



## Daniel Sempere's ambitions in Carlos Ruiz Zafon's *The Shadow of The Wind*

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**Abstract.** This research discusses about Daniel's ambitions in Carlos Ruiz Zafon's *The Shadow of the Wind*. This research aims to explain and describe Daniel's journey in achieving his ambitions. This research uses the novel, *The Shadow of the Wind* as the source of the data. This research uses a psychological approach and sanguine temperament characteristics from Ludwig Klages' in psychological theory of character. The theory and approach used as a guide to analyse the data, describes and reveals the main character's ambitions in the story. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research. The results of this research shows that Daniel has three ambitions, becoming a writer, finding out Julian Carax, and saving Beatriz. Daniel's ambitions are based on his connection with other people and the desire to help others. Daniel struggles to reach his ambitions, and faces a lot of challenges and hinderances. However, Daniel still has a strong courage, desire, confidence and optimism which makes him successful to reach his ambitions. Daniel finally achieves his ambitions to find out Julian Carax and to be with Beatriz Aguilar.

**Keywords:** ambitions, ambitious, challenges, struggle

### INTRODUCTION

Ambitions is a strong desire or drive to achieve something that a person really wants that requires dedication, commitment, and hard work even if there are obstacles in the way. According to Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller (2012:759), ambitions is the diligent and generalized endeavoring for victory, fulfillment, and achievement. Stated differently, ambitions are exemplified by a sustained drive for success and a steady effort over a prolonged period of time to pursue objectives and experience a sense of fulfillment upon reaching them. Whether it is achieving career milestones, personal growth, or making a positive impact on society, ambitions drive individuals to reach for greater heights and realize their full potential. Ambitious individuals consistently work towards their objectives, even in the face of setbacks.

Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller (2012:759) also argue that ambitions moreover for the most part has been taken to reflect endeavoring for position and riches, and not to show strivings for common welfare or prosperity and socio-emotional acknowledgment. In

general, ambition refers to a strong and intense longing or craving for something that has a strong emotional attachment or something that we desire. According to Hirschi & Spurk, (2021:8) Ambitious people think about their desired objects in the future, and this can serve as a motivation in order to go after their chosen goals. A longing crave is as often as possible on one's mind. Unlike certain other desires, it is often the center of one's attention or thought process rather than being quickly reduced to the background. (Pettigrove, G. A. 2007:4).

Ambitions does not only portray in real-life but also in literary works, because literary works is A creative endeavor that depicts a human life in society that is acceptable, enjoyable, and useful to society. (Moputi and Husein in 2018:1). The most basic characteristics of literature is a verbal text. Written literature allows the readers to connect with the minds and hearts of people from different eras and backgrounds. Ambitions often becomes the theme of literary works. One of the novels which tells about ambitious character is *The Shadow of The Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

This research will mainly talk about the ambitions that Daniel has throughout the story, how Daniel faces the obstacles and the results of his ambitions. The reason of choosing this novel as the data source is because of Daniel's interesting journey in discovering Julian Carax's mystery has many aspects of psychology behind his ambitions about finding Julian Carax.

There are three main objectives of the study. The first one is identifying and describing Daniel's ambitions throughout the novel in *The Shadow of The Wind*. The second is to examine Daniel's ways of facing the obstacles during this achieving his ambitions. The last one is to Find out what is the outcome or results of Daniel's ambitions, whether he succeeds or fails.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Ambitions is related to psychology because ambitions encompass a range of psychological processes, motivations, and behaviours. Psychological theories provide frameworks for understanding the formation and expression of ambition, including its role in goal setting, motivation, resilience, and well-being.

In Ludwig Klages theory of the structure of character, there are three properties of structure, which are feelings, temperament, and expression.

Temperament categorizes individuals based on emotional tendencies, behavioural patterns, and personality traits. According to Klages (2021:88) there are two temperaments which are sanguine and phlegmatic. Sanguine relates to ambitions because the nature of sanguine is strong and indomitable in reaching a goal or objective. According to Bennet (2005:190) Sanguine is characterized by several key traits, emotional tendencies, and behavioural patterns such as confidence, optimism, enthusiasm, creativity, and excitement.

According to Lung, Maru, Rorimpandey (2022:148-149), there are two factors that are causing ambitions namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include courage, opportunity, self-confidence, desire. These variables work together to fuel ambitions, enabling people to overcome hinderances, seize openings, and seek after their aspirations with boldness, certainty, and assurance. While external factors include connection with other people, want to help others, the past, and the background. These external factors intersect with each individual's motivations, values, and characteristics

to shape their ambitions, providing support that enable people to seek after their objectives with assurance and purpose.

## **METHOD**

This research uses psychology approach because ambitions relate to psychological problem. According to Wellek and Warren (1948:75), The study of the psychology of the author as an individual, the study of the creative process, the research of the kinds and psychological laws used in literary works, and the psychological effects of literature on readers are the four definitions of psychology of literature. According to Wellek and Warren (1948:84-85), the creation of characters combines inherited literary types, observed people, and the self in varying degrees. Psychology explore human social behaviour such as reasoning, problem solving, memory, attitudes, conformity, friendship, and any other mental processes relate to human behaviour. This research uses descriptive qualitative method which explains the fact, circumstances, variable and phenomena that occur in the situation. Methodologically, the purpose of this study strategy was to provide rich, descriptive data and to generate meaning.

The data comes in the form of phrases, sentences, group of sentences, or passages in the novel *The Shadow of The Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. Reading the book, looking for lines that reflected a character's objectives, taking notes, and organizing the material based on the issue statements were the methods used to collect the data. The goals and motivations of Daniel are first outlined, followed by an examination of his objectives and the obstacles in his way, a link between the analysis and the theory, and lastly, conclusions.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Daniel's Ambitions**

Daniel Sempere is the main character in Carlos Ruiz Zafon's *The Shadow of The Wind*. Daniel comes from a family of book lovers. His father, Sempere Sr., runs a bookstore called Sempere & Sons, which has been in the family for generations. Daniel grows up surrounded by the enchanting world of literature which makes Daniel develop a deep appreciation for books and stories from an early age.

### **Daniel's Ambition to Be a Writer**

One of the first of Daniel's ambitions is to become a writer. In the early story of Carlos Ruiz Zafon's *The Shadow of The Wind*, Daniel is direct and indirectly shown a few times that he wants to be a writer. Daniel Sempere is grown up in a family of book lovers, starting from his grandfather who owns a bookshop which is later given and taken over by his father and soon to be his. His father has many friends and acquaintances who are writers and fellow book lovers. That is one of the reasons why Daniel is obsessed with literature especially novels. This make him want to be a novel writer. The quotation below is the example of the fact that explains about Daniel's obsession to be a novel writer.

The root of my literary ambitions, apart from the marvelous simplicity with which one sees things at the age of five, lay in a prodigious piece of craftsmanship. (Zafon 2004:31) It is shown that since the age of 5, Daniel is exposed or be familiar to things that relates and corresponds to literary work. Things and people such as novel, pen, books, author, and book seller are already in Daniel's mind because of much of the time he spends

reading and collecting books. Daniel often visits and walks by a shop that makes and sells pen when he is strolling or passing down the road with his father a few times.

### **Daniel's Ambitions to Find Out Julian Carax**

Daniel's ambitions in finding Julian Carax starts when he finds an interesting book in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. His father and Daniel are really interested by the title of that book. He reads all the chapters in the book in one night because of the story that fascinates him.

"You were saying about Carax . . ."

"There's not much to say. The first person I heard mention Carax was Tony Cabestany, the publisher. I'm talking about twenty years ago, when his firm was still in business."

(Zafon 2004:68)

Daniel finally gets a background information about Julian Carax. The quotation describes the conversation about a general information relating to Julian Carax. Isaac explains that the first time he knows about Carax from Tony Cabestany, a publisher, approximately 20 years ago when the company is still operating. Carax has published few novels in France, but everything has failed. Isaac also explains that Carax has French mother who works as a music teacher, and Carax has lived in Paris since 19 or 20 years old. This quotation gives a knowledge about Carax's struggle as a writer that is not really successful in the early of his career, adding depth to the character and the story around it.

"Father Fernando, we're trying to locate two alumni from San Gabriel's School: Jorge Aldaya and Julian Carax."

"Did you know them?" asked Fermin . . . our friend Daniel here is none other than the secret son of the deceased Julian Carax (Zafon 2004:201)

The lie that Daniel and Fermin tell Father Fernando, claiming that Daniel is Julian Carax's secret son, shows how strong their desire is to achieve their ambition. In their quest to find out more about Julian Carax, they do not hesitate to use deception to get the information they need. This lie reflects their level of desperation and determination in this quest. This strong desire to achieve their ambition leads to unconventional and, in this case, unethical actions. Their lie shows that for Daniel, the search for the truth about Julian Carax is not just about curiosity, but also about a deep need to understand personal relationships and perhaps uncover important aspects of his own identity. This illustrates how ambition can drive a person to take great risks and cross moral boundaries, all in order to achieve a goal that they consider to be very important.

### **Daniel's Ambition to Save and Fight for Beatriz**

Beatriz Aguilar is one of the most important characters in the story. She comes from Aguilar family who is a prominent family in Barcelona. Her father is a respected military figure that has a lot of influence. Beatriz is a sister from Tomas Aguilar, who is Daniel's best friend. The friendship between Daniel and Tomas becomes one of the reasons Daniel and Beatriz meet and start to know each other. Beatriz meets Daniel for the first time when Daniel and Tomas are still teenagers. Although in the beginning their relationship is not that close, as time goes by, Beatriz and Daniel start to develop a deeper feeling for each other.

I held the door knocker and gave three loud knocks. If Mr. Aguilar was to turn up ready to break my legs and smash my face, the sooner the better.

“Good afternoon, Cecilia. Is Bea in?”

“Miss Beatriz isn’t here . . . .”

“What about Tomas? Is he in?” (Zafon 2004:343)

In this quotation, Daniel is going to Beatriz's house with the hope to be able to meet her or her brother, Tomas. Although he knows that there is a big risk to meet Beatriz's father who may be angry and ready to use violence, Daniel still decides to try. As it turns out, when Daniel gets there, the maid informs him that Tomas, his best friend, does not want to see him and that Beatriz is not present. Strong desire to accomplish or get something drives people because of the force of their objective. This quotation shows Daniel's strong desire and determination to face the consequence in order to find answers or at least get an explanation, as well as a firm refusal from the Aguilar family which reflects the tension and conflict that exists between them.

### **Daniel’s Struggle**

In the story of the novel, the main character, Daniel Sempere, starts a deep and complicated journey. At the core of Daniel's journey, there is an ambition to reveal the mysterious life of Julian Carax who is the author of the book. However, Daniel's ambition makes him struggle and has to face a lot of hinderances. This journey is not only physical but also psychological. It forces Daniel to face fear, desire and many more. Through the chase of truth and tireless understanding, Daniel's journey describes the essence of human perseverance facing remarkable hardship.

"Police! Open up!"

"Open the door or we'll kick it down, Sempere."

"Where is he?" shouted Fumero."

Without taking his eyes off mine, he banged the butt of his revolver against the vase. Despite myself, I shivered. (Zafon 2004:336)

This phrase describes a stressful and terrifying moment when Inspector Fumero's police unexpectedly show up to Sempere's residence. Fumero shows violence and physique-threat towards Daniel, emphasizing his cruelty by destroying the vase and pressing the revolver to Daniel's cheek. It portrays the actual violence and threats that Daniel and his family encounter from the authorities, along with Daniel's feelings of anxiety and stress in such circumstance. In addition to depicting the tension of the situation, this scene also shows how Fumero does not hesitate to use violence to achieve his goals. The intensity and threat of violence from Fumero illustrate his cruelty and provide a picture of a character who has no mercy. It also creates a tense atmosphere of threat for Daniel, who is forced to face immediate danger from someone who is very dangerous and unpredictable. This incident reflects the intimidation and the cruel power exercised by Fumero.

The quote shows the threatening and fearful situation that Daniel faces, but despite it all, Daniel's tenacity in pursuing his ambition remains unwavering. Despite facing serious threats and violence from Fumero, Daniel remains tough in his mission. Daniel's courage is seen from his courage in facing direct threats, even when his life is in danger. This shows that his ambition to find the truth about Julian Carax and protect his loved ones is much greater than his fear of real physical danger. This courage is not only about facing physical danger, but also about the willingness to face uncertainty and risk in order to achieve a greater goal. Daniel shows that strong courage is an important foundation in pursuing ambition. In a situation where many people might give up or retreat, Daniel sticks to his principles and goals. This reflects the internal strength and

determination that allows a person to fight fear and face the greatest challenges. With this courage, Daniel is able to continue moving forward despite the terrible threat, showing that determination and courage are the keys to achieving great ambitions in life.

### **Outcome of Daniel's Ambitions**

In the novel *The Shadow of the Wind*, the outcomes of Daniel Sempere's ambitions depicts a journey full of twists and turns that ultimately resulted in success. Since the beginning, Daniel Sempere has few of ambitions such as wanting to be a writer, revealing the mystery behind Julian Carax, and fighting for Beatriz Aguilar. Daniel's ambitions to become a writer is not continued because his main focus shifts to the search for the identity and truth of Julian Carax and his efforts to win Beatriz's love. The ambition to become a writer seems to have stopped right away. Daniel's search for Julian Carax leads Daniel into a world of intrigue, danger, and hidden secrets of the past. Meanwhile, his ambition to be with Beatriz makes the emotional challenges which is no less heavy. In the end, the outcomes of Daniel's ambitions reflect a great success that is achieved through determination, courage, and love.

### **Daniel's Success in Finding out Julian Carax**

Daniel Sempere's ambition in finding Julian Carax is the main objective in *The Shadow of the Wind*. This search is not only about uncovering Julian Carax's identity, but also revealing the mystery behind Carax's life and his works. Daniel becomes obsessed to find out what actually happens with Carax and why almost all of his books are destroyed. In his journey, Daniel is not only looking for the truth about Carax, but also finding many things about him, facing various danger, and building a relationship to the people around him. Daniel's ambition leads him to a deep mysterious world and conflicts that inspire and shape his life's journey.

A moment later the man without a face was falling upon Fumero. I looked for Carax with eyes that were clouding over, but I couldn't find him. Another figure had taken his place. It was Lain Coubert, just as I'd learned to fear him reading the pages of a book, so many years ago. This time Coubert's claws sank into Fumero's eyes like hooks and pulled him away. (Zafon 2004:465)

The quotation above shows the moment when Daniel is finally aware that Lain Coubert is actually Julian Carax himself. In the chaotic situation where Fumero is attacked, Daniel looks for Carax but does not find him. Instead, he sees the figure of the mysterious man, whom he has been afraid of through the pages of the book that he reads. The man that he thought was an enemy or someone who tries to stop his ambitions all this time, is actually the man that he tried to find after all. This figure attacks Fumero ruthlessly, showing that Carax has transformed into the mysterious man, dark entity who haunts their story and life. This moment reveals the second identity of Julian Carax and clarifies the connection between the mysterious figure and the author of the book Daniel admires.

### **Daniel's Success to Marry Beatriz**

In the novel *The Shadow of the Wind*, Daniel Sempere's ambition to be with Beatriz Aguilar is one of the main motivations in his life journey. Since the first time he meets Beatriz, Daniel feels a deep interest and this immediately makes it a goal to be with her. Different socioeconomic classes, violent threats from Beatriz's family, and internal

tensions are only a few of the challenges that characterize Daniel's quest to earn Beatriz's affection. However, Daniel's strong will to marry Beatriz is never wavered, even when faces challenging situations. Daniel succeeds in reaching his ambition to marry Beatriz. It is not only the pinnacle of his efforts and perseverance, but also a symbol of true love's triumph against all odds.

A day before the wedding, Daniel and Fermin enjoy the scenery and peaceful city, staring at the reflections on the water. Fermin then asks Daniel to go because all of the people have been waiting for them and reminding them that life is waiting on them. On the wedding day, Daniel almost does not remember what the priest says or the guests' face, because of the beauty of his wife, Beatriz.

Bea and I were married in the Church of Santa Ana three months later. Mr. Aguilar, who still spoke to me monosyllables and would go on doing so until the end of time, had given me his daughter's hand in view of the impossibility of obtaining my head on a platter. Bea's disappearance had done away with his anger, and now he seemed to live in a state of perpetual shock, resigned to the fact that his grandson would soon call me Dad.

"Bea is the only good thing I've ever done in my life," he said. "Take care of her for me." (Zafon 2004:475)

This quotation depicts the moment of Daniel and Beatriz's marriage which take place three months after the previous event. Even though Bea's father, Mr. Aguilar, still talks to him briefly and tensely because of something that has happened in the past encounters between Daniel and Beatriz's father, he finally gives his blessing realizing that there is no other way to separate both Daniel and Beatriz because of the strong connection between him and his girlfriend back then makes the old man realize that he cannot separate them both. Mr. Aguilar's decision to end their relationship, with Bea's pregnancy, makes him accept the fact that Daniel will become part of their family. Mr. Aguilar expresses how much Bea means to him by saying that she is the one positive thing he has ever done in his life. He then begs Daniel to look after Beatriz.

## CONCLUSION

After analysing the novel, it is concluded that Daniel has three ambitions. In the novel *The Shadow of the Wind*, Daniel Sempere's ambitions become the main theme that drives the plot and shapes the characters. Daniel's ambition to become a writer, although not pursued, shows the beginning of his curiosity and love for literary works, especially novel. However, Daniel's most standout ambition is his desire to find Julian Carax, which leads him into an adventure full of mystery and danger. His search for Carax is not just an attempt to find his favorite author, but also an effort to decipher the mysteries surrounding Carax's life and creations. Daniel's ambition to become a writer comes from his family background. As a child, Daniel lives in a bookstore that his father acquired after his grandfather did. Daniel develops a profound love for books and literature from a very young age. His father, Mr. Sempere, nurtures his passion by inviting him to visit a place called the Cemetery of Forgotten Books.

Daniel's ambition to find out Julian Carax begins when he discovers Carax's *The Shadow of the Wind* in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Daniel's curiosity about this mysterious author grows into an ambition. Since very few people in the neighbourhood, including himself, are aware of Julian Carax, Daniel is driven by a strong need and an intense drive to satisfy his desire. His investigation to uncover Julian Carax's true

identity and personal life takes Daniel through obstacles and challenges, including facing threats from influential figures like Fumero.

Furthermore, Daniel's ambition to be with Beatriz is also the main focus of his life. Their relationship is fraught with obstacles, including conflicts with Beatriz's family and personal challenges that Daniel must face. When the first time Daniel meets Beatriz, her father is very angry towards Beatriz because she comes home very late at night. The same thing happens at the second time when they go out together in the Aldaya's house. Beatriz's father threatens Daniel to punch him or even worse, to kill him. Even with all the threats coming from Aguilar family, Daniel does not give up and keeps fighting for Beatriz because of the connection between him and Beatriz. However, with perseverance and courage, Daniel manages to overcome all these obstacles and eventually marries Beatriz, achieving one of his greatest ambitions.

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