



## Comparative Analysis of Agatha Christie's "The Big Four" and Said Ahmad's "Silence"

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to conduct a comparative analysis between two writers — Agatha Christie, who left an indelible mark in world literature through her criminological narratives, and Said Ahmad, who significantly reflected the social and political atmosphere of Uzbekistan at the end of the 20th century.

This paper focuses on the following issues:

- a) The depiction and comparison of immoral characters and dangerous circumstances in A. Christie's *The Big Four* (1927) and S. Ahmad's *Silence* (1989);
- b) The comparative analysis of the investigative motives and approaches found in S. Ahmad's protagonist Jayrona, A. Christie's Hercule Poirot, and A. Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes.

The study seeks to explore the similarities between Jayrona and Poirot, created by authors of opposite genders, in terms of their responses to challenging situations.

To illustrate the argument, this research draws upon the ideas of Paul Hawkes (2025), Stepler (2017), and Balart & Oosterveen (2019).

**KEYWORDS:** Investigator, criminal, justice, criminology, crime, society, human psychology, criminal motive, investigative motive.

### INTRODUCTION

In one of his articles, Paul Hawkes (2025) raised the question: Why are female investigators sometimes better than male ones?

According to him, this is not about superiority but about aligning the right skills with the right situations. In many cases, a female private investigator is more suitable.

For example, tasks requiring meticulous attention and patience—such as data cleansing—demand detail orientation and care. Female investigators often excel in this area due to their cautious and precise approaches. They are methodical and rarely rush, which makes a crucial difference when uncovering hidden evidence.

As a vivid example, Agatha Christie's *The Body in the Library* features the amateur female detective Miss Jane Marple, who, even before the police, becomes aware of the events and ultimately solves the mystery.

Just as Hawkes described, Miss Marple knows how to apply the right skills to the right circumstances. Her careful attention to the smallest details—such as linking the victim's fingernails to evidence found in a dustbin—demonstrates her precision and analytical thinking.

### Main Body

It should be noted that women in the field of law and criminology are still less represented compared to men. However, this does not reflect incompetence but rather historical and social factors.

Stepler (2017) argues that women tend to use less aggressive methods and employ force only when absolutely necessary. They prefer diplomatic approaches and often avoid making rash decisions.

Said Ahmad's *Silence* illustrates these characteristics through the protagonist Jayrona. When the antagonist Mirvali first meets her, he perceives Jayrona as weak and defenceless, like most women he knows. Yet, as the story unfolds, Jayrona's intelligence and patience prove otherwise. As Stepler (2017) suggested, such women's ability to act calmly and strategically allows them to uncover truths that others overlook. Jayrona methodically gathers evidence against Mirvali and even exposes Luqmonov—one of the most respected figures in the community—through her deliberate and logical investigation.

Conversely, male investigators often exhibit overconfidence, lack of self-discipline, and impulsiveness. However, Balart and Oosterveen (2019) point out that men tend to have lower levels of neuroticism, which enables better emotional control and concentration.

This psychological aspect can be seen in Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Holmes is known for detaching emotions during investigations, relying purely on logic and observation.

In comparison, Hercule Poirot, from Agatha Christie's *The Big Four*, represents a contrasting but balanced model — refined, meticulous, and emotionally controlled.

While Poirot shares Holmes's precision, he displays greater empathy and moral sensibility.

Consequently, male and female investigators differ not only in behaviour but also in communication style: men tend to be concise and direct, while women focus more on detailed and empathetic discussion (Balart & Oosterveen, 2019).

In this regard, Jayrona and Miss Marple exemplify female communicative styles — empathetic yet analytical, emotional yet rational — making them outstanding representatives of feminine investigative intelligence.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this research sought to analyse the role and psychological differences between male and female investigators in detective fiction.

The comparison between Jayrona (*Silence*) and Poirot (*The Big Four*) revealed that gender plays a significant but not decisive role in solving crimes.

Female detectives like Jayrona and Miss Marple demonstrate intuition, emotional intelligence, and methodical patience, whereas male detectives such as Holmes and Poirot rely on logic, observation, and reasoning.

Both genders, therefore, complement each other in the literary portrayal of justice and investigation, proving that intellectual balance and moral integrity are beyond gender distinctions.

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