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# Entering in the essences of personality – studies over archetypes

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study is to surprise any existent links between dominant archetype and several personality features. Sample group is represented by 100 students (medium age of 24 years old), who are studying in last year in university. Data were collected by Pearson-Marr Archetype Indicator, Myers-Briggs Personality. Obtained results distinguished that our hypothesis were confirmed, meaning that a certain kind of archetype, is linked with some personally type. Also, considering early youth (20-26 years old) as an important stage in everybody's development, another significant result obtained shown that several archetypes are dominant for the ones who are in this specific developmental stage. Conclusively, dominant archetype is linked with several personality types.

## 1. Introduction

Undoubtedly, the mapping of the human psyche deeper collective unconscious is an epochal discovery of the Swiss scientist C. G. Jung, with important valences in multi-disciplinary fields (Munteanu, 2010).

Compared with the personal unconscious, which is the corollary of individual experience, and who is populated by repressed or forgotten formations, collective unconscious is a deeper level, having a universal character and a hereditary origin. It forms the metal basis of the psychic present in each person (Jung, 2003). Etymology of the word brings proscenium Greek term "arche" that means basically "foundation".

The notion of archetype appears for the first time in Jungian vocabulary, in 1929, when he wrote the preface of a treaty of Dao alchemy, entitled Secret of the Golden Flower, by a famous sinologist, Richard Wilhelm (M. Cazenave, 1999). An archetype is an internal mental model of a typical, generic story character to which an observer might resonate emotionally (Jung, 1964).

As Jung states, understanding archetypes has been possible due to their connection with myths, legends and esoteric teachings. Likewise, dreams of early childhood (from 3 to 5 years), creations and delusional fantasies of persons who suffer of psychosis but also from states of expanded consciousness, all evoke the archetypal treasure. In his opinion the unconscious was composed of both a personal layer as well as deeper, collective mantle of

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unconsciousness (Munteanu, 2010). As conclusion, the personal unconscious is derived from the collective unconscious (Jung, 1964). Also the personal unconscious contains, in Jung's opinion, repressed memories, forgotten experiences and subliminal perceptions of the individual, while the collective unconscious was made up of impersonal, universally shared, fundamental characteristics of humanity, which he referred to as primordial images or archetypes (Jung, 1959). He also discussed the presence of archetypical forms in myths and fairy tales from races around the world, as well as in all of the religions of the world (Bennet, 1966).

As noted Carol S. Pearson and Hugh K. Marr (2002), the collective unconscious, same as a movie director knows how to identify and allocate the various stages of life, those roles with biggest impact on the formative life, that each of us has. Through awareness of these challenges we can fertilize our decisions and actions coolness, which allows us to calibrate our personal management.

Examples of archetypes include the Hero, the Jester, and the Sage, and they have been proposed as key elements in a common language involving the stories that people tell one another (Campbell, 1949; Downing, 1991; Mark & Pearson, 2001). Archetypal characters help promote actions in stories by embodying characteristic motives and other qualities that everyone can recognize. People who hear such stories may respond quite differently to a figure such as the Hero, and those patterns of different responding may represent important personality qualities. Archetype theory began with the work of C.G. Jung (Munteanu, 1998).

Of course, entire benefits are based on Jung's theory about archetypes, and then are added more than 15 years of hard research of the authors named above. With this test are diagnosed a total of 12 archetypes, grouped into three broad categories. The first category is composed of archetypes that help us and others to survive (innocent, orphan, caregiver and fighter). The second category gathers those archetypes that we are new and useful to others as we detect and exploit our inner resources (seeker, lover, destroyer, creator). The last category includes a set of four archetypes all intended to provide a genuine support for our life and others, but also to stimulate personal development of each and developing world (ruler, magician, sage, jester).

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Purpose of the study

This research has as purpose to surprise any existent links between dominant archetype and several personality features. Objectives of this study are identifying how dominant archetype is linked with several personality features.

### 2.2. Hypothesis

According to our purpose and objective, two hypotheses were developed, to give a coherent path to the study. So, as a first hypothesis, we want to investigate the profile of our tested group, from the archetypal point of view. Also, our second hypothesis is that there is a significant link between the dominant archetype and certain personality features.

### 2.3. The participants

For the current study, a group formed from a sample group, represented by 100 students (medium age of 24 years old), who are studying in last year in university level, in West University of Timisoara.

### 2.4. Instruments and procedure

To reach our purpose, we used as a first instrument a very ingenious questionnaire. The two American researchers mentioned before (Pearson & Marr, 2002) pointed out, after a long labor, a special instrument for knowledge of the archetypes, called Pearson-Marr Indicator (PMAI), published in 2002. This instrument has a twofold purpose: to identify the dominant archetypes for a person in a certain moment of their existence and to exercise it, in order to increase its potential recovery. The PMAI instrument is a 72 items test, designed to provide insight into the roles of the unconsciousness patters and the role they play in life, when we make decisions, and

pursue goals. This questionnaire looks at different patterns or themes that resonate with people from all walks of life. Each theme is named for its central character, or archetype.

Myers-Briggs Personality Test, classic personality inventory, used even since beginning of the early 1940's. Myers & Briggs extended Jung's model with the initial development of the MBTI. They put Jung's concepts into language that could be understood and used by the average person.

## 3. Results and Discussions

All variables were standardized prior analyses. Numeric data obtained were involved in statistic analyze, more exactly frequencies analyze and correlations. Quantitative processing of results provided by the 100 subjects allowed obtaining a profile of the sample, the specific hierarchy of archetypes. Graphical representation of results is as follows:
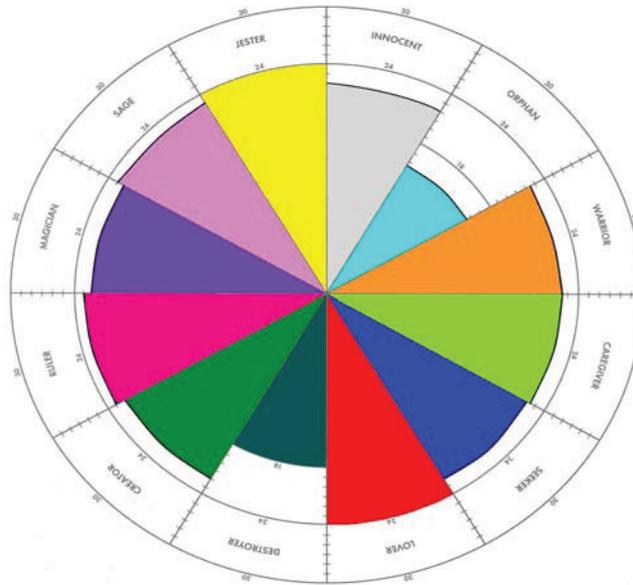


Figure 1. Archetype profile of tested sample

To conduct a brief outlining of each archetype, there is a brief description of every pattern, in order to create a holistig image of the profile we pictured.

The innocent evokes confidence in own self and in the others, but also the optimism from the beginning of every journey. The orphan refers to the ability to accept the inevitable and harsh tests of life, or in other words to prove a realistic view of the happenings we have to face. Caregiver'scompliant and empathic attitude in relation to others means willingness to provide aid when needed. The worrior is characterized by competitive spirit, ability to formulate goals, but to defend themselves if necessary. Seeker refers to the acceptance of difference between people, but also open to experience new things. Lover means obvously the ability to love, romance, loyalty for the other. Fueling destroyer's force to overcome the vicissitudes of existence to know how to muster up and take it over again. Creator stimulate innovative spirit, imagination, quickness of mind. The ruler suggest leadership abilityes, capacity control, responsibility and the cosecvența own axiological scale. Magician displays the ability to change the circumstances by dilation perspective plan and deed. Sage evokes quality wise thinking critically when formulating their own opinions. Jester is characterized by joy to work and live, but also the ability to always connected to the present time.

Specifically, all 12 archetypes behave as so many characters that are latent in every human being, but how to activate differ from case to case. As Pearson and Marr (2002) note, for example, the warrior archetype can materialize in a variety of poses (the samurai, the cowboy, but also the researcher who "fights" to discover AIDS treatment, etc.).

Inspecting the graph obtained by us, first at the top of hierarchy for our sample is placed the lover (with a mean=24.38 points) followed close by jester (with a mean=23.66 points). The score obtained by the two archetypes that are active at this age are giving a stature of their specific characteristics.

Thus, lover has as dominant feature the love of all that surrounds him (from passion to the couple partner to kindness, professional passion, material goods, etc.). Lover is, treating his fellows as beloved peer, not as someone who needs support. For troubleshooting, it fructifies leverages of communication, using often emotional arguments. He is attracted by all that evokes love and beauty, which is why sometimes they miss important things, just because they do not fall in its value board. The profession, passion and charisma invests lover. He is giving more value on others opinion than to his own person. The presence of this archetype helps the individual to clarify their boundaries of expression about sexuality and friendship.

The jester, another archetypal dominant of the young, shows an immense joy to live, seasoned with sparkling humor and playful sense. Because of its unlimited appetite for joking, jester can hurt others and can easily drag even irresponsibility. Professionally, know how to resolve conflicting situations and its leadership does not agree. Jester's main asset is that it makes fun infallible weapon.

All these features mentioned as specific, converge with those described in any age psychology book in young adults age, meaning once again that they have been sighted as specific for youth also through other channels than the study of archetypes.

In the second plan in the configuration of archetypes are placed ruler (mean=23.06 points) and sage (mean=23.04 points). Posts at the same level of value are the next five archetypes: warrior (mean=22.53 points), Caregiver (mean 22.43 points), magician (mean=22.21 points), seeker (mean=22.15 points) and innocent (mean=21, 93 points). This shows rightly that our subjects are in a transitional period, yielded not only the completion step of placing their graduation paper but also their age, at the edge of extended adolescence and young onset itself (Munteanu, 2004). If we analyze features from the two archetypes mentioned above, a position that they are fully justified, since maturation requires a surplus which will only generate further passage of age.

Low score obtained for destroyer (mean=17.86 points) and orphan (mean=15.61) placed the two archetypes in the last two spots in the constellation. Analyzing features that mobilize the two archetypes, we deduce certainly that is explained by the precarious life experience of subjects, who have had so far only few existential problems.

The identification of basic preferences of each of the four dichotomies features is specified or implicit in Jung's theory. The purpose of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) personality inventory is to make the theory of psychological types described by C. G. Jung understandable and useful in people's lives. The essence of the theory is that much seemingly random variation in the behavior is actually quite orderly and consistent, being due to basic differences in the ways individuals prefer to use their perception and judgment.

Form all the correlations realized for this study (48 correlations); we will stop and discuss only on the ones that resulted to be significant from the statistical point of view (14 correlations).

Table 1. Values for Archetypes and MBTI Personality Features

| Archetype/MBTI | Pearson Correlation | Sig. (2-tailed) | N |
|---|---|---|---|
| Innocent, Introversion/Extraversion | -.334(**) | .001 | 100 |
| Orphan, Introversion/Extraversion | .227(**) | .006 | 100 |
| Warrior, Introversion/Extraversion | .386(**) | .000 | 100 |
| Caregiver, Thinking/Feeling | -.260(*) | .010 | 100 |
| Seeker, Introversion/Extraversion | -.325(**) | .001 | 100 |
| Lover, Introversion/Extraversion | -.252(*) | .013 | 100 |
| Lover, Thinking/Feeling | -.269(**) | .008 | 100 |
| Destroyer, Thinking/Feeling | -.224(*) | .027 | 100 |
| Creator/ Introversion, Extraversion | -.282(**) | .005 | 100 |
| Creator, Intuition/Sensing | .234(*) | .021 | 100 |
| Ruler, Introversion/Extraversion | -.315(**) | .002 | 100 |
| Magician, Thinking/Feeling | -.222(*) | .029 | 100 |
| Magician, Intuition/Sensing | -.271(**) | .007 | 100 |
| Jester, Introversion/Extraversion | -..322(**) | .001 | 100 |

\*\*  Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
 \*  Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Lecturing the values from the table above, there are meaningful links between several archetypes and personality features. So, we can conclude that our second hypothesis is partially confirmed. The only archetype that seems not to be influenced in any way by personality features is sage. The absence of the sage from this equation is explicable. This archetype has more to do with the thinking and cognition part and not so much with personality features.

The innocent, ruler and seeker are influencing the degree of extraversion, by increasing it. By looking at the characteristic of these archetypes we see that suggest interaction with the others, this explaining the need of the person to be oriented in his psychical life towards exterior. In opposition, orphan and creator have a connection with introversion, both suggesting problem solving, but internalized. Magician is both linked with the dimensions thinking/feeling and intuition/sensing. It seems that more "magic" comes from using preponderant the intuitive part and also by letting the feelings free. The warrior is linked with introversion suggesting that fighting for a goal in the world we are living in is more an interior process, that doesn't need to be necessarily shared with the others.

The caregiver and destroyer, two antonymic archetypes are liked with the dimension thinking/feeling, but with accent on the feeling, suggesting that for both this roles we appeal to the sentiments.

The presence of the lover archetype helps the individual to clarify their boundaries of expression about sexuality and friendship. The direct link with extraversion and feeling is totally justified, because lover is directly based on feeling and on their expression towards the others.

Because of its unleashed appetite to joke, jester can hurt others and can easily drag even irresponsibility. On professional level the ones with this archetype awakened know how to resolve conflicting situations but they don't enjoy leadership positions. Jester's main asset is that he is making from fun his infallible gun and being extraverted is the perfect way to make use of his weapon.

There isn't a profile for archetypes that can be classified as good or bad, it is important for them to fold the imperatives that person has in that particular stage of life. Archetypes apron over someone's whole life (usually 1-2 in number), and they leave a significant mark on personality, giving it a unique spectrum, like a subtitle print.

## 4. Conclusion and Suggestions

Obtained results distinguished that our hypothesis were confirmed, meaning that a certain kind of archetype, from the 12 types analyzed, is linked with the dominant personally type. Also we analyzed the archetypal profile of young students. Far from being considered only symbols with no sense for human psychological architecture, archetypes are actually the link between our inner rational universe and the way we express it towards the outside world.

Conclusively, dominant archetype is linked with several personality types. It would be wrong to think that man is born with a mental vacuum that is subsequently filled with what he learned through personal experience. These symbolic images abode in the unconscious and can be seen in any individual, whether is cultured or illiterate, intelligent or with an intelligence level not worthy of jealousy (Costea, 2008). Far from being meaningless, archetypes are the bridge between the manner in which we express our conscious thought and a primordial way of expression, this is more colorful and symbolic. To talk about archetypes means the translation of a metaphor by another one. In other words, our rational universe and the intuition world are governed by the power of archetypes.

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