just one part to construct

Pinkie's attitude toward sex; the other part of it is his sadistic tendency of sex, which concerns about the fixation and regression of his libido. In the development of Pinkie's libido there may be a main fixation forming in the anal stage with sadistic sense. So when Pinkie faced the external frustration from the home or the school and the internal frustration aroused by it, his libido regressed to this fixation and presented in a cruel and sadistic way. Another possible fixation forms in the oral stage, and Pinkie's habit of eating rocks symbolizes it. In Freud's view, the incorporation of the object into one's own body is the prototype of identification, so Pinkie's favor of eating rocks¹ may symbolize his retardedness in making the identification. Therefore, under the influence of the libido's development, Pinkie's attitude toward sex is ignorant, sadistic, and childish.

Alex's attitude of sex was much freer without the bound of religion and ethic. Innocence would not be his problem, and his sadistic tendency was much more severe than pinkie. Although violent and sadistic acts are associated with the early childhood impression of witnessing the parents' intercourse, we cannot make sure if Alex had got this impression. However, Alex's sexual behaviors must be along with sadistic acts:

There were vecks and ptitsas, both young and starry, lying on the ground screaming for mercy, and I was smecking all over my rot and grinding my boot in their litsos. And there were devotchkas ripped and creeching against walls and I plunging like a shlaga into them . . . (CO 29)

The association between sexual behaviors and sadistic acts is then revealed in Alex's phantasy. In Freud's view, under the function of the reality principle, the ego faces the renunciation of pleasure and one man cannot accomplish it without some kind of

¹ Rock means lollipop here; Brighton rock is in fact a metaphor of this storm in Brighton.

compensation. Accordingly he has evolved for himself a mental activity in which “all these relinquished sources of pleasure and abandoned paths of gratification are permitted to continue their existence” (Psychoanalysis, 324). In phantasy, one can continue to enjoy a freedom from the grip of the external world. Then in the listening to classical music Alex’s phantasy of violent acts became his obsession of sadistic sexual acts. That is, Alex put his phantasy into practice. To some degree Alex got obsessive-compulsive disorder: he made it a rule to have the obsession of sadistic acts and put it into practice. Pinkie had phantasy in his hysteria also, but the way he showed it was anxiety.

Furthermore, the way that Alex’s ego forced himself into maltreating or overpowering presents his libido’s fixation on the anal stage. Similar to Pinkie’s case, the external and internal frustration from the home or the school makes Alex’s libido regress to this fixation which is a serious one due to his super violent acts. It is said that violent acts come from the lack of self-esteem. Pinkie’s ego has made strong identification with Kite, so his lack of self-esteem comes from the innocence of sex more than leading a gang; Alex’s identification with his father is weak, and his lack of self-esteem comes from his retard of dealing with people. Thus Alex dreamed about being betrayed by his gangsters and he always tried to get the leadership in his gang for the sense of security. In great possibility part of Alex’s identification was made with himself, so he became a self-centered person, and by sadistic acts he intended to show his power and impress people. Therefore, Alex’s attitude toward sex is over-passionate, sadistic and aggressive.

The complicated and abnormal attitudes of sex in fact play a decisive role in Pinkie’s and Alex’s abnormal psychologies and behaviors. First, representing the frustration of the libido, the attitudes of sex help Pinkie and Alex develop the

symptoms of neuroses, and they provide substitutes to fulfill the deficiency of the libido. According to Freud, they achieve it by “a regression of the libido to a previous time of life, with which regression is indissolubly connected, a reversion to earlier phases in the object choice or in the organization” (Psychoanalysis, 319). Then the process that the libido regresses to its fixation point adds to the attitudes of sex. That is why Pinkie’s and Alex’s attitudes of sex to some degree are ambiguous and complicated.

Moreover, the symptoms of neuroses fail us to connect what we are accustomed normally with satisfaction, and they construct people’s weird sexual attitudes. The reason is that they abandon a relation to external reality:

We understand this as a consequence of the relation of the reality-principle and the return to the pleasure-principle; it is also, however, a return to a kind of amplified auto-erotism, the kind which offered the sexual instinct its first gratification. (Psychoanalysis, 320)

So with the symptoms functioning, the libido returns to where its first gratification occurs and the wishes of the id are fulfilled to some degree. The conflicts between the pleasure and the reality principle here are revealed again, and the degree of people’s symptoms depends on their ego. The symptom is supported by the ego “because one side of it offers a satisfaction to the repressing ego-tendency”, and the conflict by a symptom-formation is “the most convenient solution in accordance with the pleasure-principle” (Psychoanalysis, 332). The seriousness of the symptoms represents how much the ego returns to the pleasure principle and at the same time represents the magnitude of the ego. Pinkie’s ego is oppressed in between of the id and the super-ego and presents its weakness; Alex’s super-ego with poor identification makes his id’s wishes be fulfilled in a stronger way. Accordingly, Pinkie’s

symptoms present oppression, but Alex's symptoms present aggression.

The common consequence of Pinkie and Alex is their weak function of the ego. There is a conclusion that "a person only falls ill of a neurosis when the ego loses its capacity to deal in some way or other with the libido" (Psychoanalysis, 336). The stronger the ego is the more easily it can complete the task and every weakening of the ego makes a neurosis possible. So the failure of the ego to allocate the libido causes the symptoms of neuroses, which have an influence on people's attitudes of sex, and all of them result in people's behaviors. As a fact that the construction of one's ego lies in the home, the formation of sexual attitude mostly lies in the home, like what Coser mentioned, "Parenthood and marriage furnish the key to the functional understanding of regulated sexuality" (63). And less or more, they are still under the effect of social conditions. As a result, Pinkie's and Alex's abnormal behaviors originate from the home with many complicated factors: In one way, they face abnormal familial conditions, the external frustration of their affections; in the other way, they suffer from the psychological impulses on sex, the internal frustration of the libido. Therefore, the transformation of the libido leads to Pinkie's and Alex's loss in identities, and as long as they could not adjust it they show those anti-social behaviors as a kind of compensation. With this process developing, the issue brought about is the importance of familial education from the parents. The way to reconstruct order and identity thus gets its emergence.