THE AGGRESSIVE JACK TORRANCE IN THE SHINING BY STEPHEN KING: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This thesis with a title The Aggressive Jack Torrance in The Shining by Stephen King: A Psychological Analysis. This thesis is a literature study of with the help of psychological theory as a tool to examine the story. Wellek and Warren (1949) opinion about the connection of psychology and literature is the foundation of this thesis. According to their opinion, there is a connection between two of the study. Literature and Psychology analyze human being as their subject of study. The theories that writer borrows from psychology discipline are: Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs that divide human needs into class. This needs have to be fulfilled in order to function properly as a human being. Second theory in this thesis is Stress and Coping which explains the definition of stress according to Lazarus and Folkman. The last theory is Frustration-Aggression by John Dollard that describes the aggressive reaction of a frustrated person that cannot attain their goal. There are three research questions that this thesis explain, which are: what happens to Jack Torrance according to psychological theory?, what is Jack Torrance’s main source of frustration in the story?, and what is the example of Jack Torrance’s aggressiveness? This thesis uses qualitative method. Data of this research is from the novel and the film. Several books have a purpose as references to analyze the data and support this research. In collecting data, the writer uses the technique of reading the book and watching the film repeatedly to find out the contents of the story. The result of this study is, the writer learn what happen to Jack Torrance character in The Shining with the aid of psychological theory. The conclusion from this thesis is Jack Torrance can not fulfills his needs to function properly as a human being. Jack Torrance can not accomplish his goals in life, which make him stress because it pressures and frustrates him. This frustration, turns into aggression that Jack Torrance take out to the closest people to him, which is his family, Wendy and Danny. Jack Torrance main source of frustration is his dilemma. He has to choose whether he should be a good husband and father or be a loyal hotel caretaker. Should he take his son to come down into Sidewinder or should he take care of Overlook Hotel, and keep his family at Overlook without medical assistance for his son. Jack Torrance aggressiveness towards his wife and son is the same as the theory
according to Dollard and Miller opinion, a man will be frustrated if he cannot fulfill his needs or accomplish his goal. A frustrated man will behave aggressively towards another object or another human to release his anger. This target shall be someone who very close to him. Jack Torrance’s frustration toward Ullman because he brings up about his past, that is why Jack is mad at Ulman and become more aggressive toward him. Jack Torrance’s frustration toward George Hatfield is because of Jack is jealous of him. It is because George has everything Jack ever dreamt of. And when George cut Jack’s tire out of revenge, Jack beats George up very badly, using unnecessary force because he always hated him. Jack Torrance’s frustration towards his wife, Wendy is because she asks too much question, Jack believes that she always blamed him for everything that happens to Danny, it is because of one-time accident. Jack hurt Danny once, but Wendy never forgive him for that. Jack’s frustration toward his son, Danny is because he does not obey everything Jack said. All of this Jack frustration is turning into an aggression by Jack, which is a mean to release his anger.

Keywords: Aggressive, The Shining, psychological, plot, analysis.

INTRODUCTION

One day, the writer scrolled through his YouTube Feed, and found something really interesting, that is Stephen King’s 2013 BBC Interview. In this interview, the author explains how he does not like the film adaptation of his book. He hates the portrayal of Jack Torrance, one of his main characters in The Shining film by Stanley Kubrick. Stephen King is one of the best contemporary writers. This is proven by his National Medal of Arts given to him by the American President, Mr. Barrack Obama in 2015. According to National Endowment of Art (2020), it is an award for the purpose of honoring artist and patrons of the arts, the highest honor given by the United States government. He is a very productive writer, King is famous for how diligent he writes. King productivity made him famous for many books, such as Carrie (1974), Salem’s Lot (1975), The Shining (1977), Dark Tower (1982), Pet Sematary (1983), IT (1986), Doctor Sleep (2013). The last book mentioned is a follow up sequel to The Shining.

At the time of writing this thesis, the writer could not find any published Stephen King’s 2013 British Broadcasting Corporation Interview. It seems that the BBC removed all the remaining footprints of the Interview, because the channel that uploaded the interview does not have any permission by the BBC and it certainly does not have copyright to upload it on YouTube. BBC took down all of the YouTube videos regarding the Stephen King BBC Interview by copyright strike the videos. It seems that
the content of the interview is an exclusive BBC content. Therefore, the writer cannot make the video as a references in this study. One of Stephen King’s novels, The Shining, is a well-known piece of literature, and adapted into film in 1980, three years after the novel was published. This is a fast adaptation, considering the book first published in 1977. Stanley Kubrick’s film adaptation of The Shining is a successful project. In the hand of the famous director, Kubrick, The Shining become an instant classic, and still talked about even after 40 years since it was released.

As a proof that The Shining is still talked about after 40 years, the writer used The Shining Theory as a keyword in YouTube, there are many Youtubers who still talk about The Shining. There is Reddit forum that called Official Stephen King Subreddit Discussion - The Shining. The writer had to use Virtual Private Network to access the website because of Reddit is not available in Indonesia. Back to the topic, it is unfortunate that the writer cannot list Stephen King 2013 BBC interview in the essay. Luckily for the writer, there is an article that based its topic on the said interview. According to voi.id (2020), a Jakarta-based website, in his own words, “Kubrick knew what he wanted to do with the story, he hired a novelist, Diane Johnson for writing the script and he tidy it himself. I am truly disapointed.” According to Stephen King, we must understand the backstory of the Jack Torrance character, which is absent from the movie. Another false decision from Kubrick is how he ends the film. In the novel, Crazy Jack snaps out from his madness and for some quick second he come back normal and tries to tell his son and wife to run. Meanwhile, in the film, Jack freezes and dies after he cannot outrun Danny in the Hedge-Maze. King said that Kubrick tried to eliminate the human side of Jack Torrance who is stricken with madness.

The comment from Stephen King quoted from the article makes the writer interested in understanding more about the novel. In order to prepare for the thesis, the writer read the novel twice to understand more in depth about Jack Torrance character. The writer will specifically analyze Jack Torrance as a character, his motivation and what drives him, in The Shining novel.

The Shining was first published in 1977, by Doubleday publisher consisting of 357 pages. It is a story which takes place in Overlook Hotel, a big and isolated hotel located in the Rocky Mountain, Colorado. The story follows the life of Jack, his wife, Wendy and their five year old boy, Danny. They have to move into the hotel after Jack accepts a work from his friend, as a winter caretaker. The hotel is closed because of the
supposedly high maintenance during the harsh winter. The maintenance will cost much more than the money they will ever get, even if it is fully occupied. Jack himself is a writer and recovering alcoholic. Before the start of the story, Jack loses his job in school after assaulting a student. He is a temperamental man, as we learn that Jack break his son’s arm before the story begins. Jack hopes that because of his job in an isolated hotel, there will be plenty of time to reconnect and reconcile with his family, and the silence will give him concentration to work on his playwriting.

The problem arises when Danny start to hallucinate seeing ghost and visions. Danny does not tell this to his parents. Danny think if he talk to them about it, his mom will forced his dad to leave the hotel. If this happens, Jack will lose his job as hotel’s caretaker. He understand that this job is important for his Father. Danny believe that The Overlook has interest in him, but it has difficulty possessing him, so it begins to possess his father. Jack becomes increasingly unstable, destroying a CB radio and a Snowcat mobile. Jack pursues Danny into the hotel’s top floor. In climax, Jack snap back to himself and tells his son to run, at the same time, he batter his own face with the mallet. Jack dies in the hotel’s explosion because he does not remember about the boiler when he chases his family around.

From the short summary above there are three main problems that this thesis will adresses, which are: what happens to Jack Torrance according to psychological theory?, what is Jack Torrance’s main source of frustration in the story?, and what is the example of Jack Torrance’s aggressiveness?. writer will analyze what happens to Jack Torrance and what is his main problems using Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs. Jack Torrance has needs that unfulfilled in the novel, that is why the writer will use Hierarchy of needs by Maslow (1943), to understand what needs that goes unfulfilled. When Jack does not get his need fulfilled, he will become prone to stress, which explained by Stress and coping theory by Lazarus and Folkman (1984). This frustrates Jack and it makes him more aggressive, which explained in Frustration-aggression theory by John Dollard and Neil Miller (1939).

METHODOLOGY

This thesis research design is a qualitative research. It is defined as a research method that aims to describe a situation or a phenomenon. It can use wide variety of
methods to investigate one or more variables. The researcher only observes and measure variables. The purpose of using the descriptive method is to analyze the character of Jack Torrance in The Shining by Stephen King. According to Bogdan and Biken, “Qualitative research is descriptive. Words and picture is a form of data collection rather than numbers. The written results of the research contains quotations from the data to illustrate the presentation. Photographs, video tapes, interview transcripts, field notes, personal documents, memos, and other official records is examples of the data collection.” (2007, p 5) Above is a quotation of a statement from Bogdan and Bilken about qualitative research. This thesis also uses qualitative method. The qualitative method is a type of research that allows interpretation of the researches via observation that the research do. This thesis uses a qualitative descriptive method to identify and understand the character of Jack Torrance in The Shining.

This thesis is using University of 17 Agustus 1945 as a research site. The participant and instruments of this thesis is non-existent, because the writer uses novel as an object of study. Method of data collection is a technique to get information and reference that related to the research. This thesis is using documentation technique, the steps of collecting data is the writer read the novel twice. At the first time, writer spent 6 hours read in one sitting. And then, writer note all of the important details of the Jack Torrance character. The second time of reading, writer spent 3 hours to read the important details, note it again, and match it with the theory that writer want to use to analyze the character. Data analysis in this thesis uses the interpretation of the story itself. As a note, this interpretation is based on psychological theory which mentioned above.

Collecting Data is the part where this thesis truly begins. The first thing that the writer do is to read the book for 6 hours in one sitting. This is where the writer of the thesis collecting the data, note and highlight focus areas in The Shining. The purpose of collecting the data is to understand the Character traits of Jack Torrance. After the writer read for 6 hours and note the focus areas in The Shining, the next step is to read and understand the base of this thesis, the opinion of Rene Wellek and Austin Warren that making a clear connection of literature and psychology. After understanding the contents of their opinion, the writer read about psychological theory book and choose the best theory to analyze Jack Torrance character. After that, writer re-read The Shining for 3 hours with the theory of psychology in mind, and highlight the most
important part of it. After that what the writer do is to check again all of the note and all of the pages that previously writer highlighted. This where the writer analyzes the character of Jack Torrance and learn his personality to judge input it based on the theory available. Reporting is the last step of analyzing data. After completing the data, what writer do is to reporting the analyzed result of the analysis. Writer write the thesis with the title; Aggressive Jack Torrance in The Shining by Stephen King: A Psychological Analysis.

DISCUSSION

First and foremost, the writer want to declare that all the psychological theory that will be mentioned below is just borrowed theories from psychology discipline as a mean to understand psychological phenomenon in literature. This thesis is a literature thesis with the help of psychology theory.

*What happens to Jack Torrance*

This section hopefully will explain and answer the research question. The purpose of this thesis is to describe what happens to Jack Torrance due to his inability to fulfill his needs according to Theory of needs by Abraham Maslow. In order to discuss this section, the writer first return to the research question. As you can see above, the first question is “What happens to Jack Torrance according to psychological theory?” Pyschological theory is the keyword to start the discussion. First and foremost, the writer will present the theory in this thesis.

According to Abraham H. Maslow, in his book, A Theory of Human Motivation: Psychological Review (1943, p. 245), “There are five categories of human needs that dictate an individual’s behavior. Those needs are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.” The first need on Maslow’s hierarchy are physiological needs. This first needs are the most basic human needs in order to survive. The examples are food and water. It is known as a fact that human can survive 3 days without water and 3 weeks without food. This is why it is considered as basic human needs, because without them, human will die. Another physiological needs are rest, clothing, sex and shelter. These basic human needs must be addressed before human move on to the next level of fulfillment.
According to Maslow (1970, p.38) “It is true that a man live for a food when there is no food that he can afford. When a man could not fulfill his physiological needs, their only purpose in life is to fulfill it by all means”. One of the basic physiological needs is rest. Human needs to rest his body and mind in order to function normally. In this sequence we can understand that Jack Torrance character did not get enough rest. As we can see in the quotation here “It was ten o’clock. Their quarters were filled with counterfeit sleep” (King, 1977, p. 147)

In this sequence we can understand the manifestation of Jack Torrance’s lack of rest. Jack Torrance becomes so mad about irrelevant things. Jack Torrance also feeling pain in his head, and he is chewing painkillers in order to surpress or reduce that pain.

…There had been a bottle of Excedrin on the telephone table tonight after Al had called him, but no water glass. He had been chewing them again. He got irritated over little things. She had begun to worry about his temper, too.

(King, 1977, p. 150)

Notice that the writer describe Jack’s sleep as uneasy and shallow sleep. Jack Torrance sleep quality is very bad. We understand that from Wendy Torrance sentences, she says that Jack spends all his time down the cellar, wasting his time there. In a way, Jack is tiring himself. “In his shallow, uneasy sleep his face rose before him as if in a glass” (King, 1977, p. 175). This is the evidence of Jack Torrance’s lack of rest:

“Danny said it just right. The place seemed good for you. You were away from all the presures that made you so unhappy at Stovington. You were your own boss, working with your hands so you could save your brain-- all of your brain-- for your evening writing. Then … I don’t know just when … the place began to seem bad for you. Spending all that time down the cellar, sifting through those old papers, all that old history. Talking in your sleep--”

“ In my sleep?” Jack asked. His face wore a caustious, strartled expression. “I talk in my sleep?”

(King, 1977, p. 190)

According to the evidence from the novel above, we can safely assume that Jack Torrance’s lack of sleep is an unfulfillment of Maslow’s Hierarchy needs of physiological needs. Next, among the lower-level need s is safety. Safety needs include protection from violence and theft, emotional stability, well-being, health security, and financial security. Wasps stung Danny’s hand. This is an example of unfulfillment of
health security. Maslow once said (1970, p.246) “Man will look for safety needs if their physiological needs is fulfilled.” So, according to this theory, it is another needs that Jack Torrance cannot fulfilled, the sense of security for his family. As we can read in the followings:

He woke with a sudden indrawn gasp, sitting bolt upright in bed, eyes wide and staring into the darkness, hand crossed in front of his face.

Something on one hand. Crawling.

Wasps. Three of them.

They stung him them, seeming to needle all at once, and that was when all the images broke apart and fell on him in a dark flood and he began to shriek into the dark, the wasps clinging to his left hand. Stinging again and again.

(King, 1977, p. 107)

This instance, we can learn that this sequence begins just after Jack Torrance calls Ulman and tells him that he knows everything about the hotel’s bloody history. It is because of his ego that Jack calls Ulman. The consequences for Jack is he can lose his job. This is an example of Jack Torrance unfulfillment of safety needs. The needs of protection from feeling fear of uncertainty.

He supposed he could have made this obligatory thank-you call to Al from home; he certainly wasn’t going to say anything Wendy would object to. It was his pride that said no. These days he almost always listened to what his pride told him to do, because along with his wife, his son, six hundred dollars in a checking account, and one weary 1968 Volkswagen, his pride was all that was left. The only thing that was his. Even the checking account was joint.

(King, 1977, p. 36)

This is the evidence of Jack Torrance’s anxious feeling. Anxious is an example of unfulfillment of safety needs of emotional stability. Later, we can understand that the anxious feeling that Jack Torrance get is because Ulman talks about Jack’s past. To remembers all the bad thing is what makes Jack Torrance anxious. “What had followed that interview in Crommert’s office had been the darkest, most dreadful night of his life.” (King, 1977, p. 37). We can learn about the past that Jack and Ulman discusses in a more complete story via the dialogue from another character below:

“Your daddy was coaching the debate team, Danny. Do you remember that?”

“Sure, there was a boy named George Hatfield that Daddy had to cut from the team. That means he was not as good as some of the others. George said your daddy cut him because he did not like him and not because he was not good enough. Then George did a bad thing. I think you know about that.”
“Was he the one who put holes in our bug’s tires?”
“Yes, he was. It was after school and your daddy caught him doing it. Sometimes he does things he is sorry for later. Sometimes he does not think the way he should. This does not happen very often, but sometimes it does…. Your daddy hit George to make him stop cutting the tires and George hit his head. Then the men who are in charge of the school said tat George could not go there anymore and your Daddy could not teach there anymore.”
(King, 1977, p. 20)

Jack Torrance feels guilty because of an accident with Al Shockley. This accident is what makes Jack in the story try very hard to stop drinking alcohol. Because he and Al Shockley drink very much that night that they unknowingly kill a children. This memory is one of the reason of his unstable emotion. As we can read in the followings:

It had finally ended one night less than a month after Jack had broken his son’s arm. That , it seemed to him , had ended his marriage. All that remained was for Wendy to gather her will… if her mother was not a bitch, he knew, Wendy would have taken a bus back to New Hampshire as soon as Danny had been okay to travel, it was over. It had been a little past midnight. Jack and Al were coming into Barre on U.S. 31, Al behind the wheel of his Jaguar, shifting fancily on the curves, sometimes crossing the double yellow line. They were both very drunk; the martians had landed that night in force. They came around the last curve before the bridge at seventy, and there was a kid’s bike in the road, and then the sharp, hurt squealing as rubber shredded from the Jaguar’s tires, and Jack remembered seeing Al’s face looming over the steering wheel like a round white moon. Then the jingling crashing sound as they hit the bike at forty, and it had flown up like a bent and twisted bird, the handlebars striking the windshield, and then it was in the air again, leaving the starred safety glass in front of Jack’s bulging eyes. A moment later he heard the final dreadful smash as it landed on the road behind them. Something thumped underneath them as the tires passed over it. The Jaguar drifted around broadside, Al still jockeying the wheel, and from far away Jack heard himself saying “Jesus, Al. We ran him down. I felt it.”
(King, 1977, p. 39)

According to the evidences above, we can safely assume that Danny Torrance health issue that he get from bee stings is an example of unfulfillment of safety needs on health. Another example is Jack Torrance fear of loosing his job. This is an example of unfulfillment of safety needs on protection of fear. And the last is Jack Torrance guilt over past events, his past sins. This is an example of unfulfillment on emotional stability. We can safely assume that Jack Torrance needs of safety is unfulfilled.
In the third level of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is social needs. These needs relate to human interaction and are the last of lower needs. Among these needs are friendships and family bonds, both with biological family (parents, siblings, and children) and chosen family (spouses and partners). Physical and emotional intimacy ranging from sexual relationships to intimate emotional bonds.

As mentioned earlier, Abraham Maslow divided people who need love into 3 groups, which are the group of people who has received love since childhood. If this group of people don’t receive love when they are mature, or they get rejection, they will not mad and they will receive it with a big heart.

Second group is the group of people who has never received love at all. This group of people could not receive any kind of love and deevaluate the meaning of love. The last group is the group of people who has received a little bit of love. This group will be motivated into searching about the meaning of love. This group have a great need for love than those who has received love since childhood.

According to this group classification, Jack Torrance’s character belong to the second group, the group who has never received love at all and never feel owned. As we can see in Jack Torrance’s memory of his childhood, Jack Torrance was his father’s favorite. But don’t let the quote below fools you, because it is a false memory by Jack Torrance, it will be explained after this quotation below:

“Goddamn scavanger birds,” his dad would say, "do not feed them, Jackie.” But they would both end up feeding them, and giggling at the way they ran after the nuts, the greedy they ran after the nuts. Jack did not think the old man had ever taken his brothers to the park. Jack had been his favorite, and even so Jack had taken his lumps when the old man was drunk, which was a lot of the time. But Jack had loved him for as long as he was able, long after the rest of the family could only hate and fear him.

(King, 1977, p. 161)

This memory is a false memory, this is an edited memory. Jack Torrance character is known as a character who like to change his memory. According to how Jack Torrance point of view, all of his experiences of bad things that happens to him is not his fault at all. Everything is done to him, not the reaction of his action, Jack does not want to be responsible of his own action. Jack believes that It is not Jack that snaps Danny’s arm, but it is Danny who screws up Jack’s work by spilling Jack’s beer. Jack views himself as a father, he has to disciplined Danny. (this is not how you disciplined
your 3 years old son). It is not Jack who beats George Hatfield up, but it is George who cuts Jack’s car. Jack views himself as a teacher, he has to disciplined George. (Jack should have report George to the school security, not taking things into his own hands. As we can see on the quotation below:

How else should you explained the things that had happened to him? For he still felt that the while range of unhappy Stovington experiences had to be looked at with Jack Torrance in the passive mode. He had not done things; things had been done to him.

(King, 1977, p. 88)

As we can understand from quotation and evidence above, Jack Torrance belongs to the group of people who never get love. Jack Torrance is a character that love to edit the reality. Jack Torrance character is known as a character who like to change his memory. According to how Jack Torrance point of view, all of his experiences of bad things that happens to him is not his fault at all. Everything is done to him, not the reaction of his action, Jack does not want to be responsible of his own action. The evidence of Jack Torrance belongs to this group is Jack Torrance in his childhood spanked by his neighbour for playing with matches. Angry Jack hurles a rock at passing car. His father sees that, beat the shit out of him. Dozen fights in grammar school, and even more fights in the highschool. Jack get warranting two suspensions, uncounted detentions. And the last is grudge match at football, a sport he is not enjoy playing. He spents every minute of the game in a state of high piss-off.

Another example of Jack Torrance belongs to the group of people who has never feels love was when the wasps stung Danny. When that happens, Jack as a father looking for camera in order to sue the hotel. This is a crazy thing to do as a father. No matter how calms a man is, when something happens to his children, looking for a camera first in order to sue the hotel is a stupid thing to do. That is why Jack could not receive any kind of love and deevaluate the meaning of love.

“Get them off me!” Danny screamed
“Oh my God,” Jack said. He saw.
“Jack, whats wrong with him? What’s wrong?”
He didn’t answer her. He ran to bed, scooped up Danny’s pillow, and slapped Danny’s thrashing left hand with it. Again. Again. Wendy saw the lumbering, insectile forms rise to the air, droning.
“Get a magazine!” He yelled over his shoulder. “Kill them!”
“Wasps?” she said, for a moment she was inside herself, almost detached in her realization. That her mind cross-patched, and knowledge was connected to emotion. “Wasps, oh Jesus, Jack, you said”
“Shut the fuck up and kill them!” he roared. “Will you do what I say!”
“Are you allergic to stings?” he asked. “Think hard! If you are, Danny might be. The fucking little bastards got him five or six times.”
“No.” She said calmly.
“Okay then, go get that spray stuff in the bathroom.” he said
She went after it, and he sat down next to Danny and slipped an arm around his shoulders.
“After we spray your hand, I want to take Polaroids of it. Then you sleep the rest night with us, kay?”
“Sure” Danny said. “But why are you going to take pictures?”
“So maybe we can sue the ass out of some people”.
(King, 1977, p. 107)

Jack Torrance’s coldness toward his son and wife is a prime example of Jack Torrance belonging to the group of people who has never feels love. His cold nature suggest that he cannot give love towards his son. Jack cannot give his son a sign of affection or attention that he needs. His coldness is very extreme, because Jack calmfully ask his wife if she has a allergy of wasp’s venom. This allergy might be hereditary, and results to comatose state within 30 seconds. To be able to calm in such a dangerous situation, or maybe stupid, considering the camera incident earlier is a strong evidence of Jack Torrance type of people according to Abraham Maslow.

(Jack coldness toward Wendy)
“I got all of them,” She said dully. “but one stung me. Jack, you said they were all dead.” she began to cry
He slipped past her without answering and carried the Pyrex bowl over to the nest to Danny’s bed.
(King, 1977, p. 107)

(Jack coldness toward Danny)
“Jack, what are you doing?” she asked a little hysterically
“He’s gonna take some pictures of my hand,” Danny said gravely, “And then we’re gonna sue the ass out of some people. Right, Dad?”
“Right,” Jack said grimly. He had found the flash attachment, and he jabbed it onto the camera. “Hold it out, son. I figure about five thousand dollars a sting.”
“What are you talking about” Wendy nearly screamed.
“I’ll tell you what,” he said. “I followed the directions on that fucking bug bomb. We’re going to sue them. The damn thing was defective. Had to have been. How else can you explain this?”

When Jack had put the camera away and spread the prints out on top of the dresser to dry, Wendy said: “Should we take him to doctor tonight?”

“Not unless he’s really in pain,” Jack said. “If a person has a strong allergy to wasp venom, it hits within thirty seconds.”

“Hits? What do you—”

“A coma. Or convulsions.”

“Oh, Oh my Jesus.”

(King, 1977, p. 109)

With the evidence above, we can conclude that Jack Torrance belong into the group of people who has never feels love. Jack Torrance can not express his love to Danny, his son. No matter how much knowledgeable Jack Torrance, the first reaction of a normal parent to seeing their child in danger is to panic. Jack Torrance on the other hand said that ‘If a person has a strong allergy to wasp venom, it hits within 30 seconds’. The ‘hits” meaning is to be in comatose state or get convulsions. This is about life or death for his son, how come he was so calm? The only explanation is Jack Torrance belong to the second group according to Abraham Maslow’s opinion.

The next is higher needs, beginning with esteem. It is a respect and admiration that human has to get from another human. Maslow specifically notes that self-esteem can be categorized into two types, such as: Esteem or reputation which is based on respect and acknowledgment from others, and esteem which is based on someone’s own self-assessment called self-assessment or self-respect. Human has to have high self-assessment in order to have self confidence and independence.

Jack Torrance has a very low or non-existence reputation in the eyes of Ulman. There is no respect and acknowledgement from Ulman. Ulman looks down on Jack, being because he was fired from his previous work because some reason Ullman don’t need to ‘be more specific than that’. As we can learn on the quotation below:

“Yes, Mr. Shockley told me you no longer drink. He also told me about your last job ... your last position of trust, shall we say? You were teaching English in a Vermont prep school. You lost your temper, I don’t believe I need to be any more specific than that.”

(King, 1977, p. 15)

Wendy’s mom, Jack’s mother in law, viewed him as a big failure with a big mouth. Her mom said that welfare lines are full of educated fools. Welfare
is a system in United States that provide financial or other aid to individuals or groups who cannot support themselves. This programs funded by taxpayers and allow people to cope with financial stress during rough periods of their lives.

She had been thinking of her mother for most of five hours Jack had been gone, her mother’s prophecy that Jack would never come to anything. “Big ideas,” her mother had said. Sure. The welfare lines are full of educated fools with big ideas.

(King, 1977, p. 46)

Ulman look down twice on curious Jack Torrance. First, he says “My God, did you think I was going to share a large pile of dirty laundry with the hotel’s caretaker? Who in heaven’s name do you think you are?” (King, 1977, p. 142). And then, after Jack’s insistence of telling Ulman he knows about the hotel’s past, he says “I think that will do, Mr. Torrance. You are an employee of the hotel, no different from a bushboy or a kitchen pot scrubber.” (King, 1977, p. 143). In Wendy point of view, Jack was a berserker that destroy anything in his path, as quoted below:

Things had never really changed. Not to Wendy. He could be off the juice for twenty years and still when he came home at night and she embraced him at the door, he would see/sense that little flare of her nostrils as she tried to divine scotch or gin fumes riding the outbond train of his exhalation. She was always going to assume the worst; if he and Danny got in a car accident with a drunken blind man who had a stroke just before the collision, she would silently blame Danny’s injuries on him and turn away.

(King, 1977, p. 183)

After Jack Torrance’s low and non-existence reputation from people all around him, we understand in the quotation below about Jack Torrance’s self respect (his own self-assessment). Self assesment is a truth because that is the reality of how someone sees himself. The people that know the truth about you is your own self. Before, Jack Torrance does not want to put himself in a bad way. We eventually learn the truth about how Jack Torrance truly see himself.

Jack Torrance remembered how he snapped Danny’s hand. He felt ashamed, remorseful, and worthless. But when he tried to remember it, his mind began to edit the fact of how loud it was. Firstly he think that it had not been loud, and then very loud. Jack Torrance constantly changing his memory in order to fit his narration of Jack Torrance is a good man. He had whirled
Danny around to spank him, his big adult fingers digging into the scant meat of the boy’s forearm, meeting around it in a closed fist, and the snap of the breaking bone had not been loud, not loud but it had been very loud, HUGE, but not loud.

(King, 1977, p. 23)

He rubbed his hand harshly across his lips and followed Watson into the boiler room. It was humid in here, but it was more than the humidity that brought the sick and slimy sweat onto his brow and stomach and legs. The remembering did that, it was a total thing that made that night two years ago seem like two hours ago. There was no lag. It brought the shame and revulsion back, the sense of having no worth at all, and that feeling always made him want to have a drink.

(King, 1977, p. 23)

He certainly wasn’t going to say anything Wendy would object to. It was his pride that said no. Those days he almost always listened to what his pride told him to do, because along with his wife and son, six hundred dollars in a checking account, and one weary 1968 Volkswagen, his pride was all that was left. The only thing that was his, even the checking account was joint.

(King, 1977, p. 36)

Jack remembers about his life. He is a failure as a human being that always wrong at anything he does. “How could he have fucked it up so badly?” (King, 1977, p. 37). Below is the quotation of the instance that Jack Torrance self-assessment. Jack Torrance viewed himself as a failure. As he thinks to himself He had a bad temper, one he could no longer keep wholly under control now that he was drinking so heavily and his writing was going so badly. Accidentally or not, he had broken Danny’s arm. (King, 1977, p. 47)

He had failed as a teacher, as a writer, as a husband, and a father. He had even failed as a drunk. But you couldn’t do much better in the old failure category than to blow up the building you were supposed to be taking care of. And this was no ordinary building, by no means.

(King, 1977, p. 254)

As a functional human, the last level of human needs is self actualization. It is sometimes called a self-fulfillment need. This need occupies the highest hierarchy on Maslow’s pyramid. In order to fulfill this human needs, a human need education, skill development, the refining talents in areas such as music, athletics, design, cooking, gardening, caring for others, learning a new language, traveling to new places, and winning awards. Maslow separated self-actualization from the four levels on his
hierarchy. He called self-actualization as a “growth needs” and the four lower level as “deficiency needs”. According to his theory, if a human fails to meet deficiency needs, he or she will experience harmful and unpleasant results. Conditions ranging from illness and starvation up through loneliness and self-doubt are the byproducts of unmet deficiency needs. When these needs go unfulfilled, human is not harmed, but if it fulfilled, human will be happier self actualization needs only become a priority when the other four needs are met.

In other word, Jack Torrance obviously cannot fulfill the last level of human needs because he cannot fulfill four lower level of human needs below self-fulfillment. In conclusion, Jack Torrance character declared of failed to fulfill 5 level of Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. The answer to the first question in Chapter 1 is what happens to Jack Torrance according to psychological theory. According to Maslow is a human need to fulfill his needs in order to function normally as a human being. Jack Torrance cannot fulfill this needs, and the unfulfillment stress him. According to Lazarus and Folkman, Jack is a man who get more pressure than what he can handle, this will frustrated him. According to Dollard and Miller opinion, a man will be frustrated if he cannot fulfill his needs or accomplish his goal. A frustrated man will behave aggressively towards another object or another human to release his anger. This target shall be someone who very close to him.

*Jack Torrance’s main source of frustration*

In order to discuss this section, the writer first return to the research question. As you can see above, the second question is “What is Jack Torrance’s main source of frustration?”. To answer Jack Torrance’s main source of frustration, we have to track back to the psychological theory above. According to John Dollard in his book Frustration and Aggression (1939, p. 16) “If an individual prevented from achieving a goal by some external factor, then this will lead to frustration which will always lead to aggression. This aggression can be directed at another person or things”. In short, frustration is a prevention of achieving someone’s goal by some external factor. In the story, Jack Torrance’s goal is to take care of Overlook Hotel during the winter, maintain his job as Hotel’s caretaker and start to write his play. In the story,
Jack Torrance goal disturbed by an external factor. This external factor none other than Wendy and Danny, his wife and son.

Wendy asks him to leave Overlook hotel and go back to Sidewinder, a town below the overlook hotel. She is not feeling comfortable in Overlook Hotel because Danny’s wasp venom incident. Wendy wants to take him to the doctor, which only available on the nearest town, Sidewinder.

If Jack agrees to Wendy solution to come down to Sidewinder and if they leave the Overlook Hotel, Jack Torrance will be fired by Hotel’s manager, Mr. Ulman. Jack Torrance doesn’t want this to happen, he feels fear of losing his job. The evidence is at page 144, Jack said to himself what would he say to Wendy, “Guess what, babe? I lost another job.” Jack feels like a failure. He fails at everything. As we can see in this quotation below:

He had failed as a teacher, a writer, a husband, and a father. He had even failed as a drunk. But you couldn’t do much better in the old failure category than to blow up the building you were supposed to be taking care of. And this was no ordinary building, by no means.

(King, 1977, p. 254)

In conclusion, Jack Torrance main source of frustration is his dilemma. He has to choose whether he should be a good husband and father or be a hotel caretaker. Should he take his son and family to come down into Sidewinder or should he and his family stay at the Hotel for the rest of the winter season.

**Jack Torrance’s Aggressiveness**

In this section, the writer will quote the novel to understand Jack Torrance’s aggressiveness in the story. The function of this is to describe the example of Jack Torrance’s aggressiveness. In order to discuss this section, the writer first return to the psychological theory. According to John Dollard in his book Frustration and Aggression (1939, p. 16) “If an individual prevented from achieving a goal by some external factor, then this will lead to frustration which will always lead to aggression. This aggression can be directed at another person or things. This thing is agreed by another Psychologist, Neal Miller, the man who found Biofeedback. According to Miller in his book Personality and Psychotherapy (1950, p.89), “Aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating, a person efforts to attain a goal. When the source of
frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto an innocent target”

The Writer will use this theory to analyze Jack Torrance aggression towards his wife and son. Jack is not only abuse his family verbally but also physically. In the writer’s opinion, Jack Torrance fit the characteristic of an aggressive person, so that is the reason why the writer need to analyze Jack with this theory. Based on the opinion above, Jack fits the description by John Dollard. He is prevented from achieving his goal, which is to stay at Overlook Hotel as a caretaker by his wife, Wendy and their sick son, Danny, who needs a medical treatment and ask him to abandon his job to go to nearest town, Sidewinder. Jack Torrance is an aggressive person, and in the story, there are many instance of him being aggressive. In the beginning of the story in The Shining, There are two things that Mr. Al Shockley tells Ulman that we understand via Ulman’s Dialogue, which is the fact that Jack Torrance is no longer drinking Alcohol. And then the fact that Jack was fired from his last job because of him losing his temper. They also discuss about Grady’s tragedy.

“Yes, Mr. Shockley told me you no longer drink. He also told me about your last job… your last position of trust, shall we say? You were teaching English in a Vermont prep school. You lost your temper, I do not believe I need to be any more specific than that”

(King, 1977, p. 15)

“I suspect that what happened came as a result of too much cheap whiskey, of which Grady had laid in a generous supply, unbeknownst to me, and a curious condition which the old-timers call cabin fever. Do you know the term?” Ullman offered a patronizing little smile, ready to explain as soon as Jack admitted his ignorance, and Jack was happy to respond quickly and crispy. “It’s a slang term for the claustrophobic reaction that can occur when people are shut in together over long periods of time. The feeling of claustrophobia is externalized as dislike for the people you happen to be shut in with. In extreme cases, it can result in hallucinations and violence. Murder has been done over such minor thing as a burned meal or an argument about whose turn it is to do the dishes”

(King, 1977, p. 16)

After Jack Torrance and Ulman discussion, they professionally end the conversation. But, we understand later that Jack Torrance is angry at Ulman. He is telling lies here. He said there are no hard feelings, but the truth is he was very mad at Mr. Ullman, because Ulman bring up about his past as an alcoholics, and how he lost
his job because of his temperamental and fiery personality. “No. No hard feelings” Jack flashed the PR grin again, but he was glad Ullman did not offer to shake hands. There were hard feelings. All kind of them. (King, 1977, p. 17)

Before working at Overlook hotel, Jack Torrance is a debate teacher in Stovington Prep School. There is a boy named George Hatfield (son of a known and highly respectable person in town). Jack writes him off from the debate team with the reason that we do not understand yet. This made George mad and he cuts Jack’s car. Jack catches George during the act and beat him up very badly. This sequence of event have made two consequences. The school’s board fires Jack Torrance and drops George Hatfield out of the school.

“Your daddy was coaching the debate team, Danny. Do you remember that?”

“Sure, there was a boy named George Hatfield that Daddy had to cut from the team. That means he was not as good as some of the others. George said your daddy cut him because he did not like him and not because he was not good enough. Then George did a bad thing. I think you know about that.”

“Was he the one who put holes in our bug’s tires?”

“Yes, he was. It was after school and your daddy caught him doing it. Sometimes he does things he is sorry for later. Sometimes he does not think the way he should. This does not happen very often, but sometimes it does…. Your daddy hit George to make him stop cutting the tires and George hit his head. Then the men who are in charge of the school said that George could not go there anymore and your Daddy could not teach there anymore.”

(King, 1977, p. 20)

This is the example of Jack Torrance’s aggressiveness towards his son, Danny. Jack remembers how violently he acts when he is drunk toward his son, Danny. Jack feels shame and regret. This feeling always made him want to have a drink. As we can see at the quotation below how aggressive Jack is. Danny is 3 years old at that time, and it is very unusual way to disciplines his son, his three years old son.

He had been drinking a beer and doing the Act II corrections of his play, when Wendy said the phone was for him, and Danny had poured the can of beer all over the pages. He stepped toward his three-year-old son, and that was when he had grabbed Danny’s hand and bent it to make him drop the typewriter eraser and the mechanical pencil he was clenching in it.

(King, 1977, p. 22)
Jack rubbed his hand harshly across his lips and followed Watson into the boiler room. It was humid in here, but it was more than the humidity that brought the sick and slimy sweat onto his brow and stomach and legs. The remembering did that, it was a total thing that made that night two years ago seem like two hours ago. There was no lag. It brought the shame and revulsion back, the sense of having no worth at all, and that feeling always made him want to have a drink. (King, 1977, p. 23)

Jack think that he fails as a human being, he wants to let out his anger and frustration toward his son and wife. Jack Torrance feels that the interview, the discussion with Ulman, the hotel’s manager is a darkest moment in his life. This is because Ulman digging up his past. Jack Torrance feels the need to getting drunk, but more importantly, he keeps thinking of taking out his anger to his wife and son.

How could he have fucked it up so badly? The interview in Ulman’s office had been the darkest, most dreadful night of his life. The wanting, the needing to get drunk had never been so bad. His hand shook. He knocked things over. And he kept wanting to take it out on Wendy and Danny. His temper was like a vicious animal on a frayed leash. He had left the house in terror that he might strike them. (King, 1977, p. 37)

Jack and Al Shockley get drunk shortly after Jack snap 3 years old Danny’s hand. Here we can understand that Jack Torrance like to edit the fact. He wanted to paint himself in good light and always remembers the good memories, and blocking his memory and try to forget all the bad things happened to him.

Jack and Albert Shockley had become friends in a completely natural and uncoincidental way: at the many school and faculty functions they attended together, they were always the two drunkest people there. Shockley was separated from his wife and Jack’s own marriage was skidding slowly downhill, although he still loved Wendy and had promised sincerely (and frequently) to reform, for her sake and for baby Danny’s.

(King, 1977, p. 38)

It had finally ended one night less than a month after Jack had broken his son’s arm. That, it seemed to him, had ended his marriage. All that remained was for Wendy to gather her will... if her mother was not a bitch, he knew, Wendy would have taken a bus back to New Hampshire as soon as Danny had been okay to travel, it was over. It had been a little past midnight. Jack and Al were coming into Barre on U.S.
31, Al behind the wheel of his Jaguar, shifting fancily on the curves, sometimes crossing the double yellow line. They were both very drunk; the martians had landed that night in force. They came around the last curve before the bridge at seventy, and there was a kid’s bike in the road, and then the sharp, hurt squealing as rubber shredded from the Jaguar’s tires, and Jack remembered seeing Al’s face looming over the steering wheel like a round white moon. Then the jingling crashing sound as they hit the bike at forty, and it had flown up like a bent and twisted bird, the handlebars striking the windshield, and then it was in the air again, leaving the starred safety glass in front of Jack’s bulging eyes. A moment later he heard the final dreadful smash as it landed on the road behind them. Something thumped underneath them as the tires passed over it. The Jaguar drifted around broadside, Al still jockeying the wheel, and from far away Jack heard himself saying “Jesus, Al. We ran him down. I felt it.”

(King, 1977, p. 39)

After the car incident (The drunk roadkill of a bicycle boy) Al Shockley and Jack Torrance promise to quit drinking. Jack Torrance is an alcoholics, which means that Jack is addicted to Alcohol. In order to quit alcohol, Jack tries to change his habits, by drinking coca-cola as a substitute of alcohol, as we can understand in the quotation below:

A week passed. He and Wendy did not speak. He knew that she was watching, not believing. He drank black coffee and endless cans of Coca Cola. One night he drank a whole six-pack of Coke and then ran into the bathroom and vomited up

(King, 1977, p. 41)

Her husband was a lush. He had a bad temper, one he could no longer keep wholly under control now that he was drinking so heavily and his writing was going so badly. Accidentally or not accidentally, he had broken Danny’s arm’s

(King, 1977, p. 47)

According to how Jack Torrance point of view, all of his bad experiences is not his fault at all. Everything is done to him, not the reaction of his action, Jack does not want to be responsible of his own action. It is not Jack that snaps Danny’s arm, but it is Danny who screws up Jack’s work by spilling his father’s beer. Jack views himself as a father, he has the rights to disciplined Danny. (this is not how you disciplined your 3 years old son) It is not Jack who beats George Hatfield up, but it is George who cuts Jack’s car. Jack views himself as a teacher, he has the rights to disciplined George. (Jack should have report George to the school security, not taking things into his own hands.
How else should you explained the things that had happened to him? For he still felt that the while range of unhappy Stovington experiences had to be looked at with Jack Torrance in the passive mode. He had not done things; things had been done to him.

(King, 1977, p. 88)

According to quotation below, Jack Torrance is always a drinker and he cannot control his temper. Even though he does not like American football and does not like the sport at all. He joins the team, just because he can let out his temper on somebody else legally.

He was still an alcoholic, always would be, perhaps had been since Sophomore Class Night in high school when he had taken his first drink. It had nothing to do with willpower, or morality of drinking, or the weakness or strength of his own character. There was a broken switch somewhere inside, or a circuit breaker that did not work, and he had been propelled down, slowly at first, then accelerating as Stovington applied pressure on him.

(King, 1977, p. 89)

And his temper, same thing. All his life he had been trying unsuccessfully to control it. He could remember himself at seven, spanked by a neighbor lady for playing with matches. He had gone out and hurled a rock at a passing car. His father had seen that, and he had descended on little Jackie, roaring. He had reddened Jack’s behind … and then blacked his eye. And when his father had gone into the house, muttering, to see what was on television, Jack had come upon a stray dog and had kicked it into the gutter. There had been two dozen fights in grammar school, even more of them in high school, warranting two suspensions and uncounted detentions in spite of his good grades. Football had provided a partial safety valve, although he remembered perfectly well that he had spent every minute of every game in a state of high-piss off, taking every opposing block and tackle personally. He had not enjoyed football, every game was a grudge match.

(King, 1977, p. 89)

"And yet, through it all, he had not feel like a son of a bitch. He had not felt mean. He had always regarded himself as Jack Torrance, a really nice guy who was just going to have to learn how to cope with his drinking. But he had been an emotional alcoholic just as surely as he had been a physical one—- the two of them were no doubt tied together somewhere deep inside of him"

(King, 1977, p. 89)

"He had to deal with the results: the spankings, the beatings from his old man, the suspension, with trying to explain the school
clothes torn in playground brawls, and later the hangovers, the slowly dissolving glue of his marriage, the single bicycle wheel with its bent spokes pointing into the sky, Danny’s broken arm. And George Hatfield, of course.”

(King, 1977, p. 89)

Now we understand the reason why George Hatfield, one of Jack Torrance’s students that participate in debate team to cut Jack Torrance’s car is because Jack set the timer ahead for George. George has 5 minutes of speech but Jack cuts him prematurely. We learn that Jack envies George for who he is and how his whole future lays in front of him. Jack Torrance justifies his wrongdoing as an act of mercy for George Hatfield’s struggle.

“George’s father was a corporation lawyer, and he wanted his son to follow in his footsteps. George who felt no burning call to do anything else, was willing. His grades were not top end, but this was, after all, only prep school and it was still early times. George’s own athletic ability would open still other doors … George became conversant, and he was just jingoist enough to honestly not care which side he was on. A rare and valueable trait, even in high-level debaters. Jack knew.”

(King, 1977, p. 90)

“You hate me because you know…. (George Hatfield voice)
Because what I knew ? What possibly could i knew that would make me hate him? That his whole future lay ahead of him? That he looked a little bit like Robert Redford and all conversation among the girls stopped when he did a double gainer from the pool diving board? That he played soccer and baseball with a natural and unlearned grace?
And if Jack had set the timer ahead-- and of course he had not-- it would be because both he and other members of the squad were embarrassed for George’s struggle. If he had set the timer ahead, it would have been just to … to put George out of misery. But he had not set the timer ahead. He was quite sure of it.”

(King, 1977, p. 92)

This is the instance that we see Jack Torrance mentally blocking his memories. He wants to forget what happens with George Hatfield, he edits the fact that he set the timer ahead. He does not want to admit it at first, and upon recalling the fact, he justify his action by saying that he does that out of pity. “he would swear that before the Throne of Almighty God, just as he would swear that he had set the timer ahead no more than a minute, and not out of hate but out of pity” (King, 1977, p. 93)
Jack seems to ashamed at what he does to George Hatfield, but from what he discuss with another character, the incident that scars him the most is the day he snaps Danny’s hand. In this instance below, we can see that Jack discuss with the doctor about his alcoholic life. We can understand that Jack Torrance need helps from a psychiatrist, because when he talks to the doctor, you can understand that it release some pressure from Jack.

“I think it is the best if you understand everything, Doctor. Shortly after Danny was born, I became an alcoholic. I had had a drinking problem all the way through college, it subsided a little after Wendy and I met, cropped up worse than ever after Danny was born and the writing I consider to be my real work was going badly. When Danny was three and a half, he spilled some beer on a bunch of papers I was working on … papers I was shuffling around, anyway … and I … well … oh shit. It sound so goddamn beastly said it out loud. I broke his arm turning him around to spank him. Three months later I gave up drinking, I have not touched it since.”

(King, 1977, p. 117)

Jack does not like how his wife asks him so many questions. Jack hates of how Wendy talks to him. According to Jack, his wife’s rapid questions are making him feel pressured, his wife is one of the reason of why he drink alcohol. In Wendy point of view, she believes that what she does is a wife’s role for her husband. She does it because she cared for him.

“What are you up to, anyway?” she asked
“Looking up some old Overlook history.”
“Any particular reason?”
“No”
“Find anything interesting?”
“Not much,” he said, having to strive to keep his voice pleasant now. She was prying, just the way she had always pried and poked at him when they had been at Stovington and Danny was still a crib-infant. Where are you going, Jack? When will you be back? How much money you have with you? Are you going to take the car? Is Al going to be with you? Will one of you stay sober? On and on. She had, pardon the expression, driven him to drink. Maybe that had not been the only reason, but by Christ let’s tell the truth here and admit it was one of them. Nag nag nag and nag until you wanted to clout her one just to shut her up and stop the (Where? When? How? Are you? Will you?) endless flow of questions.

(King, 1977, p. 139)
This is an example of Jack’s aggressiveness toward his wife. Wendy starts the conversation delightfully but Jack replies it dully. Jack Torrance start to think abusive words but he can not say it to Wendy out of the blue. This instance, Jack Torrance shows a verbally aggressive behavior toward Wendy, his wife. Even that he does not says it out loud, but via his thought from first person point of view narration from the novel, we can understand that Jack is an aggressive person.

“Want some water?” She asked brightly
(No I just want you to GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!)
“I will get some at the drinking fountain when I go up. Thanks.”

(King, 1977, p. 140)

This instance, we can learn that this sequence begins just after Jack Torrance calls Ulman and tells him that he knows everything about the hotel’s bloody history. It is because of his ego that Jack calls Ulman. The consequences for Jack is he can lose his job. Later, we can understand that the anxious feeling that Jack Torrance get is because Ulman talks about Jack’s past. To remembers all the bad thing is what makes Jack Torrance anxious. “What had followed that interview in Crommert’s office had been the darkest, most dreadful night of his life.” (King, 1977, p. 37). We can learn about the incident of Jack and Ulman discussion in a more complete story via the character dialogue below:

“I called because I did not think you played square with me.
And because —”

“Did not play square? My God, did you think that I was going to share a large pile of dirty laundry with the hotel’s caretaker? Who in heaven’s name do you think you are?.

(King, 1977, p. 142)

“You raked up a lot of my personal history before you gave me the job. You had me on the carpet, quizzing me about my ability to take care of your hotel like a little boy in front of the teacher’s desk for peeing in the coatroom. You embarassed me.”

(King, 1977, p. 142)

All this time, Ulman behave professionally to Jack. All of the questions he asks is the normal procedural background check on Ulman’s part as a hotel manager in order to make sure that the quality of the worker in Overlook is not declining. Ulman’s punchline is what hurt Jack Torrance’s little ego, it is when he says “You are an
employee of the hotel, no different from a bushboy or a kitchen pot scrubber.” (King, 1977, p. 143)

Jack wondering how he calls Ulman in the first place. To put it into perspective, the distance from Overlook hotel to the nearest telephone booth is very far. Jack realized that he make a mistake again. This is because the consequences of blackmailing Hotel’s manager is to be fired from the hotel. “Wondering why in the name of God he had called Ullman in the first place.” You lost your temper again, Jack. (King, 1977, p. 144)

Yes. Yes, he had lost his temper. No sense trying to deny it. And the hell of it was, he had no idea how much influence that cheap little prick had over Al, no more than he knew how much bullshit Al would take from him in the name of auld lang syne. If Ullman was as good as he claimed to be, and if he gave Al a he-goes-or-I-go ultimatum, might not Al be forced to take it? He closed his eyes and tried to imagine telling Wendy. Guess what, babe? I lost another job. This time I had to go through two thousand miles of Bell Telephone cable to find someone to punch out, but I managed it.

(King, 1977, p. 144)

Once, during the drinking phase, Wendy had accused him of desiring his own destruction but not possessing the necessary moral fiber to support a full-blown deathwish. So he manufactured ways in which other people could do it, lopping a piece at a time off himself and their family. Wendy saying dully “You son of a bitch, you woke Danny up. If you do not care about yourself, can you care a little bit about us? Oh, why do I even bother talking to you?”

(King, 1977, p. 145)

Jack hung up the phone. It really was the senseless kind of thing he might have done if he had been drunk. But he had been sober; dead cold sober. How many times, over how many years, had he-- a grown man asked for the mercy of another chance?

(King, 1977, p. 146)

In the passage below, we can understand that Jack Torrance’s aggressiveness is passes down from his father, it is a hereditary behaviour. As some say monkey see monkey do. Little Jack’s favorite person is his father. It is only make sense to Jack to copies what his hero does. And Jack learns from his childhood to win by violence, that to be able to get people listens to you is by force, by beat them by raw power, some sort of a jungle rule. Slow but sure, Jack lose his love for his father because of what he does to his mom.
That had been the first phase of his relationship with his father, and as it was drawing to its end he had become aware that Becky and his brothers, all of them older, hated the father and that their mother, a nondescript woman who rarely spoke above a mutter, only suffered him because of her Catholic upbringing said that she must. In those days it had not seemed strange to Jack that the father won all the arguments with his children by use of his fists, and it had not seemed strange that his own love should go hand in hand with his fear: fear of the elevator game which might end in a splintering crash on any given night; fear that his father’s bearish good humor on his day off might suddenly change to boarish bellowing and the smack of his “good right hand”; and sometimes, he remembered, he had even been afraid that his father’s shadow might fall over him while he was at play. It was near the end of this phase that he began to notice that Brett never brought his dates home, or Mike and Becky their chums.

(King, 1977, p. 173-174)

Love began to cradle at nine, when his father put his mother into the hospital with his cane. He had begun to carry the cane a year earlier, when a car accident had left him lame. He had beaten their mother for no good reason at all, suddenly and without warning. They had been at the supper table. The cane had been standing by his chair. It was Sunday night, the end of three-day weekend for Daddy, a weekend which he had boozed away in his usual inimitable style. Roast chicken. Peas. Mashed potatoes. Daddy at the head of the table, his plate heaped high, snoozing or nearly snoozing. His mother passing plates. And suddenly Daddy had been wide awake, his eyes set deeply into their fat eyesockets, glittering with a kind of stupid, evil petulance. They flickered from one member of the family into the next, and the vein in the center of his forehead was standing out prominently, always a bad sign. One of his large freckled hands had dropped to the gold knob of his cane, caressing it. He said something about coffee. Momma had opened her mouth to answer and then the cane was whickering through the air, smashing against her face. Blood spurted from her nose. Becky screamed. Momma’s spectacles dropped into her gravy. The cane had been drawn back, had come down again, this time on top of her head, splitting the scalp. Momma had dropped to the floor. He had been out of his chair and around to where she lay dazed on the carpet, brandishing the cane, moving with fat man grotesque speed and agility.

(King, 1977, p. 174)

What hurts Jack, his brothers and sister the most are the reaction of their mother. Despite what happened to his Mom, Mom never sells Dad out. She always stand beside him. It is because she is a devoted Catholic, she is a firm believer of “What God has put together cannot be separated by man”. This trauma that Jack’s experience is not a bullshit, it is true, Jack never forgets that day. Jack knew exactly
how many blows it had been. 7 whums, no more, no less. It had been engraved on his memory like the irrational swipe of a chisel on stone. (King, 1977, p. 174)

Momma getting slowly to her feet, dazed, her face already puffed and swelling like an old tire with too much air in it, bleeding in four or five different places and she had said a terrible thing, perhaps the only thing Momma had ever said, which Jacky could recall word for word: “Who’s got the newspaper? Your daddy wants the funnies. Is it raining yet?” And then she sank to her knees again.

(King, 1977, p. 174)

The doctor came and took Momma away to the hospital where Daddy had worked all of his adult life. Daddy, sobbered up some, told the doctor she had fallen downstairs. The doctor asked with a kind of horrid, grinning sarcasm. “Is that what happened, Mark? I have heard of folks who can get a radio station on their gold fillings and I have seen a man get shot between the eyes and lived to tell about it, but this is a new one on me. Daddy shook his head and said he did not know. Four children had been stunned to silence by the calm stupendousness of the lie. Their mother had corroborated their father’s story while holding hand of the parish priest.

(King, 1977, p. 175)

This sequence below is an indicator of Jack Torrance depression. He is sleepwalking and dreaming of his father that tells him again and again to kill his wife and his son. His “father” that he hallucinates tells him to kill his loved one because his son and wife, is always conspiring against him.

Jack Torrance believes this hallucination is a consequence of Danny Torrance, his son, does not listened to Jack. He goes in to room 217, Overlook Hotel’s forbidden room. Wendy Torrance asks Jack Torrance again and again to leave the hotel and goes to nearby town during the winter, which Jack said no to the idea. Jack believes if they are going to the nearby town and leave the hotel, he will lose his job as a caretaker, and his writings will be fall apart.

Kill him. You have to kill him, Jacky, and her, too. Because a real artist must suffer. Because each man kills the thing he loves. Because they will always be conspiring against you, trying to hold you back and drag you down.

(King, 1977, p. 176)

Wendy comes to meet Jack at the radio room in order to find Danny. Instead, she finds Jack. He is crying because of his hallucination. He hallucinates into hearing his father’s voice telling him to kill his son and his wife. That is why Jack is crying, in addition to that, Jack breaks the radio (the only connection they have to real world)
The bewilderment seemed to grow and for a moment she saw his true face, the one he ordinarily kept so well hidden, and it was a face of desperate unhappiness, the face of an animal caught in a snare beyond its ability to decipher and render harmless. Then the muscles began to work, began to writhe under the skin, the mouth began to tremble infirmly, the Adam’s apple began to rise and fall. Her own bewilderment and surprise were only overlaid by shock: he was going to cry. She had seen him cry before but never since he stopped drinking... and never in those days unless he was very drunk and pathetically remorseful. He was a tight man, drum-tight, and his loss of control frightened her all over again. He came toward her, the tears brimming over his lower lids now, his head shaking involuntary as if in a fruitless effort to ward off this emotional storm, and his chest drew in a convulsive gasp that was expelled in a huge, racking sob.

(King, 1977, p. 178)

“ … dream, I guess it was a dream, but it was so real, I … it was my mother saying that Daddy was going to be on the radio and I … he was … he was telling me to … I don’t know, he was yelling at me … so I broke the radio … to shut him up. To shut him up. He’s dead. I don’t want to dream about him. He’s dead. My God, Wendy, my God. I never had nightmare like that. I never want to have another one. Christ! It was awful.”

(King, 1977, p. 179)

“Where is Danny, Jack?”
“I don’t know. Isn’t he with you?”
“He was not … downstairs with you?”
He looked over his shoulder and his face tightened at what he saw on her face.
“Never going to let me forget that, are you, Wendy?”
“Jack!”
“When I am on my deathbed you will lean over and say, ‘It serves you right, remember the time you broke Danny’s arm?’”
“Jack!”
“What? Are you denying that is what you are thinking? That I hurt him? That I hurt him once before and I could hurt him again?”

(King, 1977, p. 179)

After discussing with Jack about his past and consoles him, Wendy rushed up the stairs to see Danny. Danny is shocked about something that happens to him. Wendy does not have any idea of what is it, but she can see the visible scars on Danny’s neck, and she is pointing finger at her husband, accusing Jack of doing this.
Jack believes that Wendy always put the blame on Jack because of what he does Danny’s snapping incident long time ago.

“Danny!” she shrieked
“Danny, what happened?” Jack asked. He put out his hand to tpuch the puffy side of Danny’s neck. “Who did this to y--”
“Don’t touch him! I will kill you if you lay your hands on him again!”
“Wendy----”
“You bastard!”
Jack stood for an unknown length of time, paralyzed by all that had happened in such a short space of time. His dream was still with him, painting everything slightly unreal shade. It was if he had taken a very mild mescaline hit. Had he maybe hurt Danny as Wendy thought? Tried to strangle his son at his dead father’s request? No. He would never hurt Danny.

Never in his life had he been willfully vicious when he was sober (Except when you almost killed George Hatfield)
“No!” he cried into the darkness…

Wendy sat in the overstuffed chair by the window with Danny on her lap, holding him, crooning the old meaningless words, the ones you never remember afterward no matter how a thing turns out. He had folded onto her lap with neither protest nor gladness, like a paper cutout of himself, and his eyes didn’t even shift toward the door when Jack cried “No!” somewhere in the hallway. The confusion have receded a little bit in her mind, but she now discovered something worse behind it. Panic. Jack had done this she had no doubt of it. His denials meant nothing to her. She thought it was perfectly possible that Jack had tried to throttle Danny in his sleep just as he had smashed the CB radio in his sleep. He was having a breakdown of some kind.

(King, 1977, p. 181)

Things had never really changed. Not to Wendy. He could be off the juice for twenty years and still when he came home at night and she embraced him at the door, he would see or sense that little flare of her nostrils as she tried to divine scotch or gin fumes riding the outbond train of his exhalation. She was always going to assume the worst; if he and Danny got in a car accident with a drunken blind man who had a stroke just before the collision, she would silently blame Danny’s injuries on him and turn away.

(King, 1977, p. 183)

Now he sat looking down at it, scowling, wondering if there was any way he could salvage the situation. He didn’t really think there was. He had begun with one play and it had somehow turned into another, prestochango. Well, what the hell. Either way it had been done before . Either way it was load of shit. And why was he driving himself crazy about it tonight anyway?
Jack is at a very depressive state. Because of what happens to him, many things happen to him in a short period of time. All of this pressure make him depressive and start to hallucinating again. And believes that he was drinking at the hotel’s bar. In reality, Overlook Hotel’s Bar was empty.

All the rooms of the Overlook were occupied this morning.
A full house.

And beyond the batwings, a low murmur of conversation drifted and swirled like lazy cigarette smoke. More sophisticated, more private. Low, throaty female laughter, the kind that seems to vibrate in a fairy ring around the viscera and the genitals. The sound of cash register, its window softly lighted in the warm, half-dark, ringing up the prize of a gin rickey, a Manhattan, a depression bomber, a sloe gin fizz, a zombie. The jukebox, pouring out its drinker’s melodies, each one overlapping the other in time.

“Hello, boys,” Jack Torrance said softly. “I have been away but now I’m back.”
“Good evening, Mr. Torrance,” Lloyd said, pleased. “It’s good to see you.”
“It’s good to be back, Lloyd.”
“What will it be, Mr. Torrance?”
“One large martian, if you please,” he said. “They’ve landed somewhere in the world, Lloyd.”

(Drunk Jack starts the chase to pursuing Wendy and Danny. Here we can understand that Jack starts to use verbal abuse toward his son, Danny. Below is one of the example of Jack Torrance’s verbal aggressiveness toward his wife and his son. As we can understand via quotation below:

“Damn you both. I know what you want. But you’re not going to get it. This hotel … Its mine.”
Jack slammed his shoulder againsts the door. The bolt, a quarter inch of steel in diameter, showed no signs of loosening.
“Let me get out of here!” Jack raged. “Let me out! Danny, doggone it, this is your father, and I want to get out! Now, do what I tell you.”

Danny’s hand move automatically toward the bolt. Wendy caught it and pressed it between her breasts.)
“You mind your daddy, Danny! You do what I say! You do it or I will give you a hiding you will never forget. Open this door or I’ll bash your fucking brains in.”

(King, 1977, p. 287)

He sat on the floor of the pantry with his legs out in front of him, a box of Triscuit crackers between them, looking at the door. At this precise instant, he thought he had never felt quite so miserable in his entire life. His mind and body together made up a large-writ scripture of pain. His head ached terribly, a sick throb of a hangover. The attendant symptoms were there, too: his mouth tasted like a manure rake had taken a swing through it, his ears rang. No sense swallowing a painkiller if you were going to throw it right back up. Have to use your brain. The celebrated Jack Torrance brain. Aren’t you the fellow who once was going to live by his wits? Jack Torrance, bestselling author. Jack Torrance, man of letters, esteemed thinker, winner of Pulitzer Prize at seventy for his trenchant book of memoirs, My Life in the Twentieth Century. All any of that shit boiled down to was living by your wits.

(King, 1977, p. 290)

The thing he had never asked himself, Jack realized now, was exactly what had driven his daddy to drink in the first place. And really ... when you came right down to what his old students had been pleased to call the nittygritty ... hadn’t it been the woman he was married to? A milksoap sponge of a woman, always dragging silently around the house with an expression of doomed martyrdom on her face? A ball and chain around Jack’s Daddy’s ankle? No, not a ball and chain. She had never actively tried to make Daddy a prisoner, the way Wendy had done to him.

(King, 1977, p. 291)

But there was hope. He would get out of here somehow. He would chastise them both, and harshly. He would set Danny as an example, so that the day might come when Danny was grown, a day when Danny would know what to do better than he himself had known.

(King, 1977, p. 291)

He remembered the Sunday dinner when his father had caned his mother at the table ... how horrified he and the others had been. Now, he could see how necessary that had been, how his father had only been feigning drunkenness, how his wits had been sharp and alive underneath all along, watching for the slightest sign of disrespect.

(King, 1977, p. 291)

Jack swears to kill Wendy and Danny. “I’ll kill you for that.” he said. (King, 1977, p. 304). This is a peak of Jack Torrance’s aggressive behavior towards his son and
wife. But drunk Jack in his hallucination phase suddenly get a hold of himself once more, and tell his son to escape.

The body trembled slightly, and then the bloody hands opened like a broken claws. The mallet fell from them and thumped to the rug. That was all. But suddenly his daddy was there, looking at him in mortal agony, and a sorrow so great.


“No.” Danny said.

“Oh. Danny. For God’s sake.”

“No.” Danny said. He took one of his father’s bloody hands and kissed it. “It’s almost over.”

(King, 1977, p. 327)

In the end, the hotel exploded because hallucinated Jack chose to pursue his Wife and Son instead of taking care of Hotel’s boiler room. Jack was burned down with the hotel.

(King, 1977, p. 329)

Jack Torrance aggressiveness towards his wife and son is the same as the theory according to Dollard and Miller opinion, a man will be frustrated if he cannot fulfill his needs or accomplish his goal. A frustrated man will behave aggressively towards another object or another human to release his anger. This target shall be someone who very close to him.

Jack Torrance’s frustration toward Ulman because he brings up about his past, that is why Jack is angry at Ulman and become more aggressive toward him. Jack Torrance frustration toward George Hatfield is because Jack jealousy toward him. Because George has everything Jack ever dreamt of. And when George cut Jack’s tire out of revenge, Jack beats George up very badly, using unnecessary force because he always hates him.

Jack Torrance’s frustration toward his wife, Wendy. Wendy asks too much question, Jack feels that she always blames him for everything that happens to Danny, it is because of one-time accident. Jack hurt Danny once, but Wendy never forgive him for that. Jack’s frustrated toward his son, Danny, because he does not listens to everything Jack said. All of this Jack frustration is turning into an aggression by Jack, which is a mean to release his anger.
CONCLUSION

After finding about what happens to Jack Torrance according to psychological theory and what is Jack Torrance’s main source of frustration in the story, the writer presents this section as a conclusion. The writer comes to conclusion by using Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs theory (1943), Stress and coping theory by Lazarus and Folkman (1984) and Frustration-aggression theory by John Dollard and Neil Miller (1939). Jack Torrance can not fulfill his needs to function properly as a human being. Besides that, Jack Torrance can not accomplish his goals in life, which make him stress because it pressures and frustrates him. This frustration, turns into aggression that Jack Torrance take out to the closest people to him, which is his family, Wendy and Danny.

Jack Torrance main source of frustration is his dilemma. He has to choose whether he should be a good husband and father or be a loyal hotel caretaker. Should he take his son to come down into Sidewinder or should he take care of Overlook Hotel, and keep his family at Overlook without medical assistance for his son. Jack Torrance aggressiveness towards his wife and son is the same as the theory according to Dollard and Miller opinion, a man will be frustrated if he cannot fulfill his needs or accomplish his goal. A frustrated man will behave aggressively towards another object or another human to release his anger. This target shall be someone who very close to him.

Jack Torrance’s frustration toward Ullman because he brings up about his past, that is why Jack is mad at Ullman and become more aggressive toward him. Jack Torrance’s frustration toward George Hatfield is because of Jack is jealous of him. It is because George has everything Jack ever dreamt of. And when George cut Jack’s tire out of revenge, Jack beats George up very badly, using unnecessary force because he always hated him. Jack Torrance’s frustration towards his wife, Wendy is because she asks too much question, Jack believes that she always blamed him for everything that happens to Danny, it is because of one-time accident. Jack hurt Danny once, but Wendy
never forgive him for that. Jack’s frustration toward his son, Danny is because he does not obey everything Jack said. All of this Jack frustration is turning into an aggression by Jack, which is a mean to release his anger.

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