

**THE PSYCHODYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF TRAUMA SUFFERED BY  
ARCHER HALE IN MIA SHERIDAN'S *ARCHER'S VOICE***

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**ABSTRACT**

This research is a study of Mia Sheridan's novel *Archer's Voice*. The purpose of this study is to reveal the trauma suffered by the mute male main character named Archer Hale. Archer was only seven years old when he got into a tragic accident that took away his voice and left him mute. He is a survivor of his own trauma since no one seems to care about him and his muteness. He was all alone, had no one to talk to, was an outcast in his town, and people called him a freak. Trauma is happened from a disturbing event that overwhelmed an individual and affects mood, motivation, and relationship in life. This feeling caused an individual to build a wall around and shut everybody out of life. Then, how is trauma suffered by Archer Hale portrayed in Mia Sheridan's *Archer's Voice*? Using qualitative method, this research is reviewed with Psychodynamic Theory focusing on psychological drives within individuals that explain human behavior and personality. In conclusion, Archer's trauma has taken control of his life so bad that made him lose his voice both physically and mentally.

**Keywords:** *Archer's Voice, Mia Sheridan, Mute, Psychodynamic, Trauma*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event or an experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing. The response is related to wound, pain, or shock that occurs physically and mentally for an individual, which results in a serious disorder (Colman, 2003; Fatima & Mehdi, 2022). It states under the consciousness in which even the sufferer may not realize for having such traumatic experience. A sudden experience comes spontaneously and damages the mental function of the individual's defense. Yet, it makes the individual helpless in controlling his or her own self (Helderman, 2020; Lakshmi & Thavaseelan, 2021). The researchers chose a novel with the title of *Archer's Voice* written by Mia Sheridan that was published on 2014. The data is gathered through understanding of Psychodynamic theory. The novel *Archer's Voice* was a portrait of Archer Hale's life. Archer Hale was just an ordinary boy who happened to live in an abusive household. When he was seven years old, he got into a tragic shooting accident which took away his voice and left him being a mute. Archer Hale, marred by tragedy, has been the town's outcast and being called a freak, yet he survived all on his own. Nobody wants to talk to him and everybody avoids him. He had learned an entire sign language but had no one to talk to. Each day passed, Archer lived his life with his lingering traumatic past until he met Bree Prescott. She was the first person who wants to talk to him and be his friend. She helps him uncover who he is as a person, helps him face his own trauma, and guides him find his voice.

## B. METHOD

This research is categorized through qualitative method. The researchers found the data from both offline and online books and journals. For data collecting and analyzing, the researchers used Psychodynamic Theory about trauma. The data was based on *Archer's Voice* written by Mia Sheridan. In this case, the researchers read the novel continuously to understand the content of the novel, took notes of important information, and answered the research problems. This research involves a collection of some textbooks, journals, and articles. This research is a library research with factual facts. The results obtained from this research is to show how past trauma could take over someone's life in present and control an individual to worse condition in the future.

## C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### The Chronicles of Symptoms of Trauma Suffered by Archer Hale

In Mia Sheridan's *Archer's Voice*, one of the main characters named Archer Hale suffered a great trauma because of what happened to him and his parents. The trauma affects Archer's personality and behavior in his adolescence. In order to understand more about Archer's trauma, the researchers explains the causes and symptoms of trauma suffered by Archer. Trauma happened from a disturbing situation or events that overwhelmed an individual and it impacts mood, motivation, and relationship in their life (Colman, 2003; Matsumoto, 2009). This feeling caused an individual to build a wall around themselves and shut everybody out of their life. Humans experience many incidents in their life, both pleasant and painful events. Someone who has experienced such a terrible and disturbing event

can be said to have experienced a trauma (Fatima & Mehdi, 2022; Helderma, 2020). This trauma can be felt by adults and children alike.

Trauma is not something people can easily cope with; it could take years and there are some people out there who live with trauma all their life. Trauma can be defined as a psychological, emotional response to an event or an experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing (Colman, 2003; Klein, 2016). Archer Hale was just an ordinary guy who happened to suffer a tragic loss from his past incident. Not only did he lose his parents, but he also lost his voice. There are three main types of trauma relevant to the research: Acute, Chronic, and Complex ones (Hatta, 2016). Acute trauma results from a single incident, Chronic trauma is repeated and prolonged as reflected on domestic violence or abuse, and Complex trauma is exposure to varied and multiple traumatic events affecting interpersonal nature.

Trauma can bring further impacts to an individual's body. Trauma can lead someone to an anxious feeling (Lazaratou, 2017). Anxiety signals the organism to stop the danger and the instincts that put the person into a dangerous situation. In this way, someone will feel pressured as anxiety always comes when facing any reality in front of the sufferer (Chapman, 2007; Helderma, 2020). This anxiety can affect a person's personality and behavior when approaching adulthood. In the case of Archer, the painful events that he has experienced changes his personality and behavior.

The symptoms of trauma are related to individual changes in physical and emotional reaction such as hypervigilance, anxiety, self-destructive behavior, re-experiencing, avoidance, and emotional numbing (Hatta, 2016). Hypervigilance is a state of increased alertness that makes an individual to be sensitive to their surroundings. Anxiety is a feeling of unease suffered by an individual like fear. Self-destructive behavior is a behavior that makes an individual tend to harm or destroy themselves. Re-experiencing is when an individual has a sudden flashback of their traumatic past including possibilities of nightmares and disturbing images (Helderma, 2020). Avoidance is a state where an individual tries to avoid being reminded of what has happened to them. All of those aspects above will lead traumatic people to avoid certain people or places and even to hate talking to anyone about their experience (Klein, 2016; Marzillier, 2015). As consequences, those symptoms can lead to a situation where an individual becomes isolated and withdrawn.

Emotion and psychological trauma can be caused by one-time events such as accident, injury, or violent attack, especially if it was unexpected or happened in childhood (Chapman, 2007; Marzillier, 2015). Another cause is ongoing and relentless stress, such as experiencing traumatic events that occur repeatedly, such as bullying, domestic violence, or childhood neglect. Third aspect is commonly overlooked causes, such as surgery, the sudden death of someone close, the breakup of a significant relationship, or a deeply disappointing experience (Helderma, 2020; Lazaratou, 2017). All of those three are seen through condition of exposing irritability, experiencing anxiety, withdrawing from others, feeling hopeless, being disconnected, and embracing numb.

According to Psychodynamic Theory, personality develops when there are conflicts from psychological aspects, which generally occur in childhood (Horowitz, 2018; Marzillier, 2015). In this case, Archer's personality was developing after his tragic incident. The trauma that he suffered through has taken over his growing-up personality. It led him to live a secluded and alone life with the fear of trusting people and being around others. The theory of psychodynamic was discovered by Sigmund Freud by indicating that human personality is an iceberg with the part above sea level is the area of consciousness and the part below sea level as unconscious (Feist & Roberts, 2013; Freud, 1915). The intermediary between the above and below is described as preconscious area in which traumatic experience takes place.

Besides, Freud also describes that the human personality consists of the id, ego, and superego. The three elements work together to create complex human behavior (Feist & Roberts, 2013; Freud, 1915). Simply put, trauma affects those three aspects to both its conscious and unconscious levels. In psychodynamic theory, trauma is associated with a life event, which is defined by its intensity, by the inability of the person to respond adequately and by its pathologic long-lasting effects on the psychic organization (Helderman, 2020; Lazaratou, 2017). The psychodynamic analysis of this research is the way Archer unconsciously behaves especially from his childhood to adulthood.

The concept is used to show how psychological attributes actually are not given yet seen as a whole. The symptoms of trauma may prolong for a long time. It slowly drives people not to go beyond, but to undermine themselves down under (Chatira & Kanellopoulos, 2014; Friedberg & Malefakis, 2018). The traumatic event may happen only one time, but its affects could work like an unending process. The idea then includes self is actually fragmented. It is not as a whole like the one modern thought thinks. People are divided into particular and unique past that may affect future reality (Feist & Roberts, 2013; Friedberg & Malefakis, 2018). Somehow, people could not stop it since it already existed long before he or she realized its frantic situation.

### **Psychodynamic Analysis on Trauma of Archer Hale**

*Archer's Voice* is a story by Mia Sheridan that explores the world of trauma. Archer was just a young boy when he experienced such painful events in his life. He lost his family that day and his voice as well because of certain accident. Archer suffered both chronic and acute trauma. Those are shown in here:

*"I wished I could snap my fingers and make this a real helicopter. Then I'd put my mama onto it and we'd fly away from here –away from him, away from the black eyes and my mama's tears. I didn't care where we'd end up as long as it was far, far away."* (Sheridan, 2014)

Chronic Trauma is a trauma that is repeated and prolonged such as domestic violence or abuse (Chatira & Kanellopoulos, 2014; Slobodin, 2016). Archer's witness a domestic violence and abuse that happens to his mother. His mother, Alyssa, gets beat up every time his father gets home drunk. At seven years old, Archer wanted to protect his mother from his abusive father. Archer has an uncle which he calls Uncle Connor who is his father's brother. Whenever Archer's

father is not in the house, Uncle Connor would visit him and his mother to spend little time with them because Uncle Connor cares about them both. He wants to help both Archer and his mother. He wants to get them both far away from Archer's father. He could no longer bear how Archer and his mother were treated. It is shown in the following quotation:

*"Jesus. I want to kill him. I'm done with this, Lys. I'm done with the martyr routine. You might think you deserve this, but Archer. Does. Not," he said, spitting out the last three words in a way that let me know his jaw was tight like I'd seen it before. Usually, when my daddy was around.*" (Sheridan, 2014)

Uncle Connor hates his brother. He hates how his brother poorly treats Archer and his mother. He has enough of it and is willing to do anything to help them. He does not want Archer to live in those environments because Archer is just a boy. Archer was just a boy when he witnessed how his mother got abused. Despite his young age, Archer already knows that hitting someone is not right. It is seen in following quotation:

*"But I also knew daddies weren't supposed to come home drunk all the time and slap their wives in the face."* (Sheridan, 2014)

While he was seven years old, Archer already went through a trauma by witnessing his mother being abused by his father. He knows that getting home drunk and slapping wives is not something that anyone should be doing.

Acute Trauma is a trauma that is resulted from a single incident. Uncle Connor has told both Archer and his mother that he wants to help them escape. After waiting for his brother to get out of his house to go to a bar and get drunk, Uncle Connor comes over and ushers Archer and his mother to pack a bag because he will get them both out of there. Once they got into the car, Uncle Connor drove them out of town using the highway. However, they got into an accident along the way. This is seen in the following quotation:

*"My mama reached for her belt, and all of a sudden there was a large jolt and our car swerved crazily. My mama screamed and Uncle Connor yelled, "Oh shit!" as he tried to keep us on the road."* (Sheridan, 2014)

On the highway, some car suddenly hit them with such force that caused their car to swerve out of control no matter how much Uncle Connor tried to get it under control. Their car repeatedly is hit which causes them to get into a car crash on the highway. Their car got turned over and broken glass shattered everywhere along the highway. Archer is unconscious from the crash and when he regains his consciousness again, he sees his Uncle holding his mother's body. It is seen in the following quotation:

*"My Uncle Connor was on his knees on the side of the road, his head thrown back, sobbing up at the sky. My mama's limp body was in his arms."* (Sheridan, 2014)

At seven years old, Archer sees his mother's dead body in Uncle Connor's arms. The trauma of seeing the one person he loves the most, the one person that he wants to protect at all cost even when he is just a boy affects a great deal of Archer's life. Archer goes numb looking at the sight, until he sees a figure coming

towards them. The one who caused the accident that killed Archer's mother. It is seen in the following quotation:

*"That's when I saw him, coming toward us. My daddy. With a gun in his hand. A look of pure hate on his face, and zigzagging. He was drunk. I tried to feel fear, but I didn't see that there was anything more he could do now. I felt numb as I moved toward Uncle Connor."*  
(Sheridan, 2014)

The car accident that killed Archer's mother was caused by his own father. Before the accident happened, Archer was happy to be able to finally escape his father. He was happy that he escaped with the people who he loved the most, his mother and Uncle Connor. Nevertheless, when his father heard about Archer and his mother escaping, he sabotaged them and, in the process, killed Archer's mother. Archer witnessed his own mother's death; he saw her limp body with a broken neck and blood all over. Then an angry conversation happens between his father and Uncle Connor that makes Archer find out the reason why Uncle Connor is willing to help them in the first place. It is seen in the following quotation:

*"They were never your family, you sick son of a bitch. Alyssa..." He made that same choking sound again and didn't finish that thought. "And Archer's my son. He's my boy. You know that as well as I do."*  
(Sheridan, 2014)

Then, after hearing what Uncle Connor had said, Archer realized that he is Uncle Connor's biological son. Then, it all makes sense for him why Uncle Connor insisted on helping him and his mother escape. His real father, Connor, wants to take Archer and his mother away from Connor's brother so he can start a family with both Archer and his mother. However, it all went downhill when Archer's non-biological father decided to sabotage them that caused Archer's mother to die. Archer felt angry toward everything that happened to him. He felt angry because his chance of happiness with his mother and his real father was crushed. It is seen in the following quotation:

*"Hot anger filled my head. Connor was my daddy. He was taking me and my mama away from the monster – and the monster had messed it all up. Just like he always messed everything up."* (Sheridan, 2014)

Filled with angry and hatred emotion, Archer was heartbroken with everything that happened. He lost his mother and his chance of happiness. He was angry with his false father who destroyed everything of him. Because Archer was so mad at his false father, he ran towards him. What Archer did not realize is that his false father is holding a gun and aiming it towards him. This is seen in the following quotation:

*"I moved fast around Connor's legs and ran at the monster as fast as I could. A loud roar came out of Connor, and I heard him screamed, "Archer!" like his own life depended on it. I heard his feet running after me as the monster raised his gun to fire, and I screamed."*  
(Sheridan, 2014)

Archer got shot and fell on the ground. His real father, Connor, runs towards him and holds Archer in his arms. Blood splatter from Archer's body. Feeling

hurt, Archer tried to scream but there was no voice coming out of his throat. As seen in the following quotation:

*“But my scream sounded like a gurgle as something sharp and hot sliced through the side of my neck like a knife, and I went down on the hard road. I brought my hands to my throat, and when I brought them down to look, they were full of blood.”* (Sheridan, 2014)

Archer could not scream because he just got shot in the throat which caused him to lose his voice at that moment. His false father ruined everything for Archer. Archer thought that he was going to die from his injury but then he heard another gunshot coming from both his real father and his false father. This is seen in the following quotation:

*“Both of their guns exploded, and I felt my real daddy jerk beneath me. I tried to cry out, but I was so tired, so cold, so numb. My eyes moved back to the monster, and he was lying on the ground, a pool of blood spreading out slowly around him.”* (Sheridan, 2014)

Archer lost everything that day. He lost his mother, his real father, his chance of happiness, and his voice. Archer saw his real father's body go limp besides him. Pool of blood surrounded him. He also saw his false father's body on the ground with blood all over him. Archer suffered such a great disturbing traumatic experience. Archer physically survives the incident, but he does not survive mentally. He survived with the feeling that the incident was his fault. That if he were not born, none of those things would have ever happened. The incident made Archer suffer such a trauma. This is how acute trauma suffered by Archer shown in the novel, a trauma that resulted from a single incident.

Moreover, the Psychodynamic analysis on unconscious behavior shows how Archer grew up in the mix of his traumatic past. It makes him have many unconscious behaviors (Perrotta, 2020). He is unaware of his own destructive behavior that makes him become the recent person. He is a person that is isolated and does not trust anyone in the town he is living in. He grew up all alone and isolated without any contact with anyone. This is seen in following quotation:

*“Hey, actually, I have a question about someone. I dropped some stuff in the pharmacy parking lot last night and a guy stopped to help me. Tall, lean, good build, but... I don't know, he didn't say a word... and he had this long beard” “Archer Hale,” Melanie broke in. “I'm shocked he stopped to help you, though. He doesn't usually pay anyone any attention.” She paused. “And no one usually pays him any attention, either, I guess.”* (Sheridan, 2014)

The quotation above is from the perspective of Bree Prescott, a girl who took fascination on Archer. After her talk with her neighbor Melanie, she learns that Archer is an isolated man. Archer unconsciously develops self-isolation behavior. After the accident, Archer lives with his other family, Uncle Nathan. Uncle Nathan tried his best to raise Archer who is mute and could not speak. After Uncle Nathan died, Archer lived all alone and isolated. Archer did not bother to try communicating with other people because the way he sees it, nobody in town ever wants to interact with him too. Archer suffered many symptoms of trauma. One of them is hypervigilance. This is seen in the following quotation:

*“As he turned back around to the stump where he was chopping the smaller pieces, he caught sight of me, startled, and then froze. We both stood there staring at one another, my mouth slightly open and his eyes wide. A bird trilled somewhere nearby and an answering call echoed through the trees.”* (Sheridan, 2014)

Being isolated, Archer did not interact with anybody from his town until Bree Prescott came into his life and tried to get to know him. Seeing Bree in his driveway, he was unconsciously having hypervigilance. Hypervigilance is a state of increased alertness. It makes an individual to be sensitive to their surroundings. When Archer saw Bree in his terrace looking for her lost puppy, he shows the symptom. He was alert even though Bree had no intention of bringing harm his way. Archer has no one growing up since his Uncle Nathan died. Therefore, he has no one to talk to and no one caring for him, all Archer had was himself.

Being alone and isolated all by himself, he is not used to people being around him. No one tries to talk to him, and he does neither. He has a problem to trust people because of his isolated condition. However, everything slightly changes when Bree Prescott comes into town and wants to be friend with Archer. Bree makes Archer finally open himself and lower his wall to communicate with her. After having a sign conversation with Archer, Bree finally understands something about Archer. This is seen in the following quotation:

*“It suddenly occurred to me that Archer Hale had taught himself an entire language but hadn’t had a single person to talk to. Until me.”* (Sheridan, 2014)

After Uncle Nathan died, Archer did not have anybody to talk to since Archer is mute and has to use sign language to communicate. It makes things harder for him especially when no one in town ever pays him any attention. Archer has to do everything all by himself without any interaction with other people. Without realizing it, Archer isolated himself from the world until Bree Prescott came into his life and showed him how nice it is to have someone to talk with. He felt happy to be able to use his sign language with someone and finally be able to lower his guard to another person.

Interestingly, Bree has succeeded to make Archer leave his state of hypervigilance. By studying sign language, Archer slowly heals from his trauma by focusing to talk to Bree as his sole friend. Bree has taken out Archer from his deepest well. The trauma may be still there inside his mind, but Archer could slowly share everything to Bree. In other words, Archer by the help of Bree could be socially involved slowly by having mutual understanding of sign language with her. This understanding is the beginning of trust. Then, putting trust in others is another natural amend to trauma (Lakshmi & Thavaseelan, 2021; Perrotta, 2020).

Besides hypervigilance, Archer unconsciously has self-destructive behavior that always thinks of himself for being worthless and blaming his own self. This is seen in the following quotation:

*“I was a freak. I was out here alone and isolated for a reason. I was to blame for so much tragedy, so much pain. I was worthless.”* (Sheridan, 2014)



Growing up into adulthood, Archer is surrounded by the feeling of guilt. The blame for the tragedy that happened to him was assumed as his faults, though it was not. He grew up blaming himself for everything that has happened to him and his parents. He keeps blaming his own existence that has hurt others and made them sacrifice for him. He keeps having negative thinking on if he were not born, then his parents will still live. Archer also shows self-destruction behavior in the following quotation:

*“If you hadn’t come back, I would have lain here until I died. I would have been here until I died. I would have just willed myself to die.’ I would have just faded to dust, right here. How does that make you see me? Do I seem strong to you? Am I the kind of man you want?’.”*  
(Sheridan, 2014)

Archer was finally able to open up and let Bree into his life. He and Bree are happy together, but sometimes, every happy thing comes to an end. When Bree decided to go back home out of the small town where Archer lived, Archer kept in contact with her through messages, but when he suddenly could not contact Bree, he immediately went into self-destructing behavior. Trauma once again surrounded his mind and he unconsciously let it control him (Lakshmi & Thavaseelan, 2021). When Bree came back to the town, she immediately went over to Archer’s house and found his self-destruction self.

Through his internal conflicts, Archer decided that it is best for him to be away from Bree and away from the town. He decided that it is better that he finds himself and figures out who he is as a person by himself. However, his effort is still being accompanied with his inner fear resulted from the former tragedy. Archer feels further anxiety as his intention to move forward must be hindered by his bad traumatic experience of the past. This seen in the following quotation:

*““Archer?” I called, an ominous feeling rushing through my body. I shook it off and called again, “Archer?” Nothing. It was then that I saw the letter with my name written on it propped up on the table behind the couch. With shaking hands, I picked it up and unfolded it, fear enveloping my body.”* (Sheridan, 2014)

In order to find himself and to amend himself, Archer left Bree to find better hopes. Archer must do this deed to avoid further damage to his surroundings. Here, Archer practiced avoidance as kind of symptoms of trauma in which he always feel that he was the center of all problems of the world. He did not ask everyone to stay away, but he had to do it to prevent other traumatic events to come to the surface again. After all that has happened to him, he decided that the best thing for him to do is to stay away from something that he has become attached to. When Bree visits his house, she finds the house empty with no sign of Archer anywhere and all she finds is a letter written by Archer for her. Archer left Bree a letter explaining why he left. This is seen in following quotation:

*“I’m leaving, Bree. I’m taking my uncle’s truck. I don’t know where I’m going yet, but I need to go somewhere. I need to figure things out, and maybe even learn a little bit more about who I can be in the world—if I can be anyone at all. The very thought of it is filling me with fear but staying here—feeling the things I’m feeling—seems like*

*the more terrifying alternative. I know that's hard to understand. I don't even fully understand it myself.*" (Sheridan, 2014)

The letter Archer wrote explains why he feels the need to stay away. He understood his idea in the state of complex trauma in which each bad memories of the past keeps haunting him endlessly (Horowitz, 2018; Slobodin, 2016). He needs to figure himself out. In order to do that, he has to push himself out there and to experience what the world can give him. He finally realizes that he will never figure out himself if he keeps being stuck in the same town where everything went wrong for him. He understands that he needs total renewal for everything. He also wants to stay away from Bree in order to avoid any damage to relations that he and Bree had before. This is seen in the following quotation:

*"There's always going to be something that threatens to take you away from me, even if it's something small, and even if it's only in my own mind. And eventually, that's going to be the thing that destroys us. I'll start hurting you because you won't be able to fix me—you'll never be able to reassure me enough. You'll just end up resenting me because you'll constantly have to carry the weight for both of us. I can't let that happen. I asked you not to let me destroy what we have together, but I don't think I'm capable of doing anything else."* (Sheridan, 2014)

Archer decided to leave in order to find himself and get his own self together. He did not want to ruin what he and Bree had because of his attachment to his trauma. He has a lot of issues with himself that he needs to fix. Archer is afraid of being a burden for Bree because of his entire trauma. That was the main reason why he decided to leave. He did not want Bree to resent him and be a burden for her. Archer thought that there is nothing else he can do in that town. Besides, there is no one that can help him, except Bree. Therefore, in order to find and fix himself, he has to leave.

After three months, Archer comes back. He was finally able to find himself and learn things that he had missed in his life. This seen the following quotation:

*"I had this realization about a month after I'd been gone. Whenever I went somewhere and had to communicate with someone, and they'd see my scar and understand why I was gesturing, they each had a different reaction. Some people were awkward, uncomfortable, others were kind, helpful, and there were even some that were impatient and put out."* (Sheridan, 2014)

Being away taught Archer a lot of things. It made him realize how much he had missed out on his life. After a month of leaving, he realized that people have different reactions towards everything. He learns that people have different reactions towards him because of his condition. In the town he lived in, people avoided him and did not pay him attention in any way, but with being away, he realizes how different people are. In this part, Archer feels such re-experiencing of his traumatic past events. His memories of being left by his beloved ones keeps being repeated by other persons who think himself as strange or even freak. Interestingly, Archer is getting aware of this situation then he is using his

weakness to understand wider matters of human beings. By understanding others, later he could understand himself either.

There are some people that are kind to him and there are others that are not. Archer tells Bree his entire story when he was away. Being away taught him many things. He could leave his past self that is full of emotional numbing of the death of his beloved ones. This is also reflection of time experience in which time truly will amend bad things into further better ones (Horowitz, 2018; Slobodin, 2016). This is seen the following quotation:

*"I got a job.' I smiled and a look of surprise came over her face. I nodded. 'Yeah, I stopped in this small town in New York state and I saw an ad about needing guys to unload delivery trucks at the airport. I wrote a letter about my situation, explaining that I could hear and understand directions and I was a hard worker, but that I couldn't speak. I handed it to the guy in person and he read it and hired me on the spot. I grinned with the memory of the pride I had felt in that moment.'" (Sheridan, 2014)*

Archer steps out of his isolated self and enjoys the world out there. He got a job where people do not judge him for his condition for not being able to speak. He shows himself out there and is accepted by people. Archer experiences new things that can help him be a better person. Those ideas also help him find himself. Slowly, Archer is able to find himself through his trauma. Archer managed to overcome his trauma by being away. Archer came back home as a different person, by staying away from the town where all his painful tragedy occurred, Archer finally managed to overcome his own trauma. He finally is able to live through it and finally knows what he wants and how to fix himself from all his trauma. At last, he is able to forgive his past and himself either.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

Traumatic events have a considerable impact on Archer's life. It affected Archer's behavior when he became an adult. The trauma portrayed in Archer Hale's life is acute, chronic, and complex trauma that began with the tragic events that caused him to lose his parents. That tragic accident makes him do things unconsciously without being aware of what it does to him. Archer lived his days by embracing hypervigilance, anxiety, self-destructive behavior, re-experiencing, avoidance, and emotional numbing to his bad memories of the past. His life got mixed up with his past trauma and he has a hard time understanding himself until a woman named Bree helps him find his voice not psychically, but mentally. Archer finally understands that in order to move forward he needs to overcome his own trauma and that is exactly what he did. The psychodynamic analysis on this research is the unconscious behavior of Archer shown in the novel and how it could influence his life. He had a hard time understanding himself because of his trauma. However, he finally understands that in order to overcome his own trauma, he needs to find himself. He needs to find who he is outside of his comfort zone and let go of his trauma.

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