

The Matters of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder as Reflected on *Tusk* Movie

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Abstract

The research is to understand the obsession of one of the characters in the *Tusk* movie named Howard Howe towards the seals. The film directed by Kevin Smith here tells of someone who was set up by Howard to be used as a base for his experiments. Obsession can become so strong until finally it can interfere daily life and cause stress and anxiety as supported by the idea of Jeffrey S. Nevid. Meanwhile, compulsive is repetitive behavior such as repeating certain actions that something must be done. The question is, how may obsessive-compulsive disorder be reflected on *Tusk* movie? Through qualitative method, this paper aims at explaining Howard's preconception of being obsessed to get his desire fulfilled. The conclusion indicates that this disorder in possession could bring in a real danger to himself and to those around that person.

Keywords: Howard Howe, Jeffrey S. Nevid, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, *Tusk*

INTRODUCTION

Film is a literary work of audiovisual media, some people think film is just for entertainment and some people think that film can be a lesson for other people. *Tusk* is a horror comedy film released in 2014, written and directed by Kevin Smith based on stories from the SModcast podcast (Roeper, 2014; Smith, 2014). This film tells about a character named Howard Howe who is obsessed with seals. Because of his obsession, Howard traps his victim for his experiment. His interest in seals causes the character to become obsessive with seals until he

did a crazy experiment to make humans look like a seals. The character represents the symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) as explained by Jeffrey S. Nevid on 2005 (Nevid et al., 2018; Vioreanu, 2022). Obsession is thought or idea that keeps recurring in people's mind. Obsession can become so strong that may interfere daily life and cause stress and anxiety. Meanwhile, compulsive is repetitive behavior such as washing hands and rechecking doors or windows. The main idea is about repetitive mental actions such as repeating certain words that are felt by someone and become something that must be done (Dykshoorn, 2014; Salkovskis, 1999). Compulsions often appear in response to obsessive thoughts and often appear to cause excessive stress.

Howard Howe's obsessive-compulsive disorder in the *Tusk* movie causes anxiety in him because of his unsatisfactory feelings with his work so that he was always searching for the victims to be his experiment (Smith, 2014). The question is, how may obsessive-compulsive disorder be reflected on *Tusk* movie? The disorder changes his mind so that he would kill someone to find satisfaction in the work he loved. This film is quite popular because of the uniqueness of the killer who is looking for victims to be used as seals. Those with this compulsive obsessive-disorder can be helped, because not everyone wants to be like this. People are rather choosing normal life rather than disorder that may intrusively change life in advance.

METHOD

This qualitative research uses content analysis to examine the portrayal of OCD in the movie of *Tusk*. The authors analyze by selecting certain scenes featuring the main character, Howard Howe, exhibiting symptoms of OCD, and analyzing them according to Nevid's concept. The schemes of included categories of syndrome are intrusive thoughts, compulsive behaviors, and anxiety. The data is collected by watching the movie and noting the scenes where Howard exhibits OCD symptoms. The scenes are analyzed using the theories that the authors has gathered before. The findings show that the movie accurately portrays some of the common symptoms and experiences of OCD.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this chapter, the authors explain the findings and analysis related to obsession using Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder by Nevid, et al. on 2005 (Nevid et al., 2018). The movie tells the story of a podcaster named Wallace who is looking for viral news in Canada until he meets Howard Howe who wants to tell his life story. When Wallace arrived at Howard Howe's house, Howard explained the story of his life. Finally, Howard showed one of the collections that was so valuable to him, namely the penis of a sea mammal (Smith, 2014). Until finally he told about how he drifted in the ocean until he was finally saved by a walrus. It turned out that from the intention of inviting and telling all these things, Wallace was trapped by Howard until he became an experiment material to be used as a walrus because of his obsession.

Here are the authors' findings in the movie *Tusk*. In this movie, it is explained that Howard Howe has a connection with an object that makes him

have an obsession with an object or creature until finally he does something repeatedly to satisfy his need. Then, the authors sees some scenes a scene and the scene is related to OCD.

The Chronicles of Obsession and Its Syndromic Matters

In the *Tusk*, the movie depicts when a character named Howard Howe shows one of his valuable objects which is believed to be a penis from an animal, namely a walrus. Wallace is curious about something, while Howard is really proud about it. While Wallace speaks as if in an interview, Howard tells like a usual dialogue. Nothing is wrong according to Howard, while Wallace thinks that his collections are really extraordinary at all aspects. Here are the quotations;

[0.19.10 – 0.20.14]

Howe : No, that's just a story. If you look to the left of the fireplace, you'll see the incredible aspect.

Wallace : This is the coolest thing I've ever seen...

Howe : Oh, it's just an empty old bottle. But when combined with the story? Then it's a powerful talisman - a doorway to another time and place. A drawbridge to history.

Wallace : What's this?

Howe : (wheeling over)

Ahhhh! Just like me, you've got an eye for the unfamiliar and the curiosity of a cat. It will take you very far in life.

(stops chair) That is the baculum of a walrus. The Alaskans call it an oosik.

Wallace : (running finger over it)

So it's like a walrus spine?

Howe : More like a walrus cock. (Smith, 2014)

From the quote above, it can be said that people who have high obsession carry one of the things that make them remember about an object or creature they like. It can be seen that Howard Howe carries an object, namely one of the penis bones belonging to the animal that saved him. Howard starts the story by indicating a thing that is truly valuable for him. Even he considers it as a talisman. He has such imagination that it may bring him to another dimension, which for common people is considered as abnormal.

At the twenty-first minute, Howard finally recounts how he experienced the tragedy of a shipwreck when he was sailing around Anadyr Bay and met a walrus. Indeed, his experience is quite personal. When he talks about it to Wallace, he becomes prouder about it as he speaks his story in a serious tone. The idea is listed below;

[0.21.28 – 0.25.19]

Howe : (wheeling back to him)

In 1959, I was back on a boat. This time in the Gulf of Anadyr on the southern coast of the Siberian Chukchi Peninsula.

Howe : (CONT'D) *These were perhaps the best years of my life, when my culinary capabilities in small, sea-faring kitchens acted as my passport to the world. And it was my magic with a halibut that earned me the cook's position on the Anastasia and her expedition into Soviet waters.*

Wallace : *So is this like Cold War stuff?*

Howe : *We went in search of the legendary Siberian Great White.*

Wallace : *A GREAT WHITE SHARK?! NO WAY!*

Howe : *"The Whale Eater" is what the Russians called the hungry god - reputed to be 25 feet in length, with at least three tons on him.*

Wallace : *Did you find it?*

Howe : *(smiles sadly)*

We found only death. Off the Chukchi Peninsula, in the inky heart of the night, the Anastasia collided with an iceberg.

Howe : *(V.O.)*

The ship sank within minutes. I know because I watched her disappear into the black Russian sea. I heard the crew's screams silenced in the Siberian brine. (Smith, 2014)

The quotation above shows that Wallace quite understands what Howard says. It does when both intersects in the matter of a great white shark. This case then makes Howard continues his story and puts his trust to Wallace. In reverse, Wallace does it either. Howard tells his sad story later on while Wallace tries to consume his story without interpreting it then. Indeed, the main character here is Howard who dominantly speaks of his story when he in a time worked on a ship.

The dialogue continues between the two persons. The context of the sea still excites Wallace to listen to Howard's story. Howard tells the story how he becomes attached to the sea. Wallace understands what he feels by reciting the marine rhyme alongside with Howard. Howard was alone at that time and something made him terrified. Wallace is still listening to him since he wanted to know what kind of terror did make Howard terrified. The quotation is down below;

INT STUDY - NIGHT

As if on cue, we hear some animal howling in the distance. Wallace raises his eyebrows. Howe chuckles.

Howe : *Delicious timing.*

Wallace : *(chuckles nervously; then)*

What happened after the boat sank?

Howe : *I was alone.*

(reciting)

"Alone, alone, all, all alone,

Alone on a wide, wide sea!

And never a saint took pity on my soul in agony."

Wallace : *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.*

Howe : *Well-remembered, Mister Brighton. When the screaming stopped, I thought I might be alone. Until something swam very close to me. Something fast and frightening.*

(reciting again) "The many men, so beautiful!

And they all dead did lie:

And a thousand, thousand slimy things lived on;

and so did I."

Wallace : (tired but engaged)

How scared were you when this was all happening?

Howe : I don't mind confessing I was terrified. You've likely been scared many times in your life, Mister Brighton, but I'd wager you've never known true terror. (Smith, 2014)

It seems that Howard is challenging Wallace to feel the real terror. He would like Wallace to feel the same terrifying feeling like what he has felt before. Howard seems happy by reciting the rhyme alongside with his story being told. Wallace is quite bored but he is curious as well.

Later on, Wallace is starting to get sleepy. He keeps himself awake by listening to Howard's voice. He would like to know what it is like to feel such terror in a lonely situation. Wallace is interested from the first time Howard shows his collection of an animal genital. The understanding is listed here;

Wallace's eyelids droop a bit then go wide, as Wallace tries to stay awake.

Howe : (CONT'D) We are scared of what we don't know. But terror? That comes from a sudden and unwanted knowledge of the unknowable - even for a moment. And I became intimately familiar with terror for hours that night, as I swam. I kicked at the water and stroked for I knew not where. It was so pitch black, I could see no eventual purchase on the horizon for my weary, wet bones. Indeed, I did not even see my own hands as they pierced the water, over and over. All I could do was swim deeper into the ebony void and pray that whatever brushed my leg was now feasting upon the rest of the expedition crew instead. And then... I lost consciousness.

Wallace : Sweet whistling Christ...

Howe : I woke up on the shores of a tiny island, regurgitating sea water, discombobulated beyond belief.

Howe : (V.O.) But when I finally climbed to my feet, I saw the sweetest sight my orbs have ever taken in: I saw my sweet savior - the Charon who'd escorted me across the River Styx. Then, the younger, soaked Howe goes soft when he sees...

Howe : (V.O.) I saw a walrus. (Smith, 2014)

Howard explains his experience in detail especially when he understood that his situation is so severe. He was situated in nowhere at night. He was so cold that he could not even swim anymore. For a normal person, this experience is not ordinary. It will trigger another emotion that he never feels before. Then, no one knows what will the experience shape of the sufferer. In many times, even the person could not really explain what is really happening (Vioreanu, 2022). In this case, Howard could only feel his surrounding in confusion, until he saw a walrus.

Then, Wallace keeps listening to Howard. Interestingly, Howard slowly reveals his reason in being obsessed by walrus. Wallace is surprised when the walrus did not attack Howard but then saved his life. Wallace is astonished with the condition as the wilderness actually may have another face as facing another

living creature as well. The face is to take care of others. Those are indicated below;

Wallace : A walrus? No fucking WAY, pardon my French! A walrus saved your life?

Howe : A walrus made my life, Mister Brighton. Made it worth living again.

Howe : (CONT'D) This curious fellow loomed over me, with tusks as tall as Scylla and Charibdys, easily a thousand pounds my better. Yet he was as gentle as a milking cow, when he used his blubbery body to keep me warm - as if I were a newborn chick, you see.

Wallace : Unbelievable!

Howe : And while I could never know how he was addressed in his native tongue amongst his marine brethren, I started calling him after the only authority figure I'd ever truly trusted in my life: a janitor at a boy's home where I spent some time whose name was Mister Tuskegee.

Howe : (CONT'D) So I called my walrus friend...

Mister Tusk (Smith, 2014).

From the quotation above, the initial symptom of Howard Howe's character being obsessed by walrus is due to a trauma in his head. He starts to call the walrus in its imaginary name. He tells to Wallace how he is really attached to the walrus since it has saved him from death (Catsoulis, 2014; Roeper, 2014). In a way, it could be indicated as a good deed from an animal to a human. It only contains goodness in within. Meanwhile, Howard was not already as a whole when the terror came to him. Later on, this situation has triggered his trauma he has felt before.

That eventually caused him to develop such obsessive syndrome to the walrus. It has become irrational ever since. This trauma was caused by Howard's fear and shock of experiencing the tragedy of a sinking ship when he sailed to Anadyr Bay to look for Siberian Great White Sharks. He kept swimming until he found the island where he met the walrus. From there, Howard Howe's character thought that the walrus on the island was his savior (Catsoulis, 2014). However, this condition did not last since Howard then killed the walrus since he was hungry at that time. This crucial change then recreated matter of trauma in his mind.

Later, Wallace is captured by Howard. Howard turned Wallace into a walrus. Then, he keeps telling Wallace about his story. Wallace could not speak anything since his morphological form is different from before. In this dialogue, Howards revealed his bad memories to Wallace in how many people around him always disappointed him in many ways. He put blame to the others. He is only a victim that could do nothing else. This is seen below;

[0.53.59 – 0.56.26]

Howe : (O.C.) Uh-oh! Someone's looking for Walllllll-accce!

Howe : (CONT'D) It must feel nice knowing there's someone out there who cares about you.

Howe : (CONT'D) That's how I felt on the island - with dear, sweet Tusk. He was the only living thing that ever had my best interests at heart. Even

in my childhood, I was not cared for so much as... filed away - like a document. A document fed into shredding machine that was fueled by the blood of the innocent. (beat) You see, I am a Duplessis Orphan...

Howe : (V.O.) Maurice Duplessis was the Premier of Quebec in those days - the head of the conservative party Union Nationale. He was an advocate for rural Canadians - a union-busting anti-Communist crusading for provincial rights, with strong ties to the Catholic Church. And it was in secret collusion with these charlatans of the Lord that Duplessis brought upon Quebec La Grande Noirceur. "The Great Darkness". He shakes it off and goes back to sewing what we can't see.

Howe : (CONT'D) They say there are three subjects one must always avoid at a dinner party, so as not to make people feel... uncomfortable: religion, politics and sex. And yet it was these same sinister forces - this infernal triumvirate - that destroyed my childhood and made it so very... uncomfortable.

Howe : (V.O.) When I was just a boy, my Mother and Father took me to Montreal. As a child of the plains, I had never seen anything so big and beautiful in my entire life. (Smith, 2014)

Howard thought that he has been alone all this time. He blamed not only individuals, but also structures as well. Therefore, he told Wallace about the Quebecois prime minister. The policy at that time prolonged matter of religion, especially Catholic. Later, that religion systemically brought wrath upon him. The society could not do anything and the religion worsened the situation evermore (Catsoulis, 2014; Roeper, 2014). By revealing his past memories to Wallace, that action has also triggered the trauma that will later bring revenge as another wrath done to Wallace.

The trauma of Howard keeps following in his story to Wallace. Both of his parents are dead because of such robbery. Indeed, it brought more disappointment in himself since he could not protect his parents and even himself. The ideas are indicated below;

INT MONTREAL BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

High overhead on a mugging scene. Two thugs hold Howe's parents at knifepoint while the boy looks on terrified. The Father hands over his wallet and is knifed viciously. The Mother's throat is slashed and the attackers flee, leaving Howe with his dying parents.

Howe : (V.O.) But when night falls in Montreal... the horrors come out to play. As we walked to dinner, we found ourselves accosted by brigands in a back alley. My Father was stabbed repeatedly by a mugger's knife. My Mother's throat was slashed, as if she were cattle.

Howe : The police called it a miracle that I was spared. Yet in the years of nights that followed, I would wish I, too, had been dispatched with my beloved parents, and spared an eventual fate worse than death. (Smith, 2014)

The proof above includes another terror that Howard felt in his life. He tells in details about how his parents were killed to Wallace. He remembered everything all this time. He did not hate his parents for leaving him alone. He put

the blame to the killers. Moreover, he also blamed the police since what they did was only comforting him. He has planted such unfaithful revenge in himself to be applied to other person later.

His bad destinies continued when he was put in a boarding house for orphans. He did not have other choice than following his destinies. The government and religion indeed took care of him, but it is not free at all. He has to feel others' feeling with similar bad understanding to him. Those are included below;

Howe : (V.O.) At ten years old with no known living relatives, I was placed in a Quebec home for abandoned boys.

Inside the office, we can see two priests and a nun argue, pointing to the young Howe on the other side of the door.

Howe : (V.O.) I was a true orphan: robbed of both my parents by the dirty blades of French Canadian sociopaths.

Howe : (V.O.) However, many of my fellow orphans were not orphans at all - they were only categorized as such following forced separation from their unwed mothers at the behest of the powerful Catholic Church.

Howe : (V.O.) The church of that era destroyed generations of Canadian families with her divine license to yank bastard children from the arms of their Mothers.

Howe : (V.O.) But hungry babies are costly babies. And as the budgets of the state-financed orphanages soared, so too did the imaginations of Duplessis and the heads of the Catholic Church in Quebec. (Smith, 2014)

In the quotation above, he blamed both the government and Catholic Church to bring worse wrath upon him. He knows that his life is not good at all, yet people structurally destructed him in the following. He explains how orphanage is also result of Catholic's selfishness (Smith, 2014). That egoism could not go with the budget of the government and will shape other bad aspects to the children later.

The other proof is about his life being falsified as undignified people. He already lost his humanly life. He is only left with himself being unknown to others. Even he could no longer understand himself. However, he keeps learning from the perpetrators. Those are exposed in the following;

Howe : (V.O.) And this is what happened to me. A priest I never met falsified my records and labelled me mentally deficient - all so Quebec and the church could gorge themselves on the government teat.

Howe : (V.O.) And for the next five years, I was raped. Beaten. Tortured. One night, I was even filleted for experimentation - like a dead frog. All to feed the greed of monsters I would never even meet.

Howe : (V.O.) My humanity was peeled away like the shell of a peanut as I endured unnecessary surgeries at the hands of the aberrant. I was not a person to them - I was something to be used. And use me they did. But I used them as well. As they worked, I watched. I adapted. I learned.

Howe : One needn't curse the Lord to know of Hell - simply ask an orphan. You see, an orphan has no advocate - nobody to fight for them. And with

no one to answer to for their horrid crimes, these devils ran amuck with my innocence. (Smith, 2014)

He was helpless at that time. It does not really clear whether he was raped or being such experiment of other people. It could be both either. What is clear to him is that he gained more knowledge as a sufferer. The knowledge is flourished from his trauma.

The last proof is how he detailed himself being a victim of a torture. He was only a child at that time without any guardian for his future. He must choose whether to stay or to run. Those are involved in the following;

Howe : (CONT'D) I have had things in my mouth that no human being should be forced to taste. I have had... instruments... shoved inside of me that no human being should ever have to endure. Priests, politicians, pederasts, nuns, nurses and night watchmen - all of them witches, satisfying their most base physical and financial desires... through the lips and sphincter of a child.

Howe : (V.O.) At age 15, I managed to escape - at which time I fled from Canada. I joined the American military, got on a boat and never looked back.

Howe : (CONT'D) Man is a savage animal, Mister Brighton.

Howe : (CONT'D) Better to be a walrus instead. (Smith, 2014)

Then, he chose to run away and fled to America. He has survived from hell. However, his feeling to do revenge did not fade away. It keeps piling to the top waiting to explode someday. It is stated in how his hatred is not for himself, but towards all human beings. That thought then reached its peak when he was saved by a walrus but he has to kill it later (Catsoulis, 2014). In this case, he regretted himself for killing the one that has saved him. It is due to his trauma that shaped his inhuman action, including towards any other creature.

It was not only the tragedy of the sinking of the ship that Howard experienced, but also from the past that he had. When Howard operated on Wallace and made him a walrus, Howard talked about his past, which included seeing his parents killed, being sent to an orphanage, being beaten, and being raped by others. After he finished operating on Wallace, he said that it is better to be a walrus. He has lost hope on human being and he could not do otherwise than made Wallace a walrus. At the end, Howard fought Wallace in his walrus-like costume (Smith, 2014). Wallace has been transformed into a walrus either and Howards used him so that Wallace could kill him. Howard then is killed and left Wallace alone. Indeed, the suffering never ends since it is Wallace's turn now as a walrus.

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Its Continuation

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is a condition of unreasonable thought patterns and fears (obsessions) that make a person perform repetitive behaviors (compulsive) (Indira et al., 2021; Nevid et al., 2018). The definition of OCD exposes intertwined ideas between repetitive thoughts with an increase in anxiety, distress, or guilt and repetitive behaviors designed to reduce anxiety or discomfort caused by repetitive thoughts. Both repetitive thoughts and behaviors

could be normally seen, negotiated, or even deeply buried in someone's everyday life (Rahmawati et al., 2019; Salkovskis, 1999). The main idea between them two is closely related to neurotic anxiety that may be triggered anytime someone feels insecure in such period.

Obsessive behavior would always like "to have" something deeply by embracing it well. In many cases, the idea of being obsessive is due to losing someone or something crucially important to someone or as the victim of former obsessive behavior in the past (Dykshoorn, 2014; Salkovskis, 1999). Both of them may happen simultaneously and stay behind in unconscious level. The sufferers may continue their lives afterwards but somehow the feeling of being obsessive may still follow (Indira et al., 2021; Salkovskis, 1999). In some cases, the former cause is happening due to losing family members or the one he/she loved before and the latter is because he/she was being obsessed by someone in the old time.

Matter of OCD could not be separated from the understanding between the three aspects about it. They are about being obsessive, compulsive, and the disorder itself. Obsessions is defined as recurrent and persistent thoughts, impulses, or images that are experienced, at some time during the disorder, as intrusive and inappropriate and cause real anxiety or distress (Anaya & Ghazali, 2021; Dykshoorn, 2014). People with obsessive thoughts, impulses, or images attempt to ignore, to suppress such things, or to neutralize them with other thoughts or actions. The person realizes that such obsessive ideas are the product of his or her own mind towards known reality (not imposed from outside as in thought insertion).

Not everyone may understand that he/she has such obsessive understanding. If the person realizes it, then he/she will oppress it so that others may not see it. It is due to being obsessive to something is not quite normal in common society. Therefore, in order to be normal, the sufferer must hide his/her obsessive identity (Dykshoorn, 2014; Indira et al., 2021). If he/she does not understand his/her condition, other people will tell about it through direct or subtle utterance. The main idea is similar from the former since his/her thought and behavior are not suited to matter of society.

Why he/she does not understand the situation is ultimately because the obsession is related to trauma. It is located deep down in unconscious level of human being (Indira et al., 2021; Mudarsa, 2021). Somehow, people could only see the fruit or the twig out of it, yet the root is unknown. Even the sufferer could not explain exactly what is happening to them. In psychological aspect, the matter of trauma could be healed. The main idea is not to give medicine (as many psychiatrists would do), but to make the sufferer realizes what is bothering his/her mind (Anaya & Ghazali, 2021; Dykshoorn, 2014). He/she must confront the trauma by him/herself then resolve it not by doing revenge but by forgiving what has been done in the past.

Compulsive is defined as repetitive behaviors such as washing hands, checking things, commands or actions such as praying, counting, repeating words that the person feels compelled to do. It is done as a response to an obsession, or according to rules that must be rigidly applied (Beiling et al., 2023; Vioreanu, 2022). Mental behavior or actions are aimed at preventing or reducing

distress or preventing feared events or things. However, these mental actions are also not realistically related to what they are designed to prevent or exaggerate (Anaya & Ghozali, 2021; Dykshoorn, 2014).

The one with this compulsive behavior feels that he/she must do something repetitively by him/herself only (Mudarsa, 2021; Vioreanu, 2022). He/she thinks that he/she is the one responsible for that though no one accuses him/her to do that action. Here, the behavior symbolizes idea that he/she is not in safe position and must always check and re-check what has been done before. In many aspects, perfectionism is also matter of this behavior. In severe conditions, the sufferers could not live peacefully since he/she is always worried by trivial aspects while the big things are often being forgotten in the process.

Some reasons behind compulsive behavior is having problem then needs to run away from reality, decompressing anxiety that may shadow someone, biological as in brain dysfunction, and so on (Nevid et al., 2018; Vioreanu, 2022). In more severe condition, this behavior is quite related to the obsessive point in the former. He/she thinks that he/she "needs to" do something repeatedly. The reasons could be so horrific in the past such as being a victim of domination and dictation from others. Inability to do a crucial thing, or reflection of such regrets of an action in the past. The one with this behavior always needs to be in control in which it is not suitable for being normal in matter of common society as well. However, the control is such illusion since what is dominating is actually id that has risen beyond ego and superego (Nevid et al., 2018; Taylor et al., 2007). The sufferers with the winning id also experience such neurotic or severe anxiety in which the only way to comfort him/her is only by satisfying the needs every time.

Disorder can be defined as a set of problems, which cause significant difficulty, distress, annoyance or suffering in a person's daily life. Oxford English dictionary defines disorder as an illness that interferes with normal physical or mental functioning, and it is fair to say that Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder meets those criteria (Taylor et al., 2007; Vioreanu, 2022). The main idea of disorder is the reverse of in order. In this aspect, disorder is something that is related to chaos. It is not in regular basis everyday life. In common term, disorder is out of any normalcy, and could be considered as abnormality.

Indeed, everyone may have disorder in each of him or her, though not in the same level. For the light level, being always in perfection or getting easy to embrace anxiety is quite common for people. It may happen all the time due to the demand of the society to its member. In the medium level, anxiety in which it may create disorder is negotiated between individual and societal life (Beiling et al., 2023; Rahmawati et al., 2019). He/she understands the demand of on self and from common people. He/she must stay firm or even conform to the norms. Both could not be rejected but indeed negotiated. In the severe level, the disorder is quite neurotic since it deeply involves matter of unconsciousness. The sufferer will do something based on what he/she really desires and neglects how society thinks about it (Beiling et al., 2023; Taylor et al., 2007). The doers never consider if it is being abnormal since he/she is no longer owner of his/her mind. He/she

is totally controlled by the desire in which it has been triggered by bad memories in the past.

Reflection of OCD on *Tusk* movie

Based on the data findings and theories that have been explained, the authors analyze the dialogues contained in the film *Tusk* that show the relationship of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder in the film *Tusk*. In the movie, one of the characters has OCD that he continues to do experimenting repeatedly for his regret in the past (Catsoulis, 2014). The depiction of one of his rooms shows that he glorifies the animal. Even the obsession of one of the characters has reached the level of hurting others. One of the symptoms possessed by people who have a history of OCD is hurting others or hurting themselves, as Howard did to Wallace by amputating one of his legs first on minutes of [0.34.30-0.40.00] (Smith, 2014). Hurting others is the way in which Howard realizes his desire.

Even in time of [0.52.56 - 0.56.34] Howard Howe's operating room is shown in a picture of a human bone frame with a walrus bone that will be made into one. Here, it is portrayed that here too Howard has dared to hurt his victims and has even made his victims as walrus. In the time of [1.03.17 - 1.03.20], Wallace saw one of other Howard's victims (Smith, 2014). From the scene, it can be said that Howard is an OCD sufferer that will do things repeatedly until he reaches his satisfaction as intention to bring such comfort to own mind. Even in [1.06.03 - 1.06.07], one of the characters named Guy said that Howard had trapped and killed someone 23 times for the results of his experiment (Smith, 2014).

In the scene of [1.24.44 - 1.25.38], Howard tells that he regrets when he was so hungry that he ate the raw meat of a walrus. OCD is not only hereditary, but it can also be caused by trauma and regret. In this scene, Howard kills the walrus that has accompanied him because he was starving. This scene confirms that Howard had a very deep regret and curiosity about why the walrus did not fight him (Roeper, 2014; Smith, 2014). This regret and curiosity triggered how he became obsessed with walrus and made his victims into one.

At [1.27.18 - 1.27.53], Howard told Wallace to fight with him because of his curiosity why the seal he found at that time did not fight him and even just gave up (Smith, 2014). Here, Howard is portrayed as an ambitious and curious person seen in how he did all the actions to satisfy his curiosity and regret for the walrus. His obsession to walrus is clear since it is his regret in the past (Catsoulis, 2014; Roeper, 2014). He could not give the best to walrus since he has killed it for survival. However, he does not blame himself for doing so, yet he puts it to other people.

In the analysis of the film regarding OCD, there are several aspects need to be underlined. First, Howard's deed in making other people as walrus is not only due to his bad memories with walrus. It is also about his bad past in being lonely since his parents were killed that night. A disorder is not an instant situation but such result of worst aspects that have been piled up from time to time (Rahmawati et al., 2019; Taylor et al., 2007). The obsessive feeling of Howard is because he has lost his parents and he needs persons to be attached with him. The needs are so crucial for him yet it has been transformed in obsession. The

compulsion is the one that shapes such disorder since he actually must save the walrus than kill it (Smith, 2014). His inability to process idea of a savior has made him to become compulsive in doing experiment in the mirror of a walrus.

Second, what he did with the walrus is also reasonable for survival. However, what he did actually is because he has lost his hope for humanity. His history of being alone in the past does not allow him to better to the others (Catsoulis, 2014; Nevid et al., 2018). The existence of the walrus has triggered his past to come to surface. His hidden desire has dominated him ever since. This move is interesting since it shows such normalcy at first in matter of survival. Howard is in vain, as the ship he was working on is sinking. He must survive by eating and the walrus is his only option. The twist of the plot is indicated when Howard revealed his past to Wallace (Roeper, 2014). The walrus is not the only reason in doing the experiment since his memories of losing his parents also support that condition.

Third, Howard's past memories shaped such revenge to be applied in his experiment. Indeed, he had bad experience in structural aspects, especially from the government and Catholic Church (Smith, 2014). However, he could not realize his revenge to those structures. He could only attack societal aspects in which people are part of its members. Therefore, he keeps doing experiments from time to time to many people as he thinks that other individuals are also as bad as the structures that surround them. He may know that he was wrong in making others as parts of a walrus. However, his desire is winning all this time, making himself doing the experiments to satisfy his basic need that is being obsessive and compulsive as well (Catsoulis, 2014; Roeper, 2014).

Fourth, the movie exposes that trauma could not healed over time. Howard's experience proves that his experience as an American military and a well-known cook did not eradicate his bad past memories (Smith, 2014). Those keep haunting him and waiting to dominate him. In matter of psychoanalysis, what Howard experience is the takeover done by the id by defeating ego and superego. Howard's ego has gone since his main intention is conquering him. He also neglects superego since he no longer believes human beings as the ones that could protect the society (Catsoulis, 2014; Roeper, 2014). He is the one that he thinks could bring justice to society that is by blaming others and making them to suffer as what he has felt all this time.

From all of the analyses above, the movie depicts Howard as the one that suffers OCD. Based on the results that have been researched, OCD sufferers may hurt themselves and can even hurt others (Nevid et al., 2018; Roeper, 2014). It is like one of the characters from the movie *Tusk* that has a very high obsession to do insane experiments and even kill their victims. It is already dangerous for people who suffer from it. Therefore, it takes awareness as a person who suffers from it and those closest to him to carry out treatment for sufferers.

CONCLUSION

The movie *Tusk* shows Howard as an OCD sufferers. His action to kill other people and to make them as a walrus is pushed by his past memories. He is dominated by his desire needs to be always satisfied. He keeps punishing other

people for his own blame. He could not save his parents killed by the bad people. Even he killed the walrus then ate it that has saved him from severe coldness. He is obsessed with walrus and keeps doing repetitive experiment by making others into it. This is due to his neurotic anxiety that has made id wins repeatedly in his life.

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