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CREATURE FRANKENSTEIN:
A STUDY ON ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER

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Trabalho de conclusão de curso apresentado ao Curso de Letras Inglês do Departamento de Estudos da Língua Inglesa, suas Literaturas e Tradução da Universidade Federal do Ceará, como requisito parcial para a obtenção do título de Licenciatura em Língua Inglesa.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Paulo Roberto Nogueira de Andrade.

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A Deus e à Nossa Senhora.

Aos meus pais, Maria Tereza e Humberto.

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ABSTRACT

This paper consists of a behavioral analysis of the monster in the book “Frankenstein: Or, the Modern Prometheus” written by Mary Shelley. As a fictional character, data provided by the author are used for the analysis. The purpose of the study is to answer two questions, “Could the creature be considered as either a psychopath or a sociopath?” and “Can the creature be diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder?”. As a context for the readers, a summary of the story was included in this paper. The main tools used in this paper to answer both questions are the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or DSM-5 regarding the antisocial personality disorder and the Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised or PCL-R, both tools have several criteria to assess a correct diagnosis. And as such, some adjustments were deemed necessary before using the tools, which are highly effective when used by trained professionals. Furthermore, the methodology used in this study is divided into three parts. The first part used the used the DSM-5 criteria to answer the second main question, the second part assessed whether the creature could be considered a psychopath using the PCL-R methodology. And the third part consisted of a collection of 20 excerpts taken from the source material to work as a direct form of analysis by identifying psychopathic and sociopathic traits directly from the book using the theoretical literature collected for this paper. The results were not completely successful as the only method that obtained a positive response was the first one. The second method failed to obtain the same success by a good margin. Finally, the third method was rendered insufficient by itself, but it showed valuable evidence to corroborate with both hypotheses (questions) showing that the monster presented traces of psychopathy and sociopathy.

Keywords: Frankenstein; Mary Shelley; Antisocial personality disorder; Psychopathy; Sociopathy.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present study focuses on one of the best-known stories of all time, *Frankenstein: Or, the Modern Prometheus*, written by author Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. The book tells the story of a captain called Robert Walton who is keeping contact with his sister through letters. While on his naval mission, he finds Victor Frankenstein on death's door in one of the coldest parts of the world and saves him right away. After a period of recovery, Victor then talks about the reason he went that far into that icy hell. He talks about his early aspirations, his desire to become a creator himself and his downfall after trying to play God, creating a humanlike colossus that would later destroy everything he once held dear, using parts of different people's corpses to craft him. The creature in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* can be seen and interpreted in many ways. Some may think that it is a wretch, a fiend that is evil to its core and pretends to be virtuous and righteous to get what he wants. Other people might believe the creature to be a product of the environment it was thrown into, a victim of humankind's fear of the unknown, claiming that the creature is at least partially innocent. As interest in the true crime genre arose through time, especially nowadays with many documentaries featuring the story most heinous killers of the world being part of the catalogue of several streaming services, questions such as: How did those who committed those crimes become criminals, how to identify those who were born with that tendency? This paper, for instance, revolves around questions as those presented above. The main one would be: Could the creature be considered as either a psychopath or a sociopath? And one that came up later in the research is the question: Can the creature be diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder? This work aims to answer this question, using the definition of both terms found in recent articles about their differences, their overlapping characteristics, focusing mainly on the monster's behavior throughout the whole book. However, we will avoid using Victor's feelings towards his creation or his physical description of his nemesis to support any claim. The term 'monster' is used mainly to avoid excessive repetition. However broadly used in the book, it is not to be taken as a pejorative term. Although diverse terms are also used, "creature" and "monster" are the main ones. The pronouns "he", "his" and "him" are also used to refer mostly to the monster. The words and actions referred to in this paper are meant to be the target of our analysis by using the Criteria on Antisocial Personality Disorder or APD available on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or DSM-5 (2013) to assess whether

such possibilities are true or not. Tables are also used to assist on the analyses made, being the first one about APD's criteria, the second on Hare Psychopathy Checklist – Revised (PCL-R), which functions as a tool for assessing psychopathic behavior on forensic settings. The body of this paper consists of three main parts, the first one is the Theoretical Framework, which is divided into four parts, the first one focuses on telling us what the APD Diagnosis means, its criteria and the implications of this diagnosis. The second focuses on the psychopathy aspect containing several definitions which distinguish it from Sociopathy which is also part of the APD. The instrument used to assess whether the creature can be seen as a Psychopath is called Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised or PCL-R, its usage and criteria are explained later in the paper. The third part is focused on sociopathy, in this section, there are data contrasting both concepts, but it is important to remember that most of the definitions presented in this section can also be seen in APD. The fourth part is a summary of the source material focused on giving context of the main events presented in the book, but mainly focused on the creature's development. The second part of the body is the methodology, in this part we discuss the parameters used to analyze the text with the goal of answering our questions. The methodology is further divided into three parts, the first part is concerned with the APD diagnosis, focusing on checking each of the criteria's "boxes" that are used to conclude whether a person suffers from APD or not. The second part of the methodology focuses on the parameters of the PCL-R test and how it is used later. Lastly, the third part explains the idea behind the use of 20 excerpts taken from the book as supporting evidence for either of the hypotheses. The last part of the body has the analysis and results found in this paper. The first finding is that the creature can be seen as a person with APD. The second finding is that there is not enough evidence to support the creature as a psychopath mainly because there needs to be an excessive amount of skepticism on the monster's testimony to prove this hypothesis. Lastly, the third finding was not very groundbreaking as it was expected, the analysis of the excerpts helps us to identify traces of psychopathy and sociopathy (consequently APD) but is not as conclusive as the previous findings.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Antisocial personality disorder (APD)

The first part of this theoretical framework will consist in showing the origin of the term Antisocial Personality Disorder, clarifying what the term means, its criteria, its relevance to this research paper and the implications of this diagnosis. Firstly, the term Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD or ASPD) is quite old, according to Black (2013) “The term antisocial personality disorder was introduced in 1968, with the second edition of the DSM, which gave the condition an identity separate from the addictions and deviant sexuality. Like sociopath, the word antisocial refers to a reaction against society and a rejection of its rules and obligations.” (p.30). The DSM, as shown in the introduction, stands for Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, it was created by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and is defined as guide that classifies mental disorders in an organized way and uses an array of distinct criteria for each of those disorders. Many of the works cited in this paper use it as a reference. As APD belongs to the Personality Disorder spectrum, it is also important to define what a Personality Disorder is. According to the DSM-5 (2013):

“A personality disorder is an enduring pattern of inner experience and behavior that deviates markedly from the expectations of the individual's culture, is pervasive and inflexible, has an onset in adolescence or early adulthood, is stable over time, and leads to distress or impairment.” (p.645).

The Antisocial Personality Disorder is defined by the DSM-5 (2013) as “a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood.” (p.659), a diagnosis given to people who fulfill the Criteria created to identify the people who suffer from this condition. Disorders such as this one can be caused by different events like adverse environments, abuse, lack of adequate parenting, etc. (Johnson, 2019, p.78) Or it can be inherent to the person born with it, normally inherited from relatives. Looking at the table below, we can observe in the criteria shown on the DSM-5 (2013, p.659):

Table 1:

Cluster B Personality Disorders

Antisocial Personality Disorder

Diagnostic Criteria

301.7 (F60.2)

-
- A. A pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others, occurring since age 15 years, as indicated by three (or more) of the following:
 1. Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors, as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest.
 2. Deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure.
 3. Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead.
 4. Irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults.
 5. Reckless disregard for safety of self or others.
 6. Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations.
 7. Lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another.
 - B. The individual is at least age 18 years.
 - C. There is evidence of conduct disorder with onset before age 15 years.
 - D. The occurrence of antisocial behavior is not exclusively during the course of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.
-

There are a couple of issues concerning the criteria at hand. Criterion A requires from the subject to have the pervasive pattern since age 15, however as we will see more precisely in the methodology section this Criterion cannot be applied as it is. Criterion B “The individual is at least age 18 years.”; As well as in “A” It is safe to say that the creature isn’t 18 years old, however as the story progresses, we perceive that his brain is well developed (probably came from an adult corpse) as his senses and mental processes showed that he was capable of learning concepts and understanding texts that can be difficult for kids and teenagers, so even though the monster shows signs of his developed intellect, we are not going to use this Criterion in our research. Criterion C is also related to age. Moreover, as we do not know the history of the previous owner of that brain, we cannot use this Criterion either. We will now check more in depth the criteria A1-A7, which will serve as the basis for our research. The following data were taken from the DSM-5 (2013, p.660):

Criterion A1:

“The pattern of antisocial behavior continues into adulthood. Individuals with antisocial personality disorder fail to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behavior They may repeatedly perform acts that are grounds for arrest (whether they are arrested or not), such as destroying property, harassing others, stealing, or pursuing illegal occupations...”

Criterion A2:

“Persons with this disorder disregard the wishes, rights, or feelings of others. They are frequently deceitful and manipulative in order to gain personal profit or pleasure (e.g., to obtain money, sex, or power).”

Criterion A3:

“They may repeatedly lie, use an alias, con others, or malingering. A pattern of impulsivity may be manifested by a failure to plan ahead. Decisions are made on the spur of the moment, without forethought and without consideration for the consequences to self or others;”

Criterion A4:

“Individuals with antisocial personality disorder tend to be irritable and aggressive and may repeatedly get into physical fights or commit acts of physical assault (including spouse beating or child beating). (Aggressive acts that are required to defend oneself or someone else are not considered to be evidence for this item.)”

Criterion A5:

“These individuals also display a reckless disregard for the safety of themselves or others. This may be evidenced in their driving behavior (i.e., recurrent speeding, driving while intoxicated, multiple accidents). They may engage in sexual behavior or substance use that has a high risk for harmful consequences. They may neglect or fail to care for a child in a way that puts the child in danger.”

Criterion A6:

“Individuals with antisocial personality disorder also tend to be consistently and extremely irresponsible. Irresponsible work behavior may be indicated by significant periods of unemployment despite available job opportunities, or by abandonment of several jobs without a realistic plan for getting another job. (...) Financial irresponsibility is indicated by acts such as defaulting on debts, failing to provide child support, or failing to support other dependents on a regular basis.”

Criterion A7:

“Individuals with antisocial personality disorder show little remorse for the consequences of their acts. They may be indifferent to, or provide a superficial rationalization for, having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from someone (e.g., 'life's unfair,' 'losers deserve to lose'). These individuals may blame the victims for being foolish, helpless, or deserving their fate (e.g., 'he had it coming anyway'); they may minimize the harmful consequences of their actions; or they may simply indicate complete indifference. They generally fail to compensate or make amends for their behavior.”

In addition, it is relevant to point out the bigger prevalence of APD in male individuals, according to the DSM-5 (2013):

“Antisocial personality disorder is much more common in males than in females. There has been some concern that antisocial personality disorder may be underdiagnosed in females, particularly because of the emphasis on aggressive items in the definition of conduct disorder.” (p.662)

This could be concerning for our study if the gender of the creature was unclear or female, as it would be even harder to prove. In conclusion, APD’s criteria shows many characteristics of both psychopaths and sociopaths, and it has a very complex methodology.

2.2 Psychopathy

The second part of this section focuses on psychopathy, so we will have to explore a “narrower path”, because as mentioned before, APD serves as an umbrella term for both Psychopathy and Sociopathy. The goal of this segment is to detach Psychopathy from APD. Now we must define what Psychopathy is, its origin and how to diagnose someone as a Psychopath. Walsh & Wu (2008) stated:

“Psychopathy is a personality disorder consisting of a cluster of traits that are anything but prosocial. Indeed, this cluster is a veritable laundry list of traits all, with the exception of ‘good intelligence,’ are associated to some degree with criminal behavior.” (p.137).

A psychopath will not necessarily become criminal, as they have a bigger control of their actions they can live as a functional human being (they can blend in well) (Sociopathy vs Psychopathy - What’s The Difference? - YouTube, 2018), they are less emotional than sociopaths and are often very intelligent and charming people. This “charm” is not necessarily physical, most of them are very persuasive with their words, because they know how to read and manipulate other people (Johnson, 2019, p.80). Psychopaths also have a history of violence towards animals, showing no remorse after committing violent acts towards them, Black (2019) argues, “Cruelty to animals is another form of childhood aggression linked with adult violence.⁷ Many antisocial adults and children with conduct disorder have histories of abusing, torturing, or killing pets.”. Even though Psychopaths do not have empathy, they usually have prowess to mimic such emotions if it is for their benefit, specialists such as Bonn (2014) claim that “Psychopaths are often well educated and hold steady jobs. Some are so good at manipulation and mimicry that they have families and other long-term relationships without those around them ever suspecting their true nature.”, they are, as opposed to their

sociopathic counterpart, more controlled and calmer. They are also organized and are diligent. Bonn (2014) also posits that:

“Psychopathy is the most dangerous of all antisocial personality disorders because of the way psychopaths dissociate emotionally from their actions, regardless of how terrible those actions may be. Many prolific and notorious serial killers, including the late Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy (Pogo the clown), and the incarcerated Dennis Rader ("Bind, Torture, Kill" or BTK) are unremorseful psychopaths. Psychopathic killers view their innocent victims as inhuman objects to be tormented and exterminated for their own amusement or even sexual gratification.”.

An experiment showed that:

“With emotionally neutral words (cup, apple) both psychopaths and the non-psychopaths show a small spike in their alpha waves indicating that they have recognized the word. When non-psychopaths are presented with emotionally laden words (cancer, death, mom) there is a much higher spike indicating that they have recognized the word and made associations that have led to pairing the cognition with emotions. When psychopaths are presented with those same emotional words, they tend to process them in ways similar to processing apple or cup. That is, recognize it and pass on to the next word without involving the emotions. Hundreds of other studies using many different kinds of methods have revealed over and over that the defining characteristic of psychopaths is their inability to ‘tie’ the brain’s cognitive and emotional networks together” (Levenson et al., 2000; Patrick, 1994; Scarpa & Raine, 2003, as cited in Walsh & Wu, 2008, p.141).

Most specialists agree that psychopathy is genetically inherited, this claim is backed up by the observation of APD-like behavior on children who have not been through abuse or negligence and by families that have other cases of psychopathic behavior on previous generations, and even though both psychos and sociopaths lack remorse, the latter is quite “colder” towards their mistakes like causing problems to other people and will only show guilt as a defense mechanism and if it is convenient to them (e.g. apologize for being rude to a co-worker in order to avoid punishments such as being fired). One of the main instruments used to diagnose a psychopath is using Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised (PCL-R), which consists in a 20-item symptom construct rating scale, used as a guide to rate different aspects while analyzing a subject’s interview, PCL-R uses a 3-point scale: 0- if that category does not apply to the subject, 1- if it somewhat applies and 2- if it definitely applies. Additionally, to make a diagnosis using the PCL-R the diagnostician must be a doctoral level clinician with special training with the instrument (Walsh & Wu, 2008, p.138), however, as we are dealing with a fictional character and we do not have the obligation to create a semi-structured review, we are still going to use it for the sake of research. The table below was taken directly from the source material (Hart, Cox & Hare, 1995 p.10) as an example:

Table 2:

Table 3
Items in the PCL-R

Item	Description	Factor Loading
1.	Glibness/Superficial Charm	1
2.	Grandiose Sense of Self-Worth	1
3.	Need for Stimulation/Proneness to Boredom	2
4.	Pathological Lying	1
5.	Conning/Manipulative	1
6.	Lack of Remorse of Guilt	1
7.	Shallow Affect	1
8.	Callous/Lack of Empathy	1
9.	Parasitic Lifestyle	2
10.	Poor Behavioral Controls	2
11.	Promiscuous Sexual Behavior	—
12.	Early Behavioral Problems	2
13.	Lack of Realistic, Long-Term Goals	2
14.	Impulsivity	2
15.	Irresponsibility	2
16.	Failure to Accept Responsibility for Own Actions	1
17.	Marry Short-Term Marital Relationships	—
18.	Juvenile Delinquency	2
19.	Revocation of Conditional Release	2
20.	Criminal Versatility	—

We must be mindful that this type of tool is supposed to be used in a clinical setting and not for a layperson to analyze the responses of someone they know and label that person this or that. People unrelated to this field of study do not have the knowledge, experience or enough theoretical data to find a satisfactory result. Moreover, the PCL-R design was suited for analyzing criminals, so it is not something that should be used with people who do not fit into the “criminal” category.

2.3 Sociopathy

On the “opposite” side, we have sociopathy. Firstly, we shall present some traits of sociopathy, then show what turns regular people into sociopaths and lastly differentiate them from psychopaths. People diagnosed as sociopaths tend to have many traits which are distinguishable from psychopathic ones but are present in the diagnostic features of APD. Some of them are: Impulsivity, erratic behavior, inability to keep steady jobs, difficulty in education, explosive temper, inability to follow the rules of society, recklessness, etc.

(“Infographic: Psychopath Vs. Sociopath” n.d.). Impulsivity in the sense of lack of planning; Erratic behavior as being unpredictable/uncommon for certain situations; Incapable of keeping a job for too long; Volatile temperament is considered by many as one of the main differences between psychopaths and sociopaths. Walsh and Wu (2008, p.143) also posit, “Sociopaths are criminal by definition, that is, they are prone to being incarcerated as they aren’t capable to follow society’s rules by the book and often act on impulse to gain a benefit (money, for example).”. It is not very hard to make this distinction, for example, according to Walsh and Wu (2008):

“Sociopathy appears to be a condition less strongly tied to genotype than psychopathy and more tied to development in extremely adverse environments rife with abuse, neglect, and violence. The number of sociopaths therefore fluctuates with changes in sociocultural environments, particularly with the rate of children born into fatherless homes.” (p.148)

In other words, Sociopaths are a product of their reality while Psychopaths have a genetic component as its core. Moreover, Psych2go (2021) says:

“Sociopaths can feel empathy in certain situations while psychopaths cannot. Some psychologists believe that sociopaths can feel empathy towards others in certain situations due to the ‘learned’ nature of their condition. However, this can be inconsistent and may only be present in specific, isolated instances.” (00:02:56).

Lastly, according to Johnson (2019):

“One major difference is that sociopaths are thought to be born with relatively normal brain development. However, some researchers have found that children in environments in which harsh and inconsistent parenting occurs and the youths have demonstrated affective defects related to psychopathy to be impacted by their environment.⁵⁴” (p.81).

2.4 The book

This section comprises a brief description of the story, working as a summary of the most relevant events for this research. Its purpose is to give context to the people who have not read it. “Frankenstein: Or, the Modern Prometheus” is a novel written by author Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and its first issue was published in 1818. The story is narrated and begins with the letters captain Robert Walton sends to his sister. Everything is ordinary until he finds a man, Victor Frankenstein, in one of the coldest parts of the planet, dying in the cold. After the captain and his crew rescue this man, he becomes a sort of friend for the captain and when Victor’s health improved, he started his tragic tale. Victor was a scientist and as the

time went by, he became obsessed with the idea of creating life. He was blinded by his greed for knowledge and after studying various methods to achieve his goal, he ends up making a series of experiments, until the time Victor finally succeeds. Even after getting what he wanted, when Frankenstein saw the deformity of his creation, he could not help but flee from the “wretch” he had created. After the creature fled his birthing place, Victor learns about his brother William’s death. He then traveled back to his home, upon arrival he learned that Justine, a maidservant who was beloved by the whole family, was accused of being William’s killer, the evidence collected with her was a portrait that belonged to Frankenstein’s little brother. Even though Victor tried with all his might to save Justine from her death by the hands of justice, he was not capable of proving that the culprit was someone else. Justine was pretty much forced by the prosecutor to declare herself guilty to maybe get absolution, however that was just a scheme to solve the case. After Justine’s execution the family went on an excursion, when Victor was alone, his creation approached him with a very eloquent way of speaking, the creature asks his creator to fulfill his request, but as Victor was not willing to listen to it, the “monster” urged Frankenstein to hear his tale. I will refer to the “monster” as it, he or nouns such as creature.

Following its narrative trajectory, every time the creature meets men it suffers physical injuries from being assaulted by them, (human beings in general are afraid/prejudiced of things that are different from what they acknowledge as normal) until he finds a hovel, and on one of its walls there is a hole that links the hovel and the cottage, where there were humans that the creature started to observe. Observing them he learned about many things, their voices, their spoken language, their relationships with each other, etc. He then finds books and after learning how to read, he describes to Victor what he felt reading each book. As time went by, he felt more attached to the family and urged to meet and befriend them (he was already helping them without them noticing). Then, he made up a plan to reach out to the family’s father, a blind man. When the opportunity came, he ended up scaring the man as he was telling him about his misfortunes and when the rest of the family arrived, he was expelled from their house violently. This event allegedly made him despise humanity, as he was always treated as deformed devil. After he recovered from the fact, he searched for his creator, while traveling he saved a young girl from death, but her father thought of him as a beast and assaulted the “poor wretch”. When its wounds were healed, the creature continued its journey, when he was hiding once again, he saw a child and thought it was a good idea to seize them and raise them as a companion. However, little did he know that child was his creator’s

younger brother. He grabbed the kid and as the child tried to escape the words that came from their mouth made the creature furious and as he threatened William, the child revealed his father's (and his) surname, Frankenstein. When the creature learned about this, he ended up strangling William. After the fact, he used his wits to frame the maid Justine and his plan worked perfectly. At the end of his story, he urged Victor to comply with his request, to create a female, as ugly and wretched as he is, arguing that all the bad things he committed were because of Victor and it was his obligation as a creator, to make him happy. Victor then complies to this request, creating a vessel that he would once again pour life into, but Frankenstein started to think about the bad things that could happen with two "fiends" with superhuman strength wandering through earth and ultimately decided to destroy the creature's companion. After seeing that scene, the creature and Victor argue and the latter promises to be on Victor's wedding night, as he could not find happiness, he would make Dr. Frankenstein feel as miserable as he felt. The creature kills Clerval first and lastly Elizabeth fulfilling his promised (wedding night). Victor's father passed away in his arms and that made Victor lose the rest of his hopes in life. He then started to pursue his nemesis to the ends of the earth, after collapsing he ended up in the ship. A few moments later, Victor passed away and there was the creature, observing his creator's corpse. After talking about how he should also die, he then left to roam until his death.

3. METHODOLOGY

The aim of this paper is to find out if Frankenstein's Creature can be diagnosed as a person with Antisocial Personality Disorder, more precisely to answer two questions, "Could the creature be considered as either a psychopath or a sociopath?" and "Can the creature be diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder?" using references such as the DSM-5 to check if the first hypothesis is true and then if this assumption is plausible, we will check if it falls under the psychopath "spectrum" or sociopath "spectrum". The first thing we are going to do is to discuss the behavior of the creature and check if it passes on the criteria we will use (Personality disorders, 2013, p. 659) checking if there is information present in the text that corroborates with each of the criteria starting with A1 and finishing in A7. We will also do a similar process to use the PCL-R, as we cannot interview the creature, the only thing we can do now is to analyze his speech and actions. And finally, we are going to use the data taken from the references as supporting evidence for the excerpt analysis. The quotes taken from the book are the basis for this paper, meaning that they serve as the main evidence to assess whether the guiding question can be proved correct or not, they will be transcribed and analyzed using data from the theoretical framework presented previously and other references to support either of the main claims. They will be used chronologically when possible, according to the book, starting with Victor's first dialogue with his creation and finishing with the creature's departure from the ship after seeing the passing of his creator, this choice was made to keep our focus on the creature's development. The research has enough data to support whether any of those three hypotheses are plausible or not, however there are three Criteria that will need to be omitted (B, C and D) and one that needs to be "twisted" (A), enabling us to use the material without any trouble. This decision will be explained in the next topic.

3.1 APD diagnosis

When considering the APD diagnosis, we will use the criteria A1 to A7, but B, C and D will not actually apply in this work for the following reasons: First, Criterion B requires the subject of the analysis to be at least 18. We can consider that criterion as partially correct

because this choice is most likely related to the development of a person's brain. Considering the rate at which the creature learns, his complex knowledge of what he perceives (cottage people, nature), his good understanding concerning the interpretation of the books he read and most importantly his ability to rationalize his own feelings (if not fabricate them) and put those feelings into words, which in both cases can be quite challenging for a minor. Thus it is not a bold statement for us to claim that the creature's brain is fully developed as an adult's and although we will omit Criterion B, this argument shows that Criterion A is passable, but it is important for us to know that the whole story did not take place in only a couple of years and analyzing the evidences it is hard to posit that it took more than 15 years (the minimum for Criterion A), because According to Charles E. Robinson, the year in which Victor sets off for the University of Ingolstadt is 1789 and after his numerous studies and experiments, he gives life to his "Adam" in 1793 (Shelley et al., 2017, p. xxiii) to corroborate with this information, the book shows many times the dates (approximately) that Captain Walton wrote the letters to his sister Margaret Walton Saville or Mrs. Saville. The dates, specifically the years, are shown as 17— and we must remember that these letters were being written before and after Victor was found by the captain's ship, as the narrative of the whole story (of Frankenstein and his creation) is conveyed to Mrs. Saville through these letters. All things considered it is safe to say that the events ended on the late 1790s or at most early 1800s. If we interpret as the story finishing exactly in 1800, considering when Frankenstein started studying at Ingolstadt (1789), approximately 11 years had passed since then. Criterion C from the DSM-5 (2013) says "the individual (...) must have had a history of some symptoms of conduct disorder before age 15 years." (p.659), these symptoms are further clarified in the same page: "The specific behaviors characteristic of conduct disorder fall into one of four categories: aggression to people and animals, destruction of property, deceitfulness or theft, or serious violation of rules." (p.659). As he is most likely 11 years old, we could argue that he fits this criterion, however the monster was already born with the constitution and brain comparable to an adult's (most likely taken from one). Finally, criterion D: "The occurrence of antisocial behavior is not exclusively during the course of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder." (Personality Disorders, 2013, p. 660), will not be considered because schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are not within our research scope.

3.2 Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R)

The second part of the analysis will use the PCL-R test to check if the monster can be diagnosed as a Psychopath, following their parameters. The main requirements for its use are a semi-structured interview and a review of collateral information, but you can use just the collateral information if necessary (data/reports on the subjects past behavior) (Hart et al., 1995, p.9). That is very important because we cannot interview a fictional character nor their author who has already passed away, so we shall focus on what we have. This tool was created with a specific target “audience”, which was incarcerated adult males who were Caucasian from North America.(Hare, 1991, as cited in Hart et al., 1995 p.10), although the monster has not been arrested throughout the book, we know for a fact that he is a criminal, for example, he has stolen food, dogs and possibly clothing to endure the cold of the arctic (Shelley et al., 2017 p. 171) and we also must not forget about the murders he committed throughout the book. The PCL-R has 20 items, each of those can be “graded” from 0 to 2 respectively meaning: Item does not apply, item applies somewhat, and item definitely applies (Hart et al., 1995, p.9).

3.3 Excerpts.

The third part of the analysis will focus on discussing excerpts taken from the book, using the definitions of psychopathy and sociopathy presented on the Theoretical Framework. The data collected for the Excerpts Analysis mainly consist of 20 quotes taken from “Frankenstein: Annotated for scientists, engineers, and creators of all kinds” (2017) some of them will coincide with those mentioned in previous sections, but they will be used differently. It is important to mention that those were intentionally chosen to prove this research right. Each quote will be analyzed both ways, that is, we will make considerations when possible that support psychopathy and sociopathy, because even though both definitions may overlap, they still have their differences inside the APD “spectrum”.

4. ANALYSES AND RESULTS

4.1 Analysis of the criteria for antisocial personality disorder (APD) diagnosis

The first part of the analysis can be summarized as an endeavor to prove that the creature shows traces of this disorder in his actions or speech. We will try to prove the criteria right, from A1 to A7 which were taken from the DSM-5 (2013, p. 659). It is important to clarify that according to the DSM-5, the subject must fulfill 3 or more of those criteria as shown in table 1, section A.

Criterion A1: "Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors, as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest." This criterion can be interpreted both ways, for instance, it is well known that the creature was created, but it was not raised by his creator (or father if one prefers), nor it has had a formal education to know the boundaries of the legal and moral systems of the society at that time. It is common sense that humans are social beings and even though he might not be considered human due to the nature of his coming to this world, he is made of human parts and even thinks and acts like a regular human being. However, it is also important to admit that although he lacked direct guiding, he learned about how feelings work, how to behave, act towards others (affection) and speak with the cottagers (DeLacey family) as himself admitted in:

"What chiefly struck me was the gentle manners of these people; and I longed to join them, but dared not. I remembered too well the treatment I had suffered the night before from the barbarous villagers, and resolved, whatever course of conduct I might hereafter think it right to pursue, that for the present I would remain quietly in my hovel, watching, and endeavoring to discover the motives which influenced their actions." (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 89).

With the books he read, he learned about virtue and wretchedness as in "I can hardly describe to you the effect of these books. They produced in me an infinity of new images and feelings, that sometimes raised me to ecstasy, but more frequently sunk me into the lowest dejection." (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 105). As the crimes he perpetrated took place after he acquired such knowledge to distinguish good from bad, we will consider it as a "check" for criterion A1.

Criterion A2: "Deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure." This criterion is more complicated because in order to get a "check" we must somewhat discredit the monster's testimony. When Victor and his creation meet for the first time, the creature demands from Victor the following:

“Do your duty towards me, and I will do mine towards you and the rest of mankind. If you will comply with my conditions, I will leave them and you at peace; but if you refuse, I will glut the maw of death, until it be satiated with the blood of your remaining friends.” (Shelley et al., 2017, pp. 79-80).

This is a clear threat to his creator, probably a mechanism used to get what he wants using the fear of losing the people he loved. The monster knows that his physique is superior to that of normal humans at least in strength and agility. We can also read the creature’s testimony to deceive Victor in fulfilling his request, as the creature starts by threatening him, but right after says “Be calm! I entreat you to hear me, before you give vent to your hatred on my devoted head. Have I not suffered enough, that you seek to increase my misery? Life, although it may only be an accumulation of anguish, is dear to me, and I will defend it.”, this sounds very convincing showing how literate the monster has become, it is indeed natural for humans to defend their lives, he finishes that utterance with:

“Remember, thou hast made me more powerful than thyself; my height is superior to thine; my joints more supple. But I will not be tempted to set myself in opposition to thee. I am thy creature, and I will be even mild and docile to my natural lord and king, if thou wilt also perform thy part, the which thou owest me. Oh, Frankenstein, be not equitable to every other, and trample upon me alone, to whom thy justice, and even thy clemency and affection, is most due. Remember, that I am thy creature: I ought to be thy Adam; but I am rather the fallen angel, whom thou drivest from joy for no misdeed. Every where I see bliss, from which I alone am irrevocably excluded. I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend. Make me happy, and I shall again be virtuous.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p.80)

Which is a rather tragic reality if we consider his feelings are true. For the reasons shown previously, this criterion will not get a check, as it is too open for interpretations.

Criterion A3: “Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead.” This is the easiest one to debunk, most of the steps he takes after his observation of the DeLaceys seem pretty thoughtful about his future approach on the cottagers as this excerpt shows:

“I looked upon them (cottagers) as superior beings, who would be the arbiters of my future destiny. I formed in my imagination a thousand pictures of presenting myself to them, and their reception of me. I imagined that they would be disgusted, until, by my gentle demeanour and conciliating words, I should first win their favour, and afterwards their love.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 94).

The creature not only thinks of what can happen when his beloved cottagers meet him, he also plans to appeal to father DeLacey (his name is not mentioned), he chose that approach because the old man is blind and would therefore be immune to the monster’s abhorrent appearance. This plan is mentioned as follows:

“I revolved many projects; but that on which I finally fixed was, to enter the dwelling when the blind old man should be alone. (...) in the absence of his children, I could gain the good-will and mediation of the old De Lacey, I might, by his means, be tolerated by my younger protectors.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 110).

On the other hand, the creature shows signs of impulsivity when talking to Victor's little brother, firstly by trying to capture the child to raise him as his friend showed in the following:

“At this time a slight sleep relieved me from the pain of reflection, which was disturbed by the approach of a beautiful child, who came running into the recess I had chosen with all the sportiveness of infancy. Suddenly, as I gazed on him, an idea seized me, that this little creature was unprejudiced, and had lived too short a time to have imbibed a horror of deformity. If, therefore, I could seize him, and educate him as my companion and friend, I should not be so desolate in this peopled earth.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 118).

This passage can be interpreted as a mix of planning and impulsivity. Lastly, after Victor breaks his promise by killing his creature's mate, the monster says to him “It is well. I go; but remember, I shall be with you on your wedding-night.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 142), later in the book he carried out what he vowed to do in this passage. Based on the evidence we will not “check” this criterion.

Criterion A4: “Irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults.”. This one can be tricky as well, it depends on the way you interpret the monster's actions. The main argument against this criterion is that most of the creature's misdeeds were reactive, they were his retribution to what he has received (pain, wounds, curses, etc.). this can be seen in many sections of the book, like the murder of William, which starts with the child's curses and swearing (as a reaction of being kidnapped) which ends in William's death as he proclaimed himself a relative of Victor Frankenstein, as shown in ““Frankenstein! you belong then to my enemy—to him towards whom I have sworn eternal revenge; you shall be my first victim.”” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 119). The monster also shows his degree of control when Victor destroys the bride he was making, a more passionate response would make more sense, but no, he chose to pay his creator back by killing those who were the closest to him, his best friend Clerval and Elizabeth, his loved one. With this evidence at hand, it is safe to say that we should not "check" A4.

Criterion A5: “Reckless disregard for safety of self or others.” This section would hardly apply when we think of the creature's relationship with the DeLacey family and the situation when he saves a girl (Shelley et al., 2017, p.117) before meeting William. It was a reckless decision to risk himself to save her, however that shows care towards her. His disregard for the safety of people he despised can be argued to be something justified (not the violent acts though). On the other hand we must also think of the creature in his “final” form, as this is not an isolated analysis of the monster before the misfortunes he endured and after all those

traumas and events he showed little to no sympathy towards humanity, as society rejected him he chose to reject society as well and this is something he said himself:

“I am malicious because I am miserable; am I not shunned and hated by all mankind? You, my creator, would tear me to pieces, and triumph; remember that, and tell me why I should pity man more than he pities me? You would not call it murder, if you could precipitate me into one of those ice-rifts, and destroy my frame, the work of your own hands. Shall I respect man, when he contemns me?” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 120).

With this in mind, it is logical to assume that he would not feel empathy to regular humans who have always abhorred, it seems fair to give this one a “check”.

Criterion A6: “Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations.” As the creature does not have an occupation through most of the book nor it has financial obligations, we must look for what he did while helping the DeLaceys. He shows diligence through his routine of helping the people he admired as seen here:

“I discovered also another means through which I was enabled to assist their labours. I found that the youth spent a great part of each day in collecting wood for the family fire; (...) She uttered some words in a loud voice, and the youth joined her, who also expressed surprise. I observed, with pleasure, that he did not go to the forest that day, but spent it in repairing the cottage, and cultivating the garden.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 91).

His routine of helping the cottagers goes in an opposite direction from what the criterion requires. However, if we think about the creature’s situation after he was rejected by the family (a trauma), it is even harder to make a case in his favor as we know nothing of his habits. After his past failed interactions with humans, he most likely survived by stealing from people or foraging while travelling. So, there is no evidence to support a positive claim of this criterion. Not “check”.

Criterion A7: “Lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another.” It is important to notice the way he rationalizes doing what he did towards the people he harmed, it already happens in his first dialogue with Victor, when narrating William’s murder, he argues that he did that to cause suffering to his creator who carries the same name as the child. (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 119). Although it might be justifiable on the readers point of view, the avenging wrath he carried at the end of the book is fair in the monster’s eyes, thus making him lack any type of remorse he might have had previously and also serving as the perfect rationalization of what he would later do to inflict as much wrath, pain, agony and despair as he had towards Victor. When the monster killed Elizabeth, Victor described what he had seen as follows: “I saw at the open window a

figure the most hideous and abhorred. A grin was on the face of the monster; he seemed to jeer, as with his fiendish finger he pointed towards the corpse of my wife.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 162)”. Although we must take how Victor describes the monster’s features with a grain of salt, this type of joy was already shown by the creature when he reported William’s death to Victor and with that evidence at hand we can safely “check” his criterion. As it was reported in the beginning of this section, we needed at least 3 out of the 7 criteria to safely diagnose someone as a person who suffers with APD and we managed to check 3 out of those 7 criteria as the bare minimum.

4.2 Applying the PCL-R

In this section we are going to use the Hare Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL-R) to identify if there are enough traces in the story that could support the claim that the creature is a psychopath. The table below contains all the items that the original has and the grades were given according to how this research interpreted the character’s behavior and the choice for each of the items will be explained afterwards:

Table 3:

PCL – R - “Creature” Frankenstein		
Item	Description	Factor Loading
1.	Glibness/Superficial Charm	0
2.	Grandiose Sense of Serf-Worth	2
3.	Need for Stimulation/Proneness to Boredom	2
4.	Pathological Lying	1
5.	Conning/Manipulative	1
6.	Lack of Remorse or Guilt	1
7.	Shallow Affect	1
8.	Callous /Lack of Empathy	1
9.	Parasitic Lifestyle	1
10.	Poor Behavioral Controls	1
11.	Promiscuous Sexual Behavior	0
12.	Early Behavioral problems	1

13.	Lack of Realistic, Long-Term Goals	1
14.	Impulsivity	1
15.	Irresponsibility	0
16.	Failure to Accept Responsibility for Own Actions	1
17.	Many Short-Term Marital Relationships	0
18.	Juvenile Delinquency	1
19.	Revocation of Conditional Release	0
20.	Criminal Versatility	2

As you can see in table 3, after counting the number of points that we gathered we have a total of 18 points, which is very far from the 30 points necessary for a positive diagnosis considering the USA parameter and even if we use the UK parameter which is 25 points, the results are still far from what is expected. On the other hand, we must acknowledge that the book lacks evidence for items 11, 17 and 19, that is, there are not mentions of those themes within the story. Item 1 score was 0 because he was not described as charming, even though his persuasion skills are great as when he convinces Frankenstein to create a wife for him (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 123). Item 2 has a score of 2 because the monster is always saying that he was righteous and virtuous, the reasons why he could not maintain that positive behavior were his loneliness and the numerous rejections he suffered. Item 3 score (2) is also related to his need for attention and affection. Item 4 might apply (1), because it is not clear if he was lying or not, it depends on how each person perceives him, this also serves as argument for the same score on items 5, 6 and 8. Item 7 score (1) is mainly due to his inexperience with true bonding, he has never been in a relationship of any kind, so it is impossible to predict if he could withstand a connection when problems with that hypothetical person arises. Number 9 score (1) could be diminished by arguing that when he started to observe and empathize with the cottagers, the monster began to live selflessly as he stops eating the food that belonged to the DeLaceys and went back to foraging as a means of survival (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 90), but we cannot overlook the time he stole supplies and a sledge with a bunch of dogs (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 171). Number 10 score (1) comes from the dichotomy of the monster. When rejected by the DeLaceys he destroyed things that were in his grasp (Shelley et al., 2017, p.114), but later when Victor breaks his promise, he does not rush to kill Victor, but promises to repay him by inflicting the same wounds as his “soul” suffered (Shelley et al., 2017, p.141). Number 12 and 18 scores (1) come from the ambiguity

that was explained previously that although the creature's age revolves around 11 years old. We must remember that this age number is different from normal humans, after all, his brain appears to be fully developed from the start, considering the speed at which he learns, the complexity of his speech and his reasoning. Item 13 score (1) comes from both his long-term urge of having someone as him by his side, but also falls flat when we analyze it realistically. Items 14 and 15 share similarities with two of the criteria presented in the APD section, respectively: A3 and A6, so the reasoning behind their scores can be inferred from those sections. Item 16 was scored as 1 due to the ambiguity shown in the text, although he acknowledges his wrongdoings, he does not believe that he should be punished for them, as he argues them to be only a consequence of the assaults and prejudice he suffered, that is, he is a product of the environment he was thrown in. Lastly, Item 20 is concerned with crime versatility, and on that matter the creature showed his prowess in several times in the course of the book, his overwhelming strength, agility to flee when he wants, stealth skills by not being noticed by other citizens nor by Justine as he frames her (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 119) and his ability with words, capable of convincing Victor of the validity of his tale (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 123).

As we have seen in the previous paragraph, after the application of the PCL-R test, using the data provided by the author of this instrument, we got to the conclusion that according to the results of the test, the monster is not a psychopath. It is of extreme importance to point out that we lack evidence of some of the items, mainly 3 of them (11,17 and 19) were not mentioned at the very least in a way we could consider scoring them. They could add a maximum of 8 to the 18 points we have, which would totalize 26 points and as mentioned previously, 25 points is the minimum score for a diagnosis in the UK parameter. Additionally, there were other items which suffered from a lack of evidence to confirm as a 2, but as we shall not focus on speculations, we will follow through to the next part of this work, which will be a direct analysis of excerpts taken from the book.

4.3 Excerpts analysis, a more direct approach

The following excerpts are organized in chronological order, that is, following the book's events, however there are only 20 of them and they do not cover all the actions portrayed in the original text, but just a fragment that is relevant to this research. This number of excerpts

was chosen because there are many similar quotes within the source material and also because we already used two other methods of analysis, so to avoid excessive repetition and redundancy 20 was considered a fair number. Finally, although the previous test showed that the creature is not likely to be a psychopath, we will still touch on psychopathic traits that can be found on the quotes.

Excerpt 1:

“All men hate the wretched; how then must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things! Yet you, my creator, detest and spurn me, thy creature, to whom thou art bound by ties only dissoluble by the annihilation of one of us. You purpose to kill me. How dare you sport thus with life? Do your duty towards me, and I will do mine towards you and the rest of mankind. If you will comply with my conditions, I will leave them and you at peace; but if you refuse, I will glut the maw of death, until it be satiated with the blood of your remaining friends.” (Shelley et al., 2017, pp. 79-80)

In this fragment we can identify the monster trying to convince Victor to do what he says, as Bonn (2014) stated “Psychopaths are extremely manipulative and can easily gain people’s trust.” which is a possible interpretation considering the way he threatens Victor to get what he wants, as mentioned in MedCircle (2018): “... psychopaths in particular and sociopaths, (...) they view the world as an instrument to fulfill their desires.”(11:03 -11:10).

Excerpt 2:

“The guilty are allowed, by human laws, bloody as they may be, to speak in their own defence before they are condemned. Listen to me, Frankenstein. You accuse me of murder; and yet you would, with a satisfied conscience, destroy your own creature. Oh, praise the eternal justice of man! Yet I ask you not to spare me: listen to me; and then, if you can, and if you will, destroy the work of your hands.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p.81)

In this excerpt, we can also find traces of manipulative behavior, especially when he asks Victor to listen to him, implying that he is not asking for mercy, but rather for empathy towards himself.

Excerpt 3:

“He raised her, and smiled with such kindness and affection, that I felt sensations of a peculiar and overpowering nature: they were a mixture of pain and pleasure, such as I had never before experienced, either from hunger or cold, warmth or food; and I withdrew from the window, unable to bear these emotions.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p. 88)

This fragment shows the creature’s difficulty in reacting to positive emotions he has not experienced himself, although he is not a child, had just been brought to life and the lack of

direct nurturing and affection might have caused him to develop APD as it can be found in the the DSM-5 (2013) “Child abuse or neglect, unstable or erratic parenting, or inconsistent parental discipline may increase the likelihood that conduct disorder will evolve into antisocial personality disorder.” (p.661).

Excerpt 4:

“...food before the old man, when they reserved none for themselves. This trait of kindness moved me sensibly. I had been accustomed, during the night, to steal a part of their store for my own consumption; but when I found that in doing this I inflicted pain on the cottagers, I abstained, and satisfied myself with berries, nuts, and roots, which I gathered from a neighbouring wood.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p.90)

This excerpt shows us that he is capable of feeling remorse, as Johnson (2019) says, “Sociopaths may experience some degree of remorse and guilt within the context of some group (e.g., gang, family)” (p.81). Which corroborates with the hypothesis of the monster as a sociopath.

Excerpt 5:

“At that instant the cottage door was opened, and Felix, Safie, and Agatha entered. Who can describe their horror and consternation on beholding me? Agatha fainted; and Safie, unable to attend to her friend, rushed out of the cottage. Felix darted forward, and with supernatural force tore me from his father, to whose knees I clung: in a transport of fury, he dashed me to the ground, and struck me violently with a stick. I could have torn him limb from limb, as the lion rends the antelope. But my heart sunk within me as with bitter sickness, and I refrained. I saw him on the point of repeating his blow, when, overcome by pain and anguish, I quitted the cottage, and in the general tumult escaped unperceived to my hovel. (Shelley et al., 2017, 113)

This was probably the moment when the creature “broke down”, it must have been a hard blow to his mental state, feeling the hatred, fear and disgust that were directed at him by the people he admired so much. “exposure to violence within the community appeared related more to Factor 1 (affective/interpersonal) aspects.⁵³ They develop sociopathy as a result of environmental factors, such as early adverse events (e.g., abuse, neglect), ...” (Johnson, 2019, p.78)

Excerpt 6:

“I (...) sank on the damp grass in the sick impotence of despair. There was none among the myriads of men that existed who would pity or assist me; and should I feel kindness towards my enemies? No: from that moment I declared everlasting war against the species, and, more than all, against him who had formed me, and sent me forth to this insupportable misery.” (Shelley et al., 2017, 114)

After the traumatic event, it was natural that he would feel hatred towards humanity, but it is also important to point out that he lacks the capability to rationalize why they have treated

him that way, that would also serve as an argument for the sociopath diagnosis. “Psychopaths usually display controlled behavior, while sociopaths are often impulsive and angry.”

(Psychologia, n.d.)

Excerpt 7:

“I never saw any of the family of De Lacey more. I continued for the remainder of the day in my hovel in a state of utter and stupid despair. My protectors had departed, and had broken the only link that held me to the world. For the first time the feelings of revenge and hatred filled my bosom, and I did not strive to controul them; but, allowing myself to be borne away by the stream, I bent my mind towards injury and death (...) when I reflected that they had spurned and deserted me, anger returned, a rage of anger; and, unable to injure any thing human, I turned my fury towards inanimate objects.” (Shelley et al., 2017, p.117)

Here the creature reflects on his situation, and his rage that was directed at the objects that surrounded him matches with the Criterion A1 from the DSM-5 (2013), “They may repeatedly perform acts that are grounds for arrest (whether they are arrested or not), such as destroying property, harassing others, stealing, or pursuing illegal occupations.” (p.660)

Excerpt 8:

" This was then the reward of my benevolence! I had saved a human being from destruction, and, as a recompence, I now writhed under the miserable pain of a wound, which shattered the flesh and bone. The feelings of kindness and gentleness, which I had entertained but a few moments before, gave place to hellish rage and gnashing of teeth. Inflamed by pain, I vowed eternal hatred and vengeance to all mankind. " (Shelley et al., 2017, p.118)

The context of this fragment is the unfairness of the treatment he received after saving a man’s relative. He expected to be praised or thanked like anyone would, but he was injured once again, by those who discriminate against him. Which can also be one of the causes of his mental condition (APD) later in the book. This also falls in the category of environmental issues which Black (2013) says, “Genetics may set the potential, but environmental factors, such as diet and family upbringing, may determine whether that potential is ultimately reached.” (p.133)

Excerpt 9:

“‘Frankenstein! you belong then to my enemy—to him towards whom I have sworn eternal revenge; you shall be my first victim.’ The child still struggled, and loaded me with epithets which carried despair to my heart: I grasped his throat to silence him, and in a moment he lay dead at my feet. I gazed on my victim, and my heart swelled with exultation and hellish triumph: clapping my hands, I exclaimed, ‘I, too, can create desolation; my enemy is not impregnable; this death will carry despair to him, and a thousand other miseries shall torment and destroy him.’” (Shelley et al., 2017, 119)

This excerpt describes the moment when the monster discovers that his creator is from the same family as the kid, his plan at first was to kidnap and raise that kid to be his friend and family, however two things made him snap, the first one was the child's prejudice against him because of his wretched countenance, the second is what we see above. As we can perceive, killing William was not his initial plan, he probably meant to silence the child, but after killing Victor's little brother he rejoiced, showing pleasure. If we believed his words once again, showing such emotions can count as a hint of sociopathy.

Excerpt 10:

"While I was overcome by these feelings, I left the spot where I had committed the murder, and was seeking a more secluded hiding-place, when I perceived a woman passing near me. She was young, not indeed so beautiful as her whose portrait I held, but of an agreeable aspect, and blooming in the loveliness of youth and health. Here, I thought, is one of those whose smiles are bestowed on all but me; she shall not escape: thanks to the lessons of Felix, and the sanguinary laws of man, I have learned how to work mischief. I approached her unperceived, and placed the portrait securely in one of the folds of her dress." (Shelley et al., 2017, p.119)

After experiencing his first murder, the realization of his own physical prowess made him confident enough to try something new. He envies Justine and uses his knowledge on "mischief" as he says to frame her. This lack of empathy might be seen as both a sociopathic and a psychopathic trait, but it is the first time the creature chooses to cause harm to someone he has never seen.

"Fearlessness makes it difficult to visualize the negative aspects of impending events, much of which relies on emotional processing. In other words, psychopaths have a tendency to take risks that most of us would rather avoid because of the negative consequences associated with them." (Walsh & Wu, 2008, pp.142-143)

Excerpt 11:

"We may not part until you have promised to comply with my requisition. I am alone, and miserable; man will not associate with me; but one as deformed and horrible as myself would not deny herself to me. My companion must be of the same species, and have the same defects. This being you must create." (Shelley et al., 2017, p.120)

Here the creature shows a lack of empathy to his soon to be companion, he wants Victor to create a female creature who resembles him, but that would probably be tragic for her, to suffer from the same pains he has been through, his frustrations concerning his appearance, etc. She would also be almost obliged to get together with him, what if she despises him as much as herself? This type of behavior is also present in the DSM-5 (2013), "Persons with this disorder disregard the wishes, rights, or feelings of others." (p.660)

Excerpt 12:

"If you consent, neither you nor any other human being shall ever see us again: I will go to the vast wilds of South America. My food is not that of man; I do not destroy the lamb and the kid, to glut my appetite; acorns and berries afford me sufficient nourishment. My companion will be of the same nature as myself, and will be content with the same fare. We shall make our bed of dried leaves; the sun will shine on us as on man, and will ripen our food. The picture I present to you is peaceful and human, and you must feel that you could deny it only in the wantonness of power and cruelty. Pitiless as you have been towards me, I now see compassion in your eyes; let me seize the favourable moment, and persuade you to promise what I so ardently desire." (Shelley et al., 2017, p.121)

The fragment above also shows the monster's attempt of manipulation. The DSM-5 (2013) states, "They are frequently deceitful and manipulative in order to gain personal profit or pleasure (e.g., to obtain money, sex, or power)". (p.660) We can consider the promise he makes to Victor as a means to obtain what he wants.

Excerpt 13:

"How is this? I thought I had moved your compassion, and yet you still refuse to bestow on me the only benefit that can soften my heart, and render me harmless. If I have no ties and no affections, hatred and vice must be my portion; the love of another will destroy the cause of my crimes, and I shall become a thing, of whose existence every one will be ignorant. My vices are the children of a forced solitude that I abhor; and my virtues will necessarily arise when I live in communion with an equal. I shall feel the affections of a sensitive being, and become linked to the chain of existence and events, from which I am now excluded." (Shelley et al., 2017, p.123)

Here he exposes once again his need for affection, to be a part of a community or a family, which is a common human desire. But the way the rationalized could be a further mean of manipulation.

Excerpt 14:

"Slave, I before reasoned with you, but you have proved yourself unworthy of my condescension. Remember that I have power; you believe yourself miserable, but I can make you so wretched that the light of day will be hateful to you. You are my creator, but I am your master;—obey!" (Shelley et al., 2017, p.141)

This fragment happens after Victor breaks his promise, even though he just lost his soon to be bride, he still does not kill Victor, instead he tries to force him to comply once again. This level of control is unlikely on sociopaths, as they are known for their impulsivity.

"Psychopaths usually display controlled behavior, while sociopaths are often impulsive and angry." (Infographic: Psychopath Vs. Sociopath, Psychologia, n.d.)

Excerpt 15:

"He had apparently been strangled; for there was no sign of any violence, except the black mark of fingers on his neck." (Shelley et al., 2017, p.147)

This fragment was chosen to focus exclusively on the murder weapon, the monster's hands. As cited in Kippert (2022):

“according to Eric Beauregard, Ph.D., a professor at the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University. He says the murderer likely doesn't want to remove themselves from the act by stepping back and firing a gun—they prefer placing their hands on the victim and taking away their life, in a close and personal manner.”

Excerpt 16:

"I saw at the open window a figure the most hideous and abhorred. A grin was on the face of the monster; he seemed to jeer, as with his fiendish finger he pointed towards the corpse of my wife." (Shelley et al., 2017, p.162)

This fragment can be a little misleading considering Victor's hatred towards his creation paired with his mental state when he witnessed that scene, but if we take that description as truth. The creature is showing once again his delight on Frankenstein suffering, the revenge that he promised to pursue. (Shelley et al., 2017, p.142)

Excerpt 17:

"One inscription that he left was in these words: 'Prepare! your toils only begin: wrap yourself in furs, and provide food, for we shall soon enter upon a journey where your sufferings will satisfy my everlasting hatred.'" (Shelley et al., 2017, p.171)

This warning from the creature serves an actual tip for Frankenstein, he wants Victor to bear the emotional and physical pain as much as possible as part of his vengeance.

Excerpt 18:

"He paused, looking on me with wonder; and, again turning towards the lifeless form of his creator, he seemed to forget my presence, and every feature and gesture seemed instigated by the wildest rage of some uncontrollable passion. 'That is also my victim!' he exclaimed; 'in his murder my crimes are consummated; the miserable series of my being is wound to its close! Oh, Frankenstein! generous and self-devoted being! what does it avail that I now ask thee to pardon me? I, who irretrievably destroyed thee by destroying all thou lovedst. Alas! he is cold; he may not answer me.' " (Shelley et al., 2017, p.183)

As he perceives his last string of attachment to humanity dead and his last hope for redemption, he seems to feel anguished, possibly depressed, which is a condition that psychopaths and sociopaths also suffer as shown by the DSM-5 (2013):

“Individuals with antisocial personality disorder may also experience dysphoria, including complaints of tension, inability to tolerate boredom, and depressed mood. They may have associated anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, substance use disorders, somatic symptom disorder, gambling disorder, and other disorders of impulse control. (p.661).

Excerpt 19:

“You, who call Frankenstein your friend, seem to have a knowledge of my crimes and his misfortunes. But, in the detail which he gave you of them, he could not sum up the hours and months of misery which I endured, wasting in impotent passions. For whilst I destroyed his hopes, I did not satisfy my own desires. They were for ever ardent and craving; still I desired love and fellowship, and I was still spurned. Was there no injustice in this? Am I to be thought the only criminal, when all human kind sinned against me? Why do you not hate Felix, who drove his friend from his door with contumely? Why do you not execrate the rustic who sought to destroy the saviour of his child? Nay, these are virtuous and immaculate beings! I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned at, and kicked, and trampled on. Even now my blood boils at the recollection of this injustice. (Shelley et al., 2017, pp.185-186)

This fragment also falls under the criterion of APD that says, “The essential feature of antisocial personality disorder is a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood.” However, his disregard for Frankenstein’s rights is arguably fair, as he suffered from the same disregard since his “birth”.

Excerpt 20:

“‘But soon,’ he cried, with sad and solemn enthusiasm, ‘I shall die, and what I now feel be no longer felt. Soon these burning miseries will be extinct. I shall ascend my funeral pile triumphantly, and exult in the agony of the torturing flames. The light of that conflagration will fade away; my ashes will be swept into the sea by the winds. My spirit will sleep in peace; or if it thinks, it will not surely think thus. Farewell.’” (Shelley et al., 2017, p.187)

The last Excerpt shows us his sorrow. His creator, the only one capable of creating someone as him, the only person who in his eyes owed him and could fulfill his needs was gone. He then makes it clear that he will kill himself, which seems like a logical conclusion as his last purpose was to make Frankenstein suffer until his death which was then complete. He had lost his purpose.

5. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this paper is to answer a couple of questions, the main one is concerned with the diagnosis of the creature as either a psychopath or a sociopath. As the research progressed, another question arose from the study, which is focused on the creature's diagnosis as someone who suffers from APD. As the paper shows, the concept of APD encompasses both Psychopathy and Sociopathy working as an umbrella term. The results of this paper show that according to the Criteria used to diagnose APD on people, it is indeed plausible to assume that the creature suffers from a degree of APD (3 of the 7 criteria used). Furthermore, the findings cannot prove that the creature is a psychopath, even though there are many instances where we identified psychopathic traces in his behavior, there are many more instances where he shows signs of behavior that are not compatible with the psychopath diagnosis, additionally the results of the PCL-R tests are also against that claim, the score he got amounts to 18 points out of the 30 necessary points to a conclusive diagnosis (USA). The hypothesis of the creature as a Sociopath is more plausible than the previous one, there are extensive data found in the excerpts and the source material on the monster showing emotions that corroborate with that hypothesis, such as regret and affection towards the people of his "group". This paper showed that fictional characters who do not have a clear diagnosis of mental illnesses may be diagnosed by using tools such as the DSM-5 and the PCL-R. For future research on the topic, it would be interesting to also analyze the physiology of the creature's brain, considering the possibility of its being damaged on the procedure or the implications of using a brain that was supposed to be "dead".

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