

Ranpo Character Analysis

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Quick character overview:

- Not only was the agency created specifically for him, but even superficially he is the one among his colleagues who mostly fits the classical image of a detective.
- This is made clear since his introduction where he wears clothes one would normally associate with a typical detective and where the name of his ability is shown to be “ultradeduction”
- Because of this, the chapters centered around him are often metaphors or foreshadowing of what is going on or will happen to the other characters or even to the agency as a whole
- At the same time each one of his cases is used to explore his character and to make him slowly progress in his personal arc.
- He is overall, a very childish character (much like Dazai at first glance) who HEAVILY indulges in sweets and food and can be often seen lazing around at work yet is still very much respected by his peers
- Some key points of his character include:
 - Despite their intelligence, geniuses often exhibit strange behaviors. Ranpo takes a crouching stance on his chair, much like L from death note
 - His sweet tooth is well-satisfied. Ranpo can solve murders in under 30 seconds, but he has a hard time even executing mundane tasks like making tea. That's why ADA advises Ranpo to take it easy and do nothing at all. He's fantastic for missions but not so great for regular work.
 - It's reasonable to infer that Ranpo was used to being in the company of others who shared his level of intelligence, given that he was raised in such a community. So, it would be puzzling to Ranpo to observe individuals who can't add up or follow his logical reasoning.
 - Ranpo's irrational conduct derives from the effects of a traumatic event he experienced as a child. Even though Ranpo was rushed into adulthood, he showed his displeasure by refusing to stop acting like a kid.

DISCLAIMER:

Since much of psychosophy revolves around how an individual reacts to the external world and his/her relationship with other individuals, I won't dive too deep into Ranpo yet but rather focus on his interactions (which will involve a lot of quoting from the light novel and anime).

Psychosophy Analysis:

!! Those are notes that I personally took while reading/watching, I will expand on it !!

LIGHT NOVEL:

"I hate using my head for boring stuff," Ranpo complained. "And anyway, I honestly couldn't care less if this newcomer's got what it takes. There are two kinds of people in the world: those who cry tears of joy when I solve a case, and those who cry out of frustration!"

→ dividing world in hierarchies

"You guys are out here busting every little brain cell you've got; it'd be a darn shame if I just solved the problem for you in a snap. Besides, you all ate meat buns without me, and that is unacceptable!"

→ first physics with second logics

"Good thing they're so nasty, huh? It grossed me out so much I ended up giving it one of my rice balls before I could stop myself."

"You've seriously never heard of a seagull before? Freaky-looking rats with wings, those things. They must've done something real horrible in a past life. I mean, have you ever actually taken a deep look at their eyes? You can literally see the madness! Anyway, not to change the subject, but I'm one rice ball down, so I'm getting pretty hungry. Got anything I could eat?"

"Okay, sure, obviously I prefer candy and sweet buns, and I also like ordinary stuff like hamburgers and omurice, too! But it's nighttime, see, and there's nothing that grinds my gears more than smelling meat buns in the middle of the night and knowing there aren't any around for me to eat!"

→ focus on physical realm (especially sensory pleasures)

"Tanizaki pondered about Ranpo's business trip the next day. He must have predicted that would be when the entrance exam took place, so he arranged it so he could be gone in order to avoid the hassle"

→ always avoids unnecessary movement/static, typical of result physics

"I sure do," admitted Fukuzawa. "I still can't believe you ate nine bowls of nothing but soupy red beans."

"Oh, this was nothing," Ranpo said boastfully, then almost immediately shook his head.

"Wait! That's not what I'm talking about! I'm talking about mutual aid—the spirit of helping one another! You can't take connections like this for granted... Wait. Taken for 'granite'?"

'Granted'? Uh..."

→ need of connections for survival (sp7 "bonds"?)

ANIME:

"I don't have work or a place to stay and my parents are dead. I'm going to die (in a light tone)"

→ Sought out Fukuzawa bc he knew in what bad shape his life was and wanted to rely on someone who could provide (used his "tragic" (quotations bc his 4E made it sound like no big deal, extreme lack of emotionality in the speech) to convince Fukuzawa to take him in or at least help him out

"There are other people who signed up? there's no chance I'm getting hired, then. This hag's already decided she's not hiring me."

"Whatever, someone's going to die soon and this theater's going to shut down"

→ his super deduction makes him pretty cynical/"realist"

"That script's boring. I gave up after the first page."

"I'm starving. And I'm not getting that job."

→ childish demeanor

"Why is everyone watching this play without complaining? It really upsets me. I don't get it. There's something everyone else gets that I don't. It's like the world is filled with monsters, monsters that only I don't understand. I'm all alone, living in a world of monsters."

→ Feeling different, apart, that no one understands him and that he is the weird one out/can't handle the fact that others aren't like him

- Fuku managed to change that perception though, Ranpo has a very hierarchical view of the world, it's either monsters/the rest of the world vs him or "fools"/"idiots" vs him and in the latter, his "ability" is at fault but he embraces that idea
- He was convinced by the "glasses" bc he needed to feel normal and not alienated from the world due to his ability
- "no one bares any ill towards you", meaning he had this anxiety of getting swallowed by the world
- strong feeling of loneliness and alienation
- refuses to believe he is "special"

"This creepy world. All that suffering wasn't because there's something wrong with me, but because there's something wrong with the people around me? That's right, no one ever despised me."

→ lets himself be convinced by Fukuzawa bc he doesn't want to be afraid of the world or his loneliness (mostly a rejection of society)

- no shame LMAO (*"You're all babies, You're just all stupid little idiots! I have to protect all these silly children!"*)

"Don't worry. After all, I'm the world's best detective, on a mission to protect the world's fools!" "I am the deus ex machina, here to solve the case at the very end of this play! Basically, I'm Gifted and a brilliant detective."

→ arrogant/narcissist

- Can't let go anymore of his conviction that he is Gifted. Is it trust in Fukuzawa? Desperate need to cope with something else? Or the need to feel special? Or need to feel like he belongs to society/has a place in this world?
- Fake clumsiness?
- Relies so heavily on his intellect (arrogance) that it puts him in danger (is he also relying on Fukuzawa out of trust from the "bond" they've formed?)
- Doesn't value his own life (or not enough) and doesn't see the issue gambling with it because of his "intellectual" and predictions superiority
- Literally opened his eyes after switching perspectives/views (he is very stubborn in his beliefs but was willing to listen to Fukuzawa and consider his opinion and even changed stance because Fukuzawa was more "convincing", which is typical of the 2L)

THOUGHTS ON VLFE:

Now, I do not believe it necessary to go into why Ranpo is 2L and 4E (you have enough evidence from the quotations which make it quite obvious).

I understand and can see where the VLFE take comes from. We have an arrogant character that seems fairly selfish and looks out for his own. He acts a lot based on what HE thinks is best (for himself mainly), has a very hierarchical view of the world ("idiots", "foolish", "babies" vs him, a "genius", "the best detective" or even before that, when he saw the world as "him vs monsters").

1V compensates for it through excessive assertiveness or assuming too much control over a situation (Ranpo's solving cases)

And, in case of 3F, the individual still feels insecurity and turmoil in regards to the physical realm. (Might lead to struggle with intimate relationships and being focused on their physical state and appearance).

You could also easily explain 3F by bringing in the 1V and how it compensates for the insecure placement by paying overly attention to it and "spoiling it" (like Ranpo does with food), but I will explain how all of this is rather 1F3V.

“He is confident in his conclusions, and it can be very difficult to convince him. But Lenin himself is always ready to explain and argue his point of view, to enter into a discussion or even into a fierce dispute. He is interested in studying new information, especially if you can look at it from different angles - to study different points of view and draw your own conclusions.” - bestsocioionics

Jumping into why not VLFE:

- Ranpo does NOT care to achieve a position of power (even though he is ideological the way a 1V2L is).
- He might be forceful, but once again, not interested in power or feelings of entitlement to be at the top of a hierarchy.
- Not leader-like, might seem social because of his loud personality, but in reality, he first thought everyone hated him, and then thought of everyone else as stupid and inferior to him.
- He doesn't seek to influence or lead.
- Not amiable, he does not care enough to “get on people's good side” through friendliness. It is true that he doesn't want to be in conflicts though (2L4E quite clear).

“No one, like him, could so infect with his plans, so impress with his will, so subdue his personality, as this, at first glance, such a nondescript and rude person, apparently, who does not have any data to be charming” - Syntax of Love

“Self-organization to achieve goals and daily self-discipline are not a problem for him - on the contrary, they bring pleasure and a sense of tone.” - bestsocioionics

Both of these quotes are from the “Lenin” (VLFE) type description and I think we can all agree how they don't fit with Ranpo's character.

Extra: *“And yet there was something in those steel eyes that riveted my attention.”* - contradictory with Ranpo bc Ranpo = closed eyes / JOKING

ABOUT FLVE:

- Struggles to find place in the world but ambitious. 1F makes the individual pragmatic and attentive to physical world (Ranpo's constant observation of surroundings which gives him his “super deduction” abilities).
- 3V copes through 1F bay overly relying on the physical world and an obsession to “own” and have as many material possessions as possible (his food obsession?)
- May seem provocative and inhibited but rarely insert themselves in a conflict.

- The combination of the aspects in FLVE results in an individual who tends towards cynicism and rationality.
- 2L enjoys discussions and mental challenges but paired with 3V might lead to someone who actively lies and deceives by twisting words (Dazai LMAO).

The first physics, combined with the fourth emotion, gives priority to material values relative to ethical ones. FLVE likes to accumulate material goods (just Ranpo and his obsession with food), while they may not want to work constantly to maintain them (can be seen in his “laziness” in the ADA). Not fastidious in food and everyday life, there should be just more food and with a reserve, in everyday life - everything you need. It's hard to learn from physics habits. We are confident in our opinion on issues of comfort, material life, intimate sphere, clothing, home. They prefer that others, at least, do not interfere with this. → Ranpo is fairly aggressive AND CONFIDENT in his physical realm (based on quotes provided earlier)

The first physics makes you want to learn and process information in large volumes. The logic process involves studying a large amount of literature to understand the topic. It's interesting to look for new information, they can love fiction. Also, the second logic with the third Will tends to mislead others.

If it is necessary to achieve the goal where to "buy", "take", (through Physics) it is not possible - FLVE prefers to act not directly, but through other people, can use the weaknesses of others. It is difficult to enter into direct confrontations because of low will. → in the last arc, Ranpo LITERALLY discovered the plans against the ADA and USED them to his advantage by acting how the plan would have normally proceeded but saved the members instead of killing them. His intellect is what everyone relies on to get out of sticky situations and we can see numerous times the members turning to Ranpo whenever they feel stuck. The “weaknesses” he uses are the “loopholes” in the “enemies” plans which is why he thought they were doomed when they were up against Fyodor. He also only acts out with one goal in mind: the protection of the ADA in any situation. But, I believe that this isn't necessarily his own goal, but Fukuzawa's, and since Fuku is his “parent” figure that he relies on for survival, the strong “Will” we see in Ranpo is simply a projection of Fukuzawa's Will. Similarly to Fyodor (but for other reasons), he uses other people as pawns for his “master plans” (example when he gambled with his life, in his backstory, expecting Fuku to come save him. He knew he could never get out of this situation with his own abilities so he planted seeds beforehand to have Fukuzawa as his shield and weapon).

Persevere in achieving goals, hard to perceive failures. It is difficult to defend your position before high wills, they prefer to act from higher functions: through motivating financially, in a negative version, perhaps threatening through Physics. Or by taking the topic in the right direction with the help of logic. → he cannot accept the ADA losing this war and has a hard time dealing with his own failures.

Ranpo's failure during Cannibalism is what fuels him to take on another opponent aka Mushitarou.

The idea that he can fail and that he is at a disadvantage against an ability user is something Ranpo mentions more than once

He also acts and works if he knows he will be compensated through food more often than not.

He also doesn't ever go against Fukuzawa (which I believe is 2V (perfect complement to Ranpo's 3V and explains their dynamic perfectly))

HOW FUKUZAWA'S 2V EXPLAINS RANPO'S 3V

Both Ranpo and Fukuzawa are focused on constant changes in Will: Fukuzawa while dealing with the agency as a whole and when everyone has meetings, often asks for everyone's opinions on what direction to take when making decisions and Ranpo in his search for his place in the world (especially visible during his backstory). Fukuzawa ACTIVELY helps Ranpo finding himself (the ADA was made for Ranpo originally to make the best use out of his intelligence, protecting him simultaneously). Not even Kunikida questions or calls out Ranpo when he does "what he wants" (often childishly). Fukuzawa gave Ranpo a place to be the kid he couldn't be growing up and really appreciates Ranpo's opinion and inputs. Fukuzawa LITERALLY brought the best out of Ranpo (contrary to Mori with Dazai, an amazing parallel btw).

A 1V would not only be annoyed by Fukuzawa's attempt to understand and help Ranpo, he would also be confident enough in his place in the world to not question or even THINK about it at all (meanwhile it was Ranpo's biggest dilemma).

The fact that his 3V is easily mistook for 1V is, in my opinion, Fukuzawa's 2V making Ranpo healthier and more confident (or even Ranpo's attempt at hiding his insecurities (which he feels since everyone in the ADA possesses an ability but him, ironic no?))

REMINDER:

People often forget how important placements are and I don't mean it in a "focus on dichotomies" way (which obviously you should, I'm the first to say that). But just like the first thing you notice in others reveals your own first function, the first function is also the most visible from the outside (as unconscious as it is).

You still value 1st aspect > 2nd aspect > 3rd aspect > 4th aspect (which is the first to be forgotten or discarded while under stress or pressure).

I think we can all most definitely agree that Ranpo's focus on Physics is THE thing the most noticeable about him (how he always talks about food and eating and brings it up in the most random, unrelated and irrelevant situations).