

The motivational mind of Magneto: towards Jungian discourse analysis						
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#### **ABSTRACT**

Discourse analysis has been a prominent area of psychology for 25 years. It traditionally focuses on society's influence on the world through the rhetoric (implicit persuasion) and symbolism, dealing with important psychological areas such as 'identity' and many social justice issues. Graphic novel analyses is also increasingly more common. Social justice issues are especially prominent in analysis: particularly in X-Men, through metaphors of 'oppression', 'sexuality and identity' (Zullo, 2015). Psycho-discursive analysis focuses on the 'subject' neglected in traditional discourse analysis, which has been provided recent attention. A Freudian and Jungian psycho-discursive analysis of DC comic character, 'Batman' has been studied regarding motivation and psyche (Langley, 2012). However, 'reflexivity' in Freudian psycho-discursive analysis is a known problem that previous psycho-discursive analyses have been unable to tackle effectively. Therefore, this study proposed a step towards Jungian psycho-discursive analysis adapted from personality and motivation theory, 'Psychological Types' (1971) and theoretical expansions by Myers and Myers (1995). It was applied to fictional representations of psyche within the X-Men comic character, 'Magneto', due to fictional inspirations which commonly form Jungian theory. Magneto was interpreted as the type, 'INTJ', and future implications of further applications to psyche are discussed.

KEY WORDS:	PSYCHO- DISCURSIVE ANALYSIS	JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY	PERSONALITY	X-MEN	GRAPHIC NOVEL ANALYSIS
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## **Background**

## Discourse analysis

For 25 years discourse analysis has been a prominent area of psychology (Stokoe, Hepburn & Antaki, 2012). Billig (2012), a part of the 'Loughborough School' who established discursive psychology, describes it as a sub-discipline within psychology. Discursive psychology expands social psychology, moving away from experimental methods and explanations (Billig, 2012). It focuses on the rhetoric: a mode of persuasion implicit within all discourse. Therefore, discourse analysis focuses on what is written 'between the lines' of a data set, grounded in interpretation and symbolism (Taylor, 2013). Another common component of discourse analysis is 'subject positions', which refers to the role of a 'subject' and analyser within the discourse and its analysis (Billig, 2012). Taylor explains that discourse analysis takes clues based on times, places and people, to devise or incorporate a theory of analysis that is applied to the data. Meaning communicates through discourses, and patterns of this meaning are then searched for across a data set to refine interpretation. All the while, interpretation is seen through chosen theory's lens (Taylor, 2013).

# Discourse analysis' successes

Discourse analysis deals with important 'problem' or 'missing' areas within psychology, that pre-existing methods of psychology have not been adequate to tackle. For instance, it is known as a platform to voice and investigate social justice issues propagated by society and language (Weatherall, 2012). Lester (2014) discusses its additional usage in helping define important psychological concepts such as identity, cognition and memory. Weatherall's focus has also been used in analysing X-Men graphic novels (Dale, 2014; Zullo, 2015); a fictional society wherein 'mutants' are interpreted as metaphors for multiple oppressed groups. Weiner (2010) and Dale (2014) use Lester's focus in studying infamous X-Men vigilante or villain 'Magneto', through his Jewish identity and as a holocaust survivor. Similarly, Oakley's (1998) study on renowned graphic novel, Art Speilgelmen's *Maus*, exemplifies Lester's focus. It explores identity through analysing fictionalised holocaust experiences that depict Nazis as cats and Jews as mice. 'Magneto' will be used as the 'subject' of the current study's analysis due to the character's and X-Men series' connections to symbolism and social justice issues, both of which are prevalent within discourse analysis.

## Advances on Discourse analysis

Billig (2012) suggests that discursive analysis, like all sub-disciplines, 'contains seeds for further success (for expanding the business) as well as seeds for its own failure' (p.421). Although Billig was describing discourse analysis as an extension of social psychology, the statement could characterise an extension of discourse analysis. This extension could be psycho-discursive analysis, made possible through the theoretical orientation of every discourse analysis.

## Parker's advances: Psycho-discursive analysis

Parker and Pavón-Cuéllar (2013) are prominent psycho-discursive researchers who take a Lacanian and Freudian approach. Parker is amongst the multiple theorists who challenges the sole outward focus of discourse, and believes the 'subject' should be analysed within it (Stokoe et al., 2012). For without that emphasis, any impact of the individual is demeaned. Naturally, scepticism surrounds psycho-discursive

analysis for returning towards the individual. As, psycho-discursive analysis could 'minimise' the reach discursive psychology originally wanted to expand (Taylor, 2013). Brock (2016), however, disagrees. Brock found including subjectivity (and not negating the individual's importance) in psycho-discursive analysis provided a more nuanced approach to studying people and society. In addition, Taylor (2013) acknowledges that despite scepticism discourse analysis can combine with theories like psychoanalysis in the discourse analysis' theoretical orientation.

## Psycho-discursive analysis & Reflexivity

Reflexivity is an imperative part of psychology with a long history (Finlay, 2002; Richards, 2002; Flood, 1999; Smith, 2005), especially in qualitative research (Smith, 2007; Shaw, 2010). Through reflexivity the problem of the 'subject' is not a problem, but an enabler. Reflexivity is inherent in discourse analysis through the 'rhetoric' (Finlayb, 2002). Reflexivity is also prominent in psychoanalysis (Finlay, 2002b; Berman, 2000; Elliott, 2012; Morawski, 2005). In psychoanalysis, reflexivity combines with the process 'transference' through a dual process of feelings and past experiences invoked by who, or what the analyser is analysing. Via this procedure, 'unconscious processes [structuring] relations between the researcher, the participants, and the data gathered' (Finlay,2002b:535) are explored. Interpretations are then formulated.

## **Current struggles of Psycho-discursive models**

Parker and Pavón-Cuéllar (2013) do note, however, the potential problems of reflexivity from transference in psycho-discursive analysis. They express that the actual meaning of a text could be warped by the researcher's interpretation; a common 'problem area' of reflexivity (Shaw, 2010; Smith, 1998) and discourse analysis in general. They 'remove' this interpretation bias by using repressive aspects of Freudian and Lacanian theory. Though by doing this, 'real reflexivity' important to psychoanalysis is reduced over positively acknowledged. Thus, resistance to positive parts of reflexivity is prominent even within popular psycho-discursive analyses.

Berman (2000), however, counters the negativity on reflexivity in psychoanalytic research by suggesting 'psychoanalytic supervision'. Based in transference, it is a personal learning process for both supervisor and supervisee. Psychoanalytic supervision's emotional components are crucial to its evolution into a transitional space that allows the creation of new meanings. Supervision also draws on psychoanalytical ways of listening to and noticing oneself: staying involved with feelings pertaining to the self and others and not closing down (Elliott, 2012). Berman claims avoiding reflexivity's importance in psychoanalysis is to deny the supervisor's subjective role, which is imperative for thorough, interpersonal and unoppressive analysis. This method was used successfully by Elliott et al. (2012) in their psychoanalysis of a subject and interview discourse. The researcher could take a 'reflective distance' by acknowledging their own perspective as subjective, which enabled more objective analyses.

# How Jungian theory could solve Psycho-discursive struggles

As discussed, reflexivity's existence and necessity to psychoanalysis and subjectivity in discourse is evident. However, the validity of reflexivity's implementation is mixed, creating a resistance to reflexivity within analysis still (Morawski, 2005). Thus, there is a gateway for a new method of psycho-discursive analysis to be created

(Elliot, 2012) wherein reflexivity is not minimised. The alternative method suggested by the present study is adapted from psychoanalytic pioneer, Jung's, personality theory, 'Psychological Types' (1971).

Jung was intrigued but critical over various typologies of people created before, as they left little room for interpretative, intuitive analysis that he believed was needed in studying humans and the psyche (Tacey and Jung, 2012). Both, he believed, to be highly interpretive and subjective. Through 20 years of observation and reflection of himself and those around him, he incorporated this thinking into his own 'Psychological Types'. The biological and environmental are each theorised to impact type, irrespective of and relevant to all sexes, ages and classes (Stevens, 2001). In 'Psychological Types', type categories are allocated to people depending upon what mental processes they have for understanding the world. The theory further suggests how psyches are motivated through both these mental processes and the processes' interactions with each another. This qualitative, interpretative nature characterises Jung's style of psychology and intention for his theories compared to the 'mainstream', as he wished to 'escape [the] prevailing concretism' (Jaffe and Jung, 1995:234) and answer qualitative questions in psychology.

In addition to those around him, Jung's theories were and have heavily inspired mythology, folklore and fiction – Jung having referenced 'Superman' as an embodiment of the 'hero' archetype which is still used in story tropes today (Stevens, 2001). Jung's archetypal influence in media and pop culture has continued importance, as through Campbell's (2008) 'The Hero with 1000 faces', which inspired the pop cultural phenomenon 'Star Wars' by George Lucas. Jung's theories have also been applied to fictional, psycho-discursive analysis in Shakespeare's Hamlet (George, 1994) and in examinations of images of the divine and the demonic: in contemporary science fiction television series (Trouba, 2002). Additionally, Rude (1960) used Jung's concept of the self in understanding characters in prose. Langley's (2012) study of dark hero and comic character, 'Batman', shared the same self and shadow theory as well as Jung's archetype theory in a psychoanalysis of fictional psyche, concerning motivation and trauma-behaviour.

## **Current use of 'Psychological Types'**

Despite the qualitative, folklore and fiction-inspired nature of Jung's theories, 'Psychological Types' has not been applied to fictional psyche or as a discourse. Instead, it has been renovated as a popular quantitative instrument to measure personality and 'predict' correlations to various areas (Myers and Myers, 1995). Examples of these are 'emotional intelligence' (Higgs, 2001) and 'type' to best-fit 'marriage' and 'occupation' (Myers and Myers, 1995). Its high popularity has been made possible through the commodification of the instrument by organisations: online and in media. This is despite criticisms over poor validity and reliability over accuracy to measuring Jungian theory, and usage as an objective and deterministic measurement of above areas (Boyle, 1995; Stricker and Ross, 1964; Pittenger, 1993). This deterministic aura also limits the room for discovery, understanding and the opening of life and opportunities Jung intended for his theory (Stevens, 2001).

However, despite the problematic quantitative instrument used and the various claims derived from it, Myers and Myers' (1995) theoretical clarifications on Jung's original theory are useful and incorporated into the current study's method. Such as,

their focus on the 'auxiliary' function and 'healthy' functioning of the psyche opposed to 'unhealthy' functioning psyches, theorised to inspire much of Jung's original theory.

# The current study's advancements

Furthermore, this research is proposing a new psycho-discursive analysis in a qualitative presentation of Jungian 'Psychological Types' (1971) theory. As mentioned, the subject of the psycho-discursive analysis will be the fictional social justice vigilante, 'Magneto', created in the popular Marvel graphic novel universe, 'X-Men'. In this, the interpretative, reflective nature of Jungian theory is returned to answering qualitative questions through a psychoanalysis of a fictional psyche. Through which, the 'subject' and reflexivity are not negated in discourse, and fictional inspirations (prominent in many Jungian theories) are also acknowledged and examined.

## **Research Questions**

- 1. To explore the applicability of 'Psychological Types' (1971) as a Jungian psycho-discursive analysis.
- 2. Investigate manifestations of motivation from 'type' in representations of the fictional character 'Magneto'.

## Methodology

#### **Ethical considerations**

This study has obtained ethical approval (appendices 1).

# Design

The design of the study was qualitative as a psycho-discursive analysis of character psyche was performed. It included the application of 'Psychological Types' (1971) as the psychoanalytic theory which created and interpreted the discourses within the data. These discourses were then analysed and discussed according to formulated interpretations. Data included graphic novel analyses primarily, with reference to film representations of Magneto to strengthen analyses patterns.

Graphic novels analysed were the *Magneto* Series (#1-21, Bunn, 2014-15) and *X-Men: Magneto Testament* (Pak, 2008). Films analysed were: X-Men (2000), X2 (2003), X-Men: First Class (XM:FC, 2011) and X-Men: Days of Future Past (XM:DOFP, 2014). *X-Men: Magneto Testament* (Pak, 2008) contains the full origin story of Magneto, and the 2014-15 *Magneto* series (Bunn) depicts him at the end of his life.

Graphic novels were picked predominantly because of their relevance to earlier, Jungian psycho-discursive literature (Langley, 2012), as well as each comic's focus on the represented perspective of Magneto and psyche development. The chosen films fill the spaces of his life and development in between. Thus, to garner an accurate psychoanalysis, it was important to consider Magneto's represented life-span. As personal history is imperative to any psychoanalysis, and the environment is theorised in the aetiology of 'Psychological Types' (Stevens, 2001), a biography of Magneto is included.

# **Biography**

Magneto (born Max Eisenhardt, and then known by Magnus and Erik Lehnsherr) is a Jewish holocaust survivor and 'mutant' from the fictional world of the

'X-Men'. The X-Men universe revolves around so-called 'mutants' born with extra abilities that manifest naturally during puberty. However, as with Magneto, mutations are sometimes triggered earlier during times of great stress. Mutants are viewed as the next stage in human evolution ('homo-superior'), and face prejudice from the majority of the human population. Magneto's mutation is the ability to control magnetism, which he uses to fight for 'mutant rights' in whatever means he believes best protects 'his people'. Up until recent X-Men series, he has been the authoritative and influential leader of his mutant rights organisation, 'The Brotherhood of Evil Mutants'. Magneto also ruled the mutant safe haven, 'Genosha', until it was attacked by government-created sentinels. Additionally, Magneto's constant philosophical conflict over beliefs on the good of mutant-kind with old colleague and close companion, Charles Xavier (a fellow mutant rights activist), is important. For, Magneto believed homo-sapiens and homo-superiors could never coexist. From the view of some, Magneto is a terrorist and for others a 'terrifying salvation' (Magneto #5, Bunn, 2014). Irrespective, Magneto is Jewish and a mutant whom since his creation, has passionately fought for the survival of his kind.

# 'Psychological Types' theory as a Psycho-discursive Analysis

A combination of both Jung's original theory and the expansions made by Myers and Myers (1995) have been used to create the current study's psychodiscursive method. The mechanics can be found in appendices 2. Below the application of 'Psychological Types' (1971) as a discourse in the present study is explained.

## Step 1: Interpreting 'Energy'/'Libido' preference (Introvert or Extravert)

A type is predominantly an extravert or an introvert, as extraversion or introversion determines the energy direction of the process that formulates the 'ego' or 'self'. So, interpreting this was the first step. Extraversion manages a psyche's external world and stimuli as introversion does internally. Therefore, an extravert is more easily typed as their energy is directed towards outer objects (easily seen from an outside perspective). For an introvert certainty is less known, as their extraverted auxiliary process (Step 6b) could be compensating in interactions with the outside world (appendices 2).

Table 1
Comparisons of the Extravert and Introvert

Extraversion	Introversion				
Stimulation from external world	Stimulation from internal world				
Energy drained by focusing inward	Energy drained by focusing outward				
More active external world than	n More active internal world tha				
internal	external				

The analyst interpreted this mainly on a comparison of represented internal monologues to outward speech in frequency and richness of each. In addition, energy direction was considered to manifest in secondary behavioural clues (Table 2).

Table 2
Discourses of behavioural clues for Extraversion and Introversion

Extraversion	Introversion

Opened stances over closed	Closed stances over opened		
More interactions out of social	Interactions out of necessity or		
expectance over necessity or	comfortableness over social		
comfortableness	expectance		
Comfortableness within larger	Comfortableness spent alone or within		
company over alone-time or within a small company	a small company over larger company		

# Step 2: Interpreting the Perception 'function' preference (Sensing or Intuition)

The perception preference is the second letter which formulates the type code, thus, the second step of 'typing'. It is either 'S' (Sensing): Perception via the 5 senses or 'N' (Intuition): Perception via Patterns and Interrelations (appendices 2).

Table 3
Discourses for typing preferences: Sensing and Intuition

Sensing preference	Intuition preference		
<ul> <li>Concrete &gt; Abstract</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Abstract &gt; Concrete</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Focus on clearly seen</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Focus on Implication &amp;</li> </ul>		
consequences > Implication &	Inference > Clearly seen		
Inference	consequences		
<ul> <li>Present or Past preoccupation</li> </ul>	·		
•	preoccupation > Present or Past		
preoccupation	preoccupation		
Tradition > Innovation	<ul> <li>Innovation &gt; Tradition</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Mental stimulus keen &gt;</li> </ul>		
Mental stimulus keen	Physical stimulus keen		
<ul> <li>Pure enjoyment &gt; Inspiration</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Inspiration &gt; Pure enjoyment</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>More likely to invest into</li> <li>More likely to invest</li> </ul>			
tangible or lineal plans or results >	possible and theoretical enterprises >		
More likely to invest into possible and	More likely to invest into tangible or		
theoretical enterprises	lineal plans or results		
<ul> <li>Strive to assist society through</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Strive to assist society through</li> </ul>		
recreation, enjoyment and varieties of	invention, initiative and inspiration in		
comfort, luxury and beauty > invention,	multiple facets of human interest >		
initiative and inspiration in multiple	recreation, enjoyment and varieties of		
facets of human interest	comfort, luxury and beauty		
<ul> <li>Often seen by Intuitives as</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Often seen by Sensors as</li> </ul>		
being unimaginative, stuck in their	being eccentric, changeable, and		
ways, and following	fantasy prone		

# Step 3: Interpreting Decision-making 'function' preference (Thinking or Feeling)

The Decision-making preference is the third letter which formulates the type code, thus, the third step of 'typing'. It is either 'T' (Thinking): conclusions from detached objective analysis or 'F' (Feeling): conclusions from harmony of values (appendices 2).

Table 4
Discourses for typing preferences: Thinking and Feeling

Thinking	Feeling			
Logic > Sentiment	Sentiment > Logic			
<ul> <li>Impersonal; things &gt; Personal;</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Personal; people &gt; Impersonal;</li> </ul>			
people	things			
<ul> <li>Truthfulness &gt; Tactfulness</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tactfulness &gt; Truthfulness</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Facts &amp; sequences &gt; Tangents</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tangents with detail</li> </ul>			
with unnecessary detail	unnecessary to thinkers > Quick facts			
	& sequences			
<ul> <li>Under-value or ignore</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Under-value or ignore</li> </ul>			
judgements based on feeling	judgements based on thinking			
<ul> <li>Strive to help society by being</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Strive to help society from</li> </ul>			
critical of customs, habits and 'wrongs'	'good works', preferring			
of it & promote solutions,	complementary improvements over			
understanding and knowledge: less	clinical critique: often are and like to be			
concerned about being 'good' or 'liked'	regarded as 'good'			
than feelers				
•	<ul> <li>Accommodating &amp; peace-</li> </ul>			
solving > Accommodating & peace-	making > Confrontational & problem-			
making	solving			

# **Step 4: Interpreting Organisation preference (Judging or Perceiving)**

The final letter of the type code refers to a preference towards general approaches to the outside world that are either structured (J) or more flexible (P) (appendices 2). This preference additionally assists dominant process interpretation approached in Step 6 (appendices 2).

Now a superficial type should be present, as either one of the following sixteen:

Table 5
Subject positions of 16 possible types

ENTJ	INTJ	ESFP	ISFP	ESTJ	ISTJ	ENFP	INFP
ENTP	INTP	ESFJ	ISFJ	ENFJ	INFJ	ESTP	ISTP

However, the 4 letters only give a superficial 'impression' of a type. To type more accurately underlying 'cognitive functions/processes' should be considered.

Cognitive functions are theorised invisible mental processes in the psyche that underpin each type. This personalised collection of cognitive functions shape a type's view of the world and personal motivations.

## **Step 5: Considering cognitive functions**

There are 8 cognitive functions as there are 2 versions of Thinking, Feeling, Sensing and Intuition in total: 1 version is inwardly directed (introversion) and the other is outwardly directed (extraversion).

Table 6
The 8 cognitive functions

Thinking:	Introverted Thinking (Ti) and
· ·	Extraverted Thinking (Te)
Feeling:	Introverted Feeling (Fi) and
	Extraverted Feeling (Fe)
Sensing:	Introverted Sensing (Si) and
	Extraverted Sensing (Se)
Intuition:	Introverted Intuition (Ni) and
	Extraverted Intuition (Ne)

However, only 1 version of the 4 occurs in each type (appendices 2). Therefore, 4 cognitive functions, 1 Thinking, Feeling, Sensing and Intuition, forms a type. A typing discourse for each can be found in appendices 2.

# **Step 6: Ordering Functions**

The ordering of the 4 mental processes (cognitive functions) is what formulates the whole 'psychological type'. All 4 are required to help people fully navigate and understand their world, as no psyche only makes Feeling decisions without ever making Thinking ones, or always perceives through Sensing or Intuition. Not all functions affect a psyche in the same way or to the same extent – this depends on their ordering within the psyche.

# **Step 6a: Ordering functions (Interpreting the dominant)**

Out of the 4, there will always be a function which manifests in a psyche predominantly, and this function forms the type's ego. The way of 'being' most comfortable to a type. It is the type's main mode of expression, and thus its energy correlates with which 'attitude' the type is dominantly: Introversion or Extraversion (appendices 2). It manifests earliest, during childhood.

# **Step 6b: Ordering functions (Interpreting the auxiliary)**

The main job of the auxiliary is to balance out the dominant extraversion (in an extravert) with an introverted function and vice versa for the introvert. These two combine as a main pairing for making decisions about and perceiving the world. Because the dominant and auxiliary make decisions about and perceive the world, two decision-making functions (Feeling and Thinking) can never be the dominant and auxiliary, nor can two perception functions (Sensing and Intuition). Additionally, because the auxiliary works complementary to the dominant it cannot work without it. Therefore, when typing the auxiliary it is difficult to do so without mentioning how it aids the dominant (appendices 2). It typically manifests 2<sup>nd</sup> chronologically, during adolescence.

## **Step 6c: Ordering functions (Interpreting the tertiary)**

The tertiary function balances the auxiliary through opposing energy direction, and is meant to widen the specific perspective of it. For example, if the type's auxiliary is Thinking then the tertiary will be Feeling as they are each decision-making functions. However, it can also create opposition towards the auxiliary function due to opposite decision-making or perception perspective. Depending on which function the dominant

combines with most, the psyche can function more (auxiliary) or less healthily (tertiary) (appendices 2). It starts to manifest healthily during young adulthood.

# **Step 6d: Ordering functions (Interpreting the inferior)**

The inferior function is mostly hidden within the unconscious, but manifests during times of great stress in a primitive, often uncontrollable fashion. As the inferior is always the exact opposite of the dominant function (ego), when the inferior manifests the psyche will seem to undergo a 'personality switch' for the duration of stress (appendices 2). Chronologically, it manifests identical to the dominant, but is not considered to start manifesting less unhealthily until mid-late adulthood.

Table 7
Grid of the 16 types and their under-pinning cognitive processes from dominant-auxiliary-tertiary-inferior

ENTJ =	INTJ =	ESFP =	ISFP =	ENFP =	INFP =	ISTJ =	ESTJ =
Te-Ni-	Ni-Te-Fi-	Se-Fi-	Fi-Se-	Ne-Fi-	Fi-Ne-	Si-Te-Fi-	Te-Si-
Se-Fi	Se	Te-Ni	Ni-Te	Te-Si	Si-Te	Ne	Ne-Fi
ENTP =	INTP =	ESFJ =	ISFJ =	ENFJ =	INFJ =	ISTP =	ESTP =
Ne-Ti-	Ti-Ne-	Fe-Si-	Si-Fe-Ti-	Fe-Ni-	Ni-Fe-Ti-	Ti-Se-Ni-	Se-Ti-Fe-
Fe-Si	Si-Fe	Ne-Ti	Ne	Se-Ti	Se	Fe	Ni

# Step 7: Interpreting how functions combine to motivate a whole psyche

Once all functions and their ordering in the psyche have been interpreted, the motivation of each type can be interpreted fully. This is through the auxiliary and tertiary functions combined in aiding the perception or judgement of the dominant (ego) to create the type's motivation. Primarily, the inferior's motivation is to remove great stress when healthy functioning fails. However, in matured psyches the inferior function begins to stop manifesting as often under stress, and adds balance to the ego (appendices

#### **Analysis**

#### **Introvert over Extravert**

In X-Men: Magneto Testament (Pak, 2008) Max is aged 9 in #1 and ages to 21 by the end (#5). He demonstrates behavioural clues of introversion by remaining in the background before emerging to take action. This withdrawal allows Max's 'sharp eyes' to internalise all situational occurrences before engaging the outside world for action, such as: when he saves his family on 'Kristallnacht' (#2) (Figure. 1), when his 'sharp eyes' are needed to guide them from the ghettos (#3), and in Auschwitz where he speaks only when necessary, listening to the conversations of fellow prisoners in the bunks (#5).





Figure 1: Max's 'sharp eyes' saving his family on 'Kristallnacht' ('X-Men: Magneto Testament' #2, Pak, 2008)

Each *Magneto* (#1-21, Bunn, 2014-15) graphic novel begins with a long internal monologue active throughout the entire comic. Inspired by these monologues are carefully chosen spoken words that are limited in comparison, and actions he had already created internally before executing (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Comparison of represented 'internal world activity' to external ('Magneto' #2, Bunn, 2014)

In the beginning of XM:FC (2011), young adult Erik is a lone Nazi-killer. After Charles Xavier saves his life, he is initially withdrawn from him and the mutant strangers he has encountered (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Erik Lehnsherr (far right) on the side-lines of the group of mutants and CIA in XM:FC (2011)

However, after time to analyse the situation, Erik trusts the intentions of the mutant who saved his life, and comfortably frequents his company.

In X-Men (2000) and X2 (2003), a small but intimate circle of companions is shown, as Magneto's Brotherhood of Mutants are the only people he associates with frequently bar 'old friend', Charles Xavier.

#### **Intuitive over Sensor**

In X-Men: Magneto Testament #1, #4 and #5 (Pak, 2008), Max presents natural preference of mental stimulus opposed to physical. He is described by his teacher as 'near the top of [his] class in almost every [subject]' bar PE (#1). In Auschwitz, Max's teacher tells him there are implicit rules for survival he will 'figure out' (#4). He survives through his 'figuring out' which enables his escape with childhood crush, Magda (#5).

Erik connects with Charles over their innovative ideas for the future of mutant-kind, comparing what may have existed before to what the future may hold whilst playing chess – a game of fore-seeing strategy and possibility. This parallel is repetitious throughout most film representations (XM:FC, 2011; XM:DOFP, 2014; X-Men, 2000) (Figures 4, 5 & 6).



Figure 4: Charles (left) and Erik (right) conversing over the future of mutant-kind (XM:FC, 2011)



Figure 5: Charles (left) and Erik (right) (XM:DOFP, 2014)



Figure 6: Charles (left) and Erik (right) (X-Men, 2000)

#### Thinker over Feeler

'Mercy is a luxury I can't afford' (*Magneto* #2, Bunn, 2014) is how Magneto justifies 'inhumane' or cruel acts he commits throughout the entire series upon those that interfere with the survival of his race. However, when a world collision threatens the whole planet (*Magneto* #18-21, Bunn, 2015), Magneto's focus on logic over sentiment enables him to risk his life for human and mutant-kind.

Additionally, Magneto surrounds himself with Brotherhood members he believes best aid his plans, irrespective of liking or what might be best for them (X-Men, 2000; X2, 2003). Erik also claims 'peace was never an option' (XM:FC, 2011: 87mins 33secs) in a conversation with Charles. This Thinking preference foundations his philosophical conflict with Charles and foreshadows their eventual separation at the film's end. This conflict is present when Magneto calls Charles' Feeling decision 'weak' for being unable to 'make sacrifices' for their kind (X-Men, 2000: 57mins 28secs).

# Structure over flexibility

Erik's moves are primarily structured. Such as, when he decides at the beginning of the film to murder Nazi, Shaw, for murdering his mother and torturing himself, leaving little flexibility from the influence of others. Although friendships, with

Charles specifically, were made along the way, he never loses focus of his initial goals in actions (XM:FC, 2011).

This pattern is represented in his relationship with ally, Briar. For, he allows himself her company as she aids his plans, but their affiliation does not distract from his focus (*Magneto* #1-21, Bunn, 2014-15).

# Magneto's 'superficial type'

Magneto's interpreted preferences indicate an 'INTJ' subject position, with cognitive functions (Ni-Te-Fi-Se) (Table 7).

# **Dominant Introverted Intuition (Ni): Self-expression**

'Genosha, like myself, trapped by the past...only concerned with what...the future holds.' (*Magneto* #14-15, Bunn, 2015)

Max's praised 'sharp eyes' (Figure 1) emphasise his younger self-expression through early analytical Introverted Intuition (*X-Men: Magneto Testament #2*, Pak, 2008). Whilst, throughout the graphic novels depicting older Magneto, his multiple internal monologues (*Magneto #1-21*, Bunn, 2014-15) dominate and characterise this main form of self-expression. They are riddled with images and symbolism that infer sequences of 'the past often [plotting] the course of [Magneto's] future' (#1, 2014) (Figures 7 & 8).



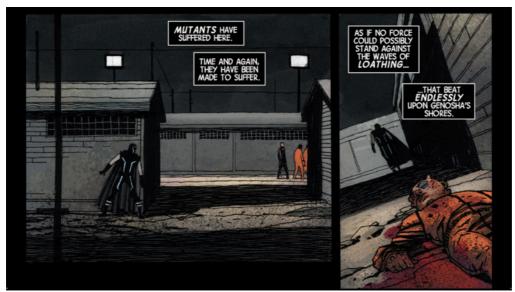


Figure 7: Past and future imagery and symbolism when Magneto returns to Genosha ('Magneto' #9, Bunn, 2015)

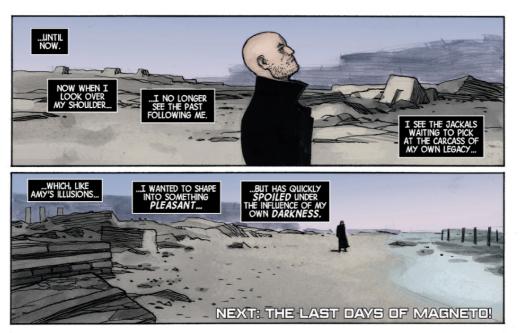


Figure 8: Past and future imagery and symbolism when Magneto leaves Genosha ('Magneto' #17, Bunn, 2015)

In film, Erik expresses his one true vision in a worldwide speech, comparing humanity's themes of the past and their meaning for the future of mutant and human-kind. He predicts that mutants will reign supreme and should join him in a 'brotherhood of [their] kind. A new tomorrow, that starts today!' (XM:DOFP, 2014: 110mins 29secs).

His plans and one true vision are visualised by links between objects opposed to the objects themselves in the *Magneto* #1 (Bunn, 2014) and XM:FC (2011) (Figures 9 & 10).



Figure 9: Magneto's planning layout for murdering those who harm mutants. ('Magneto' #1, Bunn, 2014)



Figure 10: Erik's planning layout for murdering Nazi, Shaw. (XM:FC, 2011)

# Auxiliary Extraverted Thinking (Te): Taking action

'[Magneto's] always been good at ... letting the ends justify the means' (*Magneto* #21, Bunn, 2015).

Magneto easily micro-manages people (*Magneto* #3, Bunn, 2014), as he initially calmly and efficiently handles and extracts information from a creator of sentinels – weapons against mutant-kind. X-Men, (2000) X2 (2003) and XM:DOFP (2014) portray this affinity to mobilising and controlling people by his managing of Brotherhood members; prioritising productivity and efficiency over 'kindly' managing of subordinates. Often, the mutant named 'Mystique' is depicted being managed and manipulated by Erik, through following orders on any task he sets her (X-Men, 2000; X2, 2003); therefore demonstrating Magneto's prowess in controlling external objects. He also easily mobilises an entire group of otherwise unwilling individuals to aid killing enemy, the 'Red Skull' (*Magneto* #11, Bunn, 2015).

# Introverted Intuition actualised through Extraverted Thinking

After Max's dominant introverted function (represented as 'sharp eyes': Figure 1) analyses the situation on 'Kristallnacht', almost-teenage Max efficiently orchestrates

his family's movements and escape (#2, *X-Men: Magneto Testament*, Pak, 2008) (Figure 11).





Figure 11: Max controlling his family's escape on 'Kristallnacht' (#2, X-Men: Magneto Testament, Pak, 2008)

His teenage representation portrays this ease and efficiency in Auschwitz, also, as Max creates plans which he then relays to Magda, in which he obtains 'goods' for the guards in exchange for favours that ensure his and Magda's survival (#5, *X-Men: Magneto Testament*, Pak, 2008).

In films X-Men (2000), X2 (2003) XM:FC (2011), Magneto recognises his weakness to physical stimulus over mental, thus recruits Mystique as a right-hand in his Brotherhood for her affinity towards physical. However, managing people as objects with worth decided by factual 'pros and cons' enables Magneto's rationalisation of 'ends justifying means'. For, Erik recruits Mystique in XM:FC (2011), but discovers in XM:DOFP (2014) that her actions harm more mutants than they help. He then decides to attempt her murder, despite whatever bond they may have had. Magneto replicates this method by sacrificing a young mutant illusionist whose illusions unintendedly murdered other mutants (*Magneto* #17, Bunn, 2015).

#### Tertiary Introverted Feeling (Fi): Relationships

'We're brothers, you and I...We want the same thing.' (XM:FC, 2011: 118mins 4secs)

Magneto's Fi solidifies matters important to him. It manifests as his 'mettle' by 'sharpen[ing] the weapons [he] needs' (*Magneto #4*, Bunn, 2014) to increase motivation for his cause. His impassioned fight for mutant-kind, though authentic, relies heavily on who he regards as 'brothers'. After losing his family to Nazis at a young age, the labels 'brothers' and 'brotherhood' show Erik's emphasis on relationship connectivity associated with family. This is demonstrated through Erik's despairing attempt to keep regarded brother, Charles, 'by [his] side' (XM:FC, 2011: 118mins 1secs) after accidentally paralysing him through recklessness caused by stubbornly enforcing his ideals. It is after Charles explains they do not want 'the same thing' that Erik decides they cannot be 'brothers' and leaves.

This exemplifies less developed Fi due to its heavily personally-biased emphasis on who matters and who does not, indicating why close relationships of Erik's have been intense though limited.

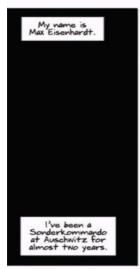
# Introverted Feeling's contribution to Extraverted Thinking and Introverted Intuition

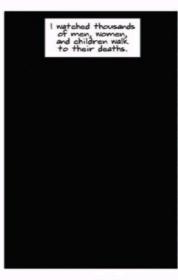
This subjective, personalised view on kin manifests in how Magneto increases justification (Te) for terminating anyone threatening his cause, regardless of factual mutation. For, Magneto believes 'conviction' (*Magneto* #7, Bunn, 2015) and faithfulness to mutant-kind are equal to actual mutation in being one. Mutants that do not 'fit [Magneto's] picture' (*Magneto* #6, Bunn, 2014) of one (Ni) are expendable. However, at the end of his life, Magneto's incorporated Fi allows him to reflect back on how 'mutants have been burdened...scarred by [his] actions' through suppressing Fi in a 'war [that] consumed him' (*Magneto* #21, Bunn, 2015). Similarly, when dying in XM:DOFP (2014), Magneto ardently regrets 'all of those years wasted fighting each other, Charles,' (110mins 47secs) wishing 'to have a precious few of them back'(111mins 5secs) with the person mattering the most to him.

# 'Unhealthy' combination of Introverted Intuition (dominant) and Introverted Feeling (tertiary)

This far Magneto's psyche has been represented and analysed as per usual 'INTJ' functioning. However, there are specific instances in which Magneto cannot execute his Te effectively, thus leading to a repression of his extraverted auxiliary function. This resigns the introverted psyche to inaction, making Magneto's psyche manifest as unhealthily introverted and negative.

This combination of both Ni and Fi is represented in *X-Men: Magneto Testament* #4 (Pak, 2008), in which Max produces a suicide note detailing his impassioned hopelessness (Ni-Fi) over his time in Auschwitz and all of the innocent people he could not save (Te) (Figure 12).







And I carried them to
the overs, where I
learned how to combine
a child's body with an
old man's to make
them burn better.



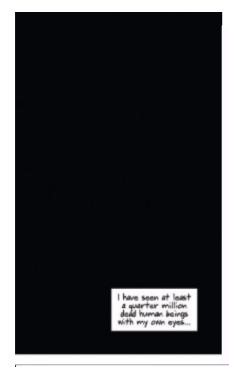














Figure 12: Max's 'suicide note' depicted through monologue panels (*X-Men: Magneto Testament #4*, Pak, 2008)

It is only in #5 that it is confirmed Max has something to live and fight for (the saving of his childhood crush, Magda), that Te manifests unrepressed to take action once again (Figure 13).





Figure 13: Max finds 'something to live for' in Auschwitz ('X-Men: Magneto Testament' #5, Pak, 2008)

In *Magneto* #10-11 (Bunn, 2015), Magneto is again reminded of all of those he could not save through the Red Skull's mind torture and abandons his first attempt to kill him due to impassioned hopelessness again (Figure 14).



Figure 14: Magneto's inaction from hopelessness in own capabilities ('Magneto' #11, Bunn, 2015)

However, after reassurance from a recording of a mutant girl claiming she is 'glad mutants got someone like him' (#11, Bunn, 2015), Magneto reclaims his helmet symbolising his ability to take action (Te). Through which, his Te manifests normally again (Figure 15).



Figure 15: Magneto reclaims his helmet (and action) ('Magneto' #11, Bunn, 2015)
Inferior Extraverted Sensing (Se): Uncontrollable major stress

Erik's mutant ability manifests at a young age from the major stress caused by danger to his family. When Erik's mother is murdered on Nazi, Shaw's, orders, inferior Se manifests primitively (XM:FC, 2011). It manifests through Erik's mutation in an

uncharacteristic, extraverted lashing out by murdering two Nazi guards and destroying all metallic objects close by (Figure 16).



Figure 16: Teenage Erik's (centre) mutation manifestation after the execution of his mother (XM:FC, 2011)

Magneto #3 (Bunn, 2014) follows a similar pattern. After calmly controlling the sentinel creator through information extraction, her phobic excuses trigger an emotive memory of his people's deaths on Genosha by other sentinels. Healthy functioning unable to handle the trigger, Magneto's inferior Se manifests, resulting in her immediate death (Figure 17).



Figure 17: Magneto's impulsive murdering of a sentinel creator ('Magneto' #3, Bunn, 2014)

Once out of the situation, Magneto's healthy functioning can return and dominant Ni reflects on inferior Se's manifestation (Figure 18).



Figure 18: Magneto's reflection over his uncharacteristic impulse killing ('Magneto' #3, Bunn, 2014)

# All functions: Magneto's motivation

'Mutant-kind's terrifying Salvation. I am Magneto.' (Magneto #5, Bunn, 2014)

In moments where Magneto's conscious motivation is needed the most, his manifestation of the multiple functions within an INTJ is most evident. Such as, when he experiences a difficult situation in which he acknowledges the productivity of invoked feelings (Fi). Fi then combines with auxiliary Te to reinforce action after dominant Ni perceives the 'best' vision or plan to face the situation.

An obvious representation is when Erik tries to kill Shaw. Shaw triggers painful memories of Erik's mother's murder and Shaw's experiments upon him in Auschwitz, but Erik does not allow himself to wallow in their negativity. Instead, Erik positively acknowledges his affected Fi by claiming 'everything [Shaw] did made [him] stronger' (XM:FC, 2011: 109mins 49secs), and then finally murders Shaw (Te) to fulfil Ni's ongoing plan.

This function manifestation pattern is represented in *Magneto* #7 (Bunn, 2014) also. Magneto purposefully plants himself into an arena to fight a mutant-killing machine (sentinel) (Ni-Te), and midst fighting recalls his most affecting memories (Fi) which urge him to continue until his task is completed (Ni-Te-Fi) (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Magneto remembers painful moments to reinforce his reasons to fight ('Magneto' #7, Bunn, 2015)

It could also be interpreted that as both scenarios involve engaging Magneto's senses to immediate, physical stimuli, the benefits of his inferior Se manifest. (No matter how minimally.)

#### **Discussion**

During the psycho-discursive analysis the steps of its method were successfully applied to the data analysed. Three particular areas arose during interpretation, which were: 'typing the introvert', the importance of inherent 'reflexivity' and 'mental health'. Each are discussed concerning the study's two research questions. Additionally, the research questions are also discussed regarding future implications of the current study.

- 1. To explore the applicability of 'Psychological Types' (1971) as a Jungian psycho-discursive analysis.
- 2. Investigate manifestations of motivation from 'type' in representations of the fictional character 'Magneto'.

## 'Typing the introvert': Solution?

As referred to in the method (Step 1), typing the introvert and their dominant functional process was a known difficulty prior to the study. However, in acknowledging this difficulty beforehand, the analyser was able to consider solutions. As Magneto was interpreted as an introvert, these theorised solutions were then explored. Due to the nature of primary data as a novel written in the perspective of the represented psyche chosen, monologues were incorporated, enabling almost direct insight into the nature of the subject's represented thoughts and feelings. A benefit that is unlikely if the study did not include a fictional psyche. Due to the same, almost direct translation of psyche to manifestation, the components used to 'style' thoughts and feelings could be compared to discourses of functional processes easily.

Behavioural clues were also regarded secondarily as alternative manifestations of introversion or extraversion. Although these patterns could be seen across the data set (both graphic novels and films containing visual depictions of Magneto), they were not as strong indications of energy direction as monologues within the novels. However, it is worth acknowledging that creators of film and graphic novels do consciously incorporate behavioural clues to provide their audience with increased

insight into a character's represented psyche (perspective), to discern a character's motivations and motivational qualities. Therefore, typing an introvert and their dominant functional process was not particularly difficult in this analysis.

# Reflexivity: Necessity over repression?

Reflexivity's prominence in qualitative and psychoanalytic research has been elaborated (Berman, 2000; Finlayb, 2002; Shaw, 2010). To perhaps an even greater extent, so has its relation to the critique of interpretation bias within research (Shaw, 2010); particularly within psycho-discursive and traditional discursive analysis. However, within the current study reflexivity allowed necessary immersion into the theory behind the psycho-discursive analysis.

As the method states, 'types' (such as Magneto's 'INTJ'), are the 'role' a subject adopts in the psycho-discursive analysis to create subject positions. However, as the analyser themselves additionally occupies a subject position, their own 'role' or 'type' must be interpreted through reflexivity. Due to the natural differentiation of people (the need for 'psychological typing' originally), it is unlikely that out of the 16 types the psyche analysed will be identical to the analyser's. This is not necessarily a difficulty. In fact, type differences as well as similarities demonstrate the real necessity of reflexivity for the method, in addition to objective accuracy in acknowledging its subjective nature (Elliot et al., 2012).

For example, as there are 8 cognitive functions and 4 within a type, it is possible that 2 of these could make up the analyser's type, thus leading to a more immediate and accurate typing process. As the analyser interprets their type as an 'INFP', they share 2 of the same cognitive functions with the 'INTJ' subject: Introverted Feeling (Fi) and Extraverted Thinking (Te). However, because the analyser and subject only share half of the same functions, the subject also had to be typed on interpreted psyche differences. After reflecting inwardly at their own type and outwardly towards the subject, the analyser could recognise their differing versions of Intuition (Ne and Ni) and Sensing (Si and Se) respectively. Through openness to reflexivity, the analyser could quickly notice these type discourse similarities and differences which ultimately aided the entire interpretation process.

While there were interpreted similarities and differences between the subject and analyser (as described above), it is equally possible, theoretically, to interpret another psyche's type based solely on similarities or differences. Such as, an 'INFP' subject and an 'INFP' analyser, or one completely functionally opposing like an 'ENFJ' to the analyser's 'INFP'. Although the analyser did not experience this problem, if an analyser's own self-awareness is limited then their typing accuracy could be negatively impacted. Consequently, personal efficacy and openness towards reflexivity is important for the analyser to consider.

## Mentally 'Healthy' and 'Unhealthy': A combined method for both?

Jung's work as a psychoanalyst involved frequent and intimate contact with many mentally unhealthy people, and during 20 years of that time the original 'Psychological Types' theory was created. Jung, in fact, expresses Sigmund Freud as an important inspiration for the theory who he believed to possess a latent psychosis (Jung and Jaffé, 1995). Therefore, Myers and Myers' (1995) assumption that the original theory was mostly made from and for unhealthy psyches is easily founded. Likewise is their intention for renovating the theory to more obviously relate to healthier

psyches as can be recalled from this study's introduction. Their renovations in expanding the role of the auxiliary function seemed to be of particular importance during analysis. As the current study incorporated a combination of Jung's original theory and expansions made by Myers and Myers-Briggs, the analyser was able to interpret both the 'healthy' represented functioning of type as well as the less healthy manifestations.

This was done through interpretation of 'unhealthy' combinations of functions such as the dominant and the tertiary that repress the auxiliary. Thus, the intended 'partner' combination of the dominant and the auxiliary is disrupted and through the extraverted auxiliary's repression, the 'INTJ' introvert was reduced to inaction. This unhealthy manifestation was interpreted to remain until the represented psyche felt able enough to execute their action-taking auxiliary function again.

Moreover, Myers and Myers' (1995) clarification on the role of the auxiliary function within a type psyche ironically seemed to allow the analyser to apply the discourse analysis to representations of both healthy and unhealthily functioning psyche. This application is something of which their quantitative instrument had been theorised to be unable to include, due to its intended usage for typing psychologically healthy psyches, only.

## Future implications: Beyond fictional psyche?

Alike to this study's wish to return 'Psychological Types' (1971) to fictional inspirations of Jungian theory, future applications of the analysis could involve real-life people also incorporated in the theory's invention. Through elements such as behavioural clues and reflexive interpretation, analysers could use the psychodiscursive analysis to further understand themselves and the subjects they analyse. In addition, it is suggested that the combination of the original theory and Myers and Myers' expansions could create a gateway for interpreting both healthy and unhealthy type functioning – as opposed to just one or the other. Furthermore, this qualitative version of Jung's theory allows greater accessibility to the mechanics interpreting represented (and possibly real-life) type and their motivations. This could instigate an active, personal understanding arguably more accurate to the original theory than the former quantitative instrument.

#### Conclusion

To conclude, the contents of the analysis and discussion indicate favour towards interpreting future fictional psyches and their consequential motivations through 'Psychological Types' (1971) as a psycho-discursive analysis. There is also additional potential for the psycho-discursive analysis to range beyond analysing fictional representations of psyche. However, the intended analyser must be aware of two factors equally. Firstly, their understanding of the layered nature of the theory and discourse must be thorough. Secondly, their ability and openness to reflexivity must be rationally decided to acknowledge their own subjective interpretations, and to ultimately garner an objective psycho-discursive analysis.

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