

## Functionalism and Human Behaviour in Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman*

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### Abstract

Structuralism came to its peak to study the gist of consciousness, but functionalism arose as an attacking protest against the structuralist systems. Functionalism digs deeper to explore common-sense problems of the human mind from an emotional point of view. It is a psychological movement that studies thoughts, ideas and behaviour on order to discover the various ways of thinking. Functionalism dives deep into the comprehension of the mind and its inner problems, like harmful thoughts that might damage the self. Hence, this study concentrates on the frame of mind and behaviour of *The Ferryman*'s protagonist: Quinn Carney.

Quinn has his own family, but he has secret emotions for his sister-in-law. He patiently delays them and decides to wait until the right moment, to reveal his true feelings. Until then, readers may comprehend what lurks inside his mind and can depict how these thoughts transform into action. It is difficult to show true feelings towards others in the midst of a society. If the character is capable of fighting for his beliefs, he should be ready for negative comebacks. These ups and downs echo how functionalism pays attention to the inner thoughts of the human mind and the outer visible actions.

Keywords: Functionalism, inner thoughts, secret emotions, behaviour, action

### الخلاصة

وصلت البنيوية إلى ذروتها لدراسة جوهر الوعي، لكن الوظيفية ظهرت كاحتجاج مهاجم ضد الأنظمة البنيوية. تتعمق النظرية الوظيفية في استكشاف مشكلات المنطق السليم للعقل البشري من وجهة نظر عاطفية. هي حركة نفسية تدرس المفاهيم والأفكار والسلوك من أجل اكتشاف طرق التفكير المختلفة. تغوص الوظيفية في أعماق فهم العقل ومشاكله الداخلية، مثل الأفكار الضارة التي قد تلحق الضرر بالنفس. ومن ثم، تركز هذه الدراسة على الحالة العقلية والسلوكية لبطل رواية *The Ferryman*: كوين كارني.

لدى كوين عائلته الخاصة، لكن لديه مشاعر سرية تجاه زوجة أخيه. يؤخرهم بصبر ويقرر الانتظار حتى اللحظة المناسبة ليكشف عن مشاعره الحقيقية. وحتى ذلك الحين، يمكن للقراء فهم ما يكمن داخل ذهنه ويمكنهم تصوير طريقة تحويل هذه الأفكار إلى أفعال. من الصعب إظهار المشاعر الحقيقية تجاه الآخرين في وسط المجتمع. إذا كانت الشخصية قادرة على القتال من أجل معتقداتها، فيجب أن تكون مستعدة للردود السلبية. تعكس هذه الصعود والهبوط كيفية اهتمام الوظيفية بالأفكار الداخلية للعقل البشري والأفعال المرئية الخارجية. الكلمات المفتاحية: الوظيفية، الأفكار الداخلية، العواطف السرية، السلوك، الفعل.

### Functionalism: A Background and Definition

Functionalism is a branch of school of psychology, the origin of which is traced back to the Father of American psychology, William James (1842-1890). At this point,

he searches for the psychological conducts of behaviour, emotions, feelings and thought that serve function. However, when there is no function, such conducts are lost. In this case, the goals of these functions have to be recognized beforehand. Functionalists hunt for reasons that cause a certain behaviour. These goals appear when the researcher questions the source of an intercultural behaviour. Basically, functionalism is a branch of structuralism, because a person is not capable of studying function unless structure is understood (Johnson, 2006). The truth behind functionalism is that it actually revolves around the process of thinking. It logically leans toward the direction of social reality and human action to understand the problems behind the function of such thoughts (Broekman, 1974).

In addition to James, the Chicago School of Functionalism is led by the American philosopher John Dewey (1859-1952) and other philosophers and psychologists who explored the evolving borders of the mind from philosophical and psychological viewpoints. They studied the understanding of the human intellect and behaviour which is a naturalistic path to comprehend the mental life as an adaptive organic procedure. Functionalism studies the naturalistic attitude of the human being towards others and tries to discover its abilities. Therefore, the term functionalism comes from the origin of 'function,' which means to show how the brain functions through thoughts and behaviour. It is connected to common sense and what it would accomplish and eventually enters the world of science. The field of education was very welcoming towards functionalism and took a branch from structuralism. These two fields differ in their fundamental conceptions of subject-matter and method, reflecting how functions do not emerge in direct experiences. It is impossible to be observed from the start because functionalism begins within the unconscious and is formed through stages until it reaches the consciousness (Shook, 2001).

In fact, functionalism emerged in protest against existing systems in structuralism, which was started by the German psychologist Wilhelm Wundt (1882-1920). As structuralism studies the contents of consciousness, functionalism focused on deeper common-sense issues in psychology. It sought to develop the spiritual and emotional functions of the mind. Dewey reflected functionalism through the experience of a child and a flame. First, the child was attracted to the flame, touched it, and burned his fingers. Here, structuralism would study the process of analyzing the actions of perceiving, reaching and being scorched. In contrast, functionalism would study the child's way of thinking to see if he would be attracted to something that caught his interest. After the child burned his fingers, the same flame was used, but the boy understood that it would harm him, so he withdrew. This shows that the experience taught him to avoid the flame in the future and this is exactly what functionalism studies. It is a unitary act with an adaptive value in addition to being a practical matter (Craighead and Nemeroff, 2001).

The English philosopher Edward B. Titchener (1867-1927) considered functionalism the accurate route to the understanding of the mind. Because he stated

that functionalism was mistaken, both the American philosophers John Dewey and James Rowland Angell (1869-1949) developed the term further. Granville Stanley Hall (1846-1924) connected functionalism to Darwinism from a psychological point of view, since it seeks concrete resolutions to everyday difficulties. That is why, Angell finds that emotions and reason are contrasted and declares that when an individual faces danger, panic proceeds even after fleeing the endangerment. To face problems leads one to master personal emotions but when self-control is missing, the whole case loses control. Functionalists therefore express that consciousness is a limit between a being and her/his environment that holds compound problems of behaviorism (Ludden, 2019).

The American founding father of functionalist psychology, Harvey Carr (1873-1954) and Angell, studied the importance of empirical and rational thought of the mind. They compared the brain to a computer, which focuses on the results rather than understanding the actual purpose and calculations that led to the outcome. Continuously, Angell studied how functionalism should be seen from a psychological viewpoint since it studies mental states and its functions. Also, it dealt with the psychological relationship between the organism and her/his surroundings. The mind and body could not be separated since there is continuous interaction between them. Carr studied how a person would act until satisfaction hits through activity and sensory stimulus. Such an action deals with the origin of association through contiguity that comes together in time and space. Carr figured that emotions play an important role in functionalism like fear, anger and envy. When such feelings increase within one's mind, they support the growth of the energy that would steer towards obstacles. This shows how functionalism broadened psychology's scope by adding the study of behaviour through experience. In turn, it succeeded in extending a wide range of psychological areas like testing intelligence, in addition to abnormal and animalistic behaviour (ibid).

In one respect, functionalism agrees that the study focuses on the route of input stimulus, inner processing and external behaviour, which in turn forms a causal relation. This means that it not necessarily has to do with mental states, but with unspecified, inner mechanism and its extension of the character against behaviorism. For this reason, functionalism studies all different kinds of stimulus, whether it would be mental or not (Searle, 2009). Functionalism bears the study of mental life as an organic procedure and is associated with realism. So, self-consciousness is a main subject concerning these studies, for it plays a major role in human existence. Functionalism is also responsible for gathering essential data through the undistorting senses (Shook, 2001). It is true that it deals with the factual conditions of the mind, but it cannot expose its true nature. In this case, it is fair to state that functionalism is an educational field that bonds schools of thought and institutions of prevailing creeds. Therefore, functionalists invest in the conflicts of theorists and critics who argue against the hierarchies of social systems. It reveals the relationships of control and

access of the nature of this field and its schools, society theorists, culture and education (Bartee and Brown II, 2007).

Concisely, functionalism is the scheme for elucidating problems of the inner mind like negative thinking that might harm oneself and others. It examines how the exact nature of a mental state works and why it mostly ends up with excruciating choices. Such behaviorism raids the standard status of the mind and leans towards unhealthy thoughts. Functionalism is seen as a cyclic system of physical inputs that consecutively produces problematic behavioral outputs (Block, 1996). This is naturally done through activities that ensure the survival of that system. Still, the function may release danger to avoid further angst with the aims of survival, health or stability of the person. These situations obviously raise questions to learn more about one's input-output characteristics (Malcolm, 1995). Dewey suggests that the human mind has adopted the behaviour of lower animals. Still, the manner of human survival differs from animals, due to the character of their respective inborn or natural purposes. This is because human beings possess a greater range of instincts that lead behaviour, like sympathy, fear, modesty and love (Klein, 2009).

Naturalistic ideas of functionalism are problems within the family or society. Functionalists believe that building stable societies starts with the family, "where the identity of an individual shapes, and where one's spiritual, psychological, and physical being develop" (Kheirbek, 2018, p. 105). However, when people suffer from such difficulties, they invest their own skills to achieve goals through patience, rage or even hatred, which really depends on the nature of the character. Concerning *The Ferryman*, reaching ideas of functionalism is detected through patience.

### **Quinn's Behaviorism from a Functional Perspective**

Because functionalism mirrors the deep inner thoughts of a person, this study will follow a journey inside the mind of Quinn Carney. It will describe how Quinn's frame of mind functions in troublesome conditions, and how he behaves in moments of truth. He is a hard-working farmer, husband and father who lost his brother ten years ago, since the latter was a part of the IRA (Irish Republic Army). Act One starts with the characters of Quinn Carney and Caitlin Carney, who are brother and sister in-laws. They play cards, smoke and dance with each other even though they are both married to other partners. Quinn takes his opportunity to be close to Caitlin, especially when they are alone. This is because Caitlin's husband, Seamus Carney, has been missing for ten years after he joined the Irish army and left a son named Oisin. Since functionalism focuses on the study of inner thoughts and external behaviour, Quinn and Caitlin's way of thinking form examples to figure out how functionalism studies such thoughts and behaviorisms.

Functionalists reject identifying the search for elements of mental life as sterile. This is because they view mental life as an adaptive process that allows them to study organisms more effectively. As a result, functionalists are interested in the purpose of

the mind instead of its structure since it all concentrates on psychology from a scientific point of view. This means that functionalists study population, children and animals to get to know the different types of behaviour through mental tests. It is done in the same environment yet on different occasions, to see how the performances vary from one another. Hence, in every situation, functionalists observe the types of behaviour among people, to help them adapting their environment. In turn, people are assisted to lead better lives by encouraging them how to control their feelings and thoughts (Sturmey, 2008).

Functionalism focuses on what the mind does and how behaviour functions. It examines people's roles in society and strives to develop their methods to make them adapt its essentials. James discusses how the stream of consciousness permits people to adapt the environment, yet the flow of thoughts in the conscious mind works differently from one person to another. Perceptions, understanding and observation vary from broad perspectives (Feldman, 2017). In this case, Quinn should respect Caitlin as a sister, but his inner thoughts hide a secret that nobody knows about, and he hides his true feelings excellently. This is because he is a married man and he knows that committing sins does not serve him well. Besides, it would hurt Caitlin as well, which is something he does not want. He manages to tame his thoughts within the barrier of his mind and only shows interest in her when there is nobody around. He is capable of functioning his thinking and this is what keeps him busy from inappropriate actions, especially when it comes to public appearances in front of other family members. He has been patient for the last ten years and he is waiting for the right moment to confess his true emotions.

The problem is that Quinn is married to Mary Carney, who spends most of the time upstairs because she is sick. This is why Quinn seeks attention from another woman. Additionally, Caitlin allows him to be close to her since she has no man by her side. Sometimes, when a person feels deserted by the partner, s/he may transfer emotions to another person. Attention is a need that most people instinctively look for. In Quinn's case, functionalism holds that such feelings should be kept hidden within his frame of mind. He is unaware that Caitlin is following the exact same steps, but both still do not know it. They are aware of how to behave when they are alone and in public. Functionalism holds the differences of consciousness and style concerning the inner thinking of characters. Because Quinn and Caitlin suffer from the same problem, their conscious thoughts are similar. That is why both characters face matching complexity in traits, events and life in general (Al-Sammarraie and Ismael, 2022).

The following Japanese proverb shows how people's characteristics are deeper than they might seem. It refers to how people demonstrate their character and identity in three faces.

The first face—is who we decide to show to the world, the second face—is the one you show to your close friends and family. The third face however, is the truest reflection of ourselves that is shown to nobody (as cited in Se-lah, 2019, p. 2).

When Quinn is surrounded by his family members, he acts as the man of the house and keeps track of everything that happens in it as the one who is responsible for everybody. He also has to know about the news that is brought by their priest, Father Horrigan. However, when he is close to Caitlin, he acts differently and does things that he is supposed to do with his wife, like dancing and drinking until daylight. When alone, Quinn holds secret feelings towards the woman who shows him interest and does not care as much about his wife because she is not always present at the scene. It is clear that in every different situation, functionalism shows that his thinking changes throughout his actions, whether he is surrounded by family, Caitlin, or all by himself.

Meanwhile, both Quinn and Caitlin are waiting for the perfect moment to reflect their veiled thoughts. Still, both know that the right moment will be a dark one. The contrast between the right and the dark moments reflects how a human brain functions, since the moment has not yet come. Nevertheless, in due course, they know that they cannot hide their thoughts and feelings any longer. This shows that their strong consciousness plays an important role throughout their lives. Functionalism shows how thoughts swirl inside an individual's mind. It studies how thoughts are hidden at a certain stage of life and how it is revealed at another one in the future. All this depends on the patience that a person has and how s/he schedules for such tactics to take their steps out of the mind into the outer world. However, when a person cannot bear endurance, things may become uncontrollable (Baggio, 2016).

Quinn is out to kill the harvest goose, but he finds out that it has disappeared. He furiously questions who has left the door open, and Oisin confesses that he is the one. Some family members mock him, so Caitlin orders her son to go to his room. Oisin refuses, curses all of the members and runs out furiously. Oisin feels that his mother stands by Quinn's side and has enough of it. As a mother, Caitlin should realize and highly consider Oisin's psychological state. This case, clearly demonstrates how Caitlin "is the manifestation of one's desires or hidden beliefs...[it] can be negative or positive depending on the way the person lives his life" (Saddam, 2020, p. 74). Obviously, Oisin's mind finally directs his thinking into action and shows Quinn that he has his own way as a member of this family. He is full to the brim to obey Quinn and reflects his attitude as a protest against his thoughts. Meanwhile, the clash between Oisin's thoughts on life and those of Quinn's ignites. An older man sees life differently due to the personal experiences that he has gone through for years. Oisin is still a young fourteen-year-old teenager with not enough life lessons. He is just starting to shape his own thoughts and tries to carry them out through feelings, and those are the precise steps that functionalism observes.

Functionalism examines an individual's independent state of physical and spiritual composition. Here, the mental state symbolizes functionalism through action (Gokel, 2013). The Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) states that such a behaviour starts within the mind due to humanistic desires. It starts with unconscious desires that are buried inside the mind, but when a certain action takes place, it becomes conscious through behaviour (Kosh, 2017). Still, it is difficult to hide feelings forever,

and time may come when a person reveals them intentionally or unintentionally. The longer a person hides emotions, the harder the disclosure will be. This is because a person privately schemes for plans that nobody knows about (Thompson, 1979).

Since functionalism studies the reason behind behaviour, it focuses on the point at which effective cases are caused. Quinn is extremely caring towards Caitlin and is overprotecting her like a husband should. The American philosopher Sydney Shoemaker (1931- ) shares that people are bound to be subjects of emotional states. Still, they should exhibit appropriate behaviour when they are in public. Emotional states start modest but expand over time and it is only natural for an individual to want more when there is an opportunity. The nature of this behaviour is connected to the person's identity and way of thinking (Olson, 2002). As for Quinn, he refuses to disclose his true feelings, as he knows that it is unfitting for a married man to express emotions towards another woman. Moreover, he is aware that Caitlin is still a married woman, yet nobody knows whether her husband is dead or alive. Both Quinn and Caitlin's styles of thinking are similar, yet they refuse to reveal their true feelings and thoughts (Thompson, 1979).

Amidst war, hunger strikes and members of the family wonder if the goose's escape is a bad omen. Luckily, their English factotum, Tom Kettle, has found it and enters with the goose. Horrigan enters and takes Quinn away to talk to him privately. Afterwards, Quinn reenters and tells everyone to leave so that he can talk to Caitlin. When the two are alone, he tells her that Horrigan has come with the news that her husband's body has been found after ten years of absence. Out of sadness, Caitlin starts to smoke and cry, but deep down, she expected such news. The refusal to cancel the dinner with the Corcoran brothers shows how strong a character Caitlin truly is. Her thoughts are intermingled with reality, and all she can do for now is cry and smoke. Functionalism enrolls this type of thinking and behaviour to explain the behavioural organisms that interact with the direct environmental elements. This includes the interaction with ideas and expectations like culture, and physical environments like space, objects and locations (DePoy and Gilson, 2012).

Functionalism differs from one person to another due to the variety of human nature, experiences, environment and understanding. Thus, the different inputs will naturally lead to a difference in the outputs. Comprehension transfers the case into behaviour and action, so functionalism explains how the brain psychologically functions. This is what makes every person unique because only the person herself/himself knows how her/his mind exactly works. Hence, functionalism has to do with private systems of the psychological states of the mind and deals with positions between consciousness and unconsciousness (Levin, 2018). For now, Quinn tries to control his inner feelings for Caitlin and patiently waits for her to comprehend her husband's death.

The Corcoran boys arrive to join the family for dinner. While everybody is having a good time, an old friend and IRA leader, Mr. Muldoon, enters. He comes to

offer his condolences, and Caitlin wants to talk with her son privately, but Oisín knows that his father is shot in the head and has been dead for years. He even knows that his father's body has been found in a bog by the border. He storms out of the house, and all the characters exit the stage except for Quinn and Muldoon. Quinn knows who the murderer is but cannot reveal it yet. His thoughts do not transform into immediate action, and he waits for the right opportunity to reflect his inner thoughts publicly. Now, he thinks about Caitlin and does not want to hurt her even further.

Functionalism becomes clearer when it flows through the stages of feelings and willingness. The first stage forms a normal habit for the person, but when this expands over time, it turns out to be an automatic reaction (Shook, 2001). Since functionalism deals with the deep effects of the mind, it is a challenge for characters like Quinn to act differently in front of family and friends. Patience is thus an important key to this role. People like Quinn either continue their actions privately or wait for the perfect moment to reveal their true feelings (Valsiner, 2012). People can never know what exactly happens inside a person's mind because they lack access. Thus, nobody understands what is really going on between Quinn and Caitlin due to their hidden personalities. Functionalism cannot be controlled or eliminated by other systems because it is directed by the same person (Ratner, 2006).

Instead of growing his relationship with his wife Mary, Quinn chooses to transfer his feelings to another woman. Functionalism holds the feature of inner suffering when people are unable to get what they desire. The other is incapable of understanding what a person means by a certain behaviour and might comprehend that such matters happen unintentionally while the person means otherwise. In Quinn's case, family members do not doubt any of his actions when he dances with Caitlin. Even Mary trusts him blindly and leaves them alone. Functionalism thus shares how it is impossible to comprehend what people truly mean by their actions (Thau, 2002).

Shane Corcoran is Quinn's cousin, and in his presence, Oisín starts to confess his true thoughts about his father's case. "Uncle Quinn is a traitor. My da's dead because of him" (Butterworth, 2017, p. 108). Oisín says that he wants to join the IRA, but Shane does not take him seriously. Oisín feels that there is a dark nature within Quinn but as a teenager, he is still figuring out how to mirror his inner thoughts. At this stage, he is still a fragile person who is trying to discover how his frame of mind truly works. Most people at this age act with unconsciousness because their personal experiences in life are still immature. For this reason, Quinn chooses to be silent at the time being, waiting for the right moment to lay out his thoughts.

Breaking the chain of silence is a hazardous stage when a person has to go through it. It will bring trouble, and Quinn is aware that if he reflects his true self, he has to pay a lot in return. In addition to Oisín's silence, Quinn and Caitlin choose the same path. Functionalism undergoes two phases, which are psychological and philosophical. On the one hand, the psychological phase focuses on the understanding of the relations that connect the causal generalizations with different stages of

explanation. When someone responds to this, s/he does not identify the problem and considers that personal thinking is similar to the relations between mental incidents and behaviour on which functionalism relies. Then again, the philosophical phase recognizes the causal generalizations of common-sense psychology. So, a reasonable mindset is acknowledged and undergoes a stage of helplessness that a sufferer has to deal with (Bermúdez, 2005).

Shane asks Oisin if he has seen Tom propose to Caitlin on the same day on which she learned the truth about her husband's death. He also asks where Quinn holds his shotgun, and the shocked Oisin says that Aunt Pat has a pistol under her bed. Suddenly, Oisin's thoughts shift from Quinn to Tom. This scene reflects how a youngster is easily dragged between the accusations of different people. He is in a rage, and this is dangerous since there is weaponry on the scene. Anger is born out of frustration, and Oisin strives to figure out how he should react. Therefore, "anger is an emotional state that varies in intensity from mild irritation to rage and fury that might lead to aggressive behavior" (Jamil, 2017, p. 168). The youngster is thinking about bloodshed and is incapable of controlling his mindset. He thinks that the best solution is murder, even though he has no proof. His feelings blind his frame of mind, which is blocked by reality. Functionalism tries to warn people of the danger of being swayed by human feelings while making important decisions. Oisin is thus an excellent example that clashes with Quinn's frame of mind. Oisin's thoughts are full of rage, while Quinn's are filled with care and love.

Horrigan and Quinn enter, and they start a conversation about Caitlin's true feelings towards Quinn. Because Quinn shares the same feelings, he cannot believe that the time has finally come to be frank about his true feelings. Horrigan finally utters that Caitlin once confessed that she has loves Quinn for years. Quinn's feelings are the same as Caitlin's, and he cannot grasp how they have been holding back this truth for so long. Suddenly, Mary interrupts, and Horrigan exits. Quinn blames Mary for always pretending to be sick and being absent all the time. Mary wants to end the conversation and Quinn attacks her, saying that she always repeats the same excuse whenever she gets into a serious discussion. He says that she does not look him in the eyes when he looks at her. Quinn finally shows what ails him and chooses to break his silence. After years of muteness, Quinn attacks his wife with the harsh truth about how he feels deserted by her. Now Mary understands why Quinn prefers to be with Caitlin all the time.

A certain act sheds light on behaviorism, action and the frame of mind. This process of various levels of consciousness concentrates on structure as an arrangement of representations of the mind. Thus, it bears the characteristic of symmetry, since a person like Quinn behaves differently from what his mind hides. If ignored, this behaviour may transform into an extremely serious case, and the sufferer might act in a way that s/he has never imagined. It happens unintentionally and naturally without control (Heil, 2013). So, from a functional point of view, the play connects inner

feelings to reality yet prevents showing them publicly since it needs submission to both social and religious authorities (Hussein, 2021). Now that they are alone, Caitlin asks Quinn if Horrigan has told him about her feelings. Quinn shares his thought with her, and they both agree to elope because he finds life with Mary meaningless. Quinn and Caitlin have lived for the last decade in silent love, and Caitlin starts to admit her true feelings openly:

If there is another world, a secret world, where everything is right and proper and perfect and as it should be... Then in that world I am not with Seamus Carney. You built the only happiness I have ever known. And I know it's not real. I know it's not. But it's *there*...I can see it. *She holds his face*. Know this, Quinn Carney. I love you more than the future. Because in the future we cannot be. So kiss me, and then it is the future. Where we are not. Where we can never be. *They kiss*. When I'm old...when I've forgotten my own face, the shape of my hands, or what those hands did. I will remember your face. Your hands. And that's enough for me. That's enough. Go to your family now. Save your family (Butterworth, 2017, p. 122-123).

Quinn and Caitlin end up realizing that it is impossible to communicate their thoughts since it would ruin a whole household. Functionalism therefore studies how a person should control inner feelings and not carry out hideous ideas that might lead to voidness. This is exactly what Quinn and Caitlin have chosen to follow, and luckily, they are soon interrupted by Muldoon.

Quinn tells Muldoon that neither he nor anyone he knows has anything to do with Seamus's disappearance. Quinn wants to start anew, wherein this subject will never be discussed again, to prevent future problems. Just as explained previously, Quinn is sacrificing his feelings to protect his household, even though he is aware of the truth. Therefore, Muldoon is glad that he has been proven innocent by the victim's own brother. Out of gratitude, he decides to rent Caitlin and Oisin a house for one year, and both will be under his personal protection. However, Muldoon's offer is rejected by Quinn, but the former insists that Quinn accept the offer or he will reverse his policy of goodness toward the Carney family. The startled Caitlin quickly accepts Muldoon's offer to prevent the upcoming danger. Functionalism studies the stages of thinking and behaviour, whether they are weak or strong, and how they affect oneself and others. Mental, emotional, psychological, intellectual and spiritual sides are taken under the wings of this theory to be examined closely so as to discover how they influence one's action (Bhagat, 2017).

The American philosopher Hilary Putnam (1926-2016) states that functionalism is an experimental theory, which happens especially when there are problematic situations. Indeed, Quinn is always advocating an overprotective attitude towards Caitlin, and his thoughts swirl around her current troublesome case. According to the English mathematician Alan Turing, functionalism is similar to finite state machines. The users do not know what happens in the inside systems of such machines, yet see

what happens on the screen, which is in this case the output. Since nobody can probe Quinn and Caitlin's minds, their close relationship is actually described as innocent acting (Symons and Calvo, 2009). All Quinn can do for the time being is move on and surrender to the fact that Caitlin is ready to track another path than Quinn's.

Suddenly, Tom enters with Oisín's body, declaring that the victim wanted to kill him with a gun. Tom explains that Oisín was shouting as a protest to Muldoon's presence and that he was ready to kill him along with Tom. This shows how the young teenager has mixed thoughts about avenging his father's death. Sometimes, cruelty makes an apparently innocent person unconscious and compels her/him to engage in an impossible or unexpected behaviour or thought. That is why functionalism warns the world about silent people. They may not always be as innocent as they seem and might hold dark thoughts that slip when the chain of silence breaks in the moments of truth. Functionalism is problematic since it demonstrates the true nature of thinking and its mechanisms and functions. It reflects the clarity of the style of thoughts and creates judgment that influences culture (Al-Sheikh, 132).

To tame the wild teenager, Tom admits to having wrung Oisín's neck to silence him, but now he is not breathing. Following the shock of her husband's death, Caitlin is again stricken by her son's death. Her hidden thoughts emerge from the darkness and are carried out instantly within a split second of rage. She quickly takes a razor and runs in the direction of Muldoon to show her agony. In the nick of time, Quinn stops her and takes the razor, slashing Muldoon's throat with his own hands. Next, he takes the gun and shoots Muldoon's henchman, Frank Magennis, in the forehead. "His blood spurts all over the wall of family pictures" (Butterworth, 2017, p. 128). Again, Quinn shields Caitlin and takes full responsibility for his acts. He transferred Caitlin's rage to his own concern, putting the blame on himself instead of the woman he loves. It is again an act of sacrifice, that functionalism adopts when a thought is put into action.

Next, Quinn turns to Magennis's assistant, Lawrence Malone, and tells him to tell everyone that he has avenged his brother Seamus. Malone exits, and Muldoon bleeds to his death. Everybody blames Quinn for ruining the family that he has built. Screaming can be heard, and Aunt Maggie says that they are coming. According to her, the screaming comes from a female spirit, which in Irish folklore reflects a warning of upcoming death. The play ends with the final candle flickering until it dies. Afterwards, there is silence, darkness and the curtain drops. Freud states that uncanny feelings may lead to envy, which forms mysterious and evil traces. In turn, these strike the fear that is hidden within the personality, and expressing it ends up with harmful results (Hattab and Al-Kamal, 2019). According to Carl Jung (1875-1961), these problems of mankind should be realized, in order to increase consciousness and face inner danger. Jung mentions that the actual danger is the man himself. If one hides those feelings and beliefs, the human mind might guide the person towards unconscious decisions. As a result, Butterworth shows that love is mostly a struggle that possesses the heart and

soul but fails to stream out in the open because of social complexities. This ends up in the social ruin of the self (Mahmoud, 2014).

## Conclusion

This study shows how deep affection outside the circle of marriage is, in many instances, destructive. Infidelity may lead to negative thinking, as seen in the case of Quinn. Rather than being faithful to his wife, he transfers his interest to his brother's widow and shows it whenever the two are alone. They both know that it is erroneous, but their feelings subjugate their actions. Indeed, instead of solving problems without ferocity, the play ends in blood. Functionalism studies the genuine inner thoughts and feelings that dwell deep within a person's frame of mind and the psychological conduct of behaviour. Everyone is responsible for controlling illicit thoughts or feelings through sacrifice in order to prevent such dangers from slipping out of the mind. When the unconscious is materialized in public, a person may commit crimes without awareness. At this point, damage has already been done, and regretting misconduct would be too late. On that account, functionalism warns people against losing control over their inner thoughts and it calls for proper ways to abandon corrupted thoughts through therapy.

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