Think you know the Tsundere? Think Again!

I'm writing this because I want to. It's not like I want you to read this or anything. S-so don't get the wrong idea, got it?!

Tsundere Etymology: *It's not like I want you to know where this term came from. D-don't misunderstand me stupid!*

Tsundere is defined as **"**normally being sharp but at some prompt suddenly becoming lovestruck; hot-cold personality type." This is a flat definition, let's look a little deeper. つんつん (tsuntsun) is defined as aloof or irritable. でれでれ(deredere) is defined, among other things, as lovestruck. Therefore, the combination of these two Japanese words fives us our つんでれ we love to see in anime.

Tsundere History: *Don't w-worry about this. I-I did this for m-myself. Okay?*

Tsundere has been around for a while in anime/manga. The term became popular in the early 2000's thanks to the visual novel Kimi ga Nozomu Eien in 2001. This visual novel was subsequently turned into a 14 episode anime that ran from October 2003 to January 2004. This anime was licensed and distributed in America by Funimation under the name "Rumbling Hearts." According to Comiket organizer Koichi Ichikawa, Lum Invader from the manga Urusei Yatsura (1978-1987) was the first tsundere character. This manga was also an anime that ran from 1981-1986 with a grand total of 195 episodes. Also, coincidentally, Lum Invader is also considered the source for moe as well.

 Two Major Categories of Tsundere*: I-It's n-not like I want you to know more about m-me. I wrote this just for me. Got it?!*

If you've watched enough anime you know that there are many different types of tsundere characters. Saying a character is tsundere gives a general impression of the attributes they have but there is much, much more to say about this character archetype and its sub-categories. Let's start off with the 2 major categories by breaking Tsundere into the Tsun type and Dere type.

Harsh (Tsun): The tsundere with this will have a default "tsuntsun" mood. It will take someone special to cause this kind of character to show their "deredere" side. Louise from Zero no Tsukaima can be classified as a tsundere with this as their default mood. Another interesting facet of this type of tsundere is if they are the rival of the main character. This type of tsundere

helping out a rival is usually accompanied with the phrase, "Don't get me wrong, I'm not doing this for you." I'm pretty sure you've heard that before lol.

Sweet (Dere): This type of tsundere will have a default "deredere" mood. On the surface, they appear sweet and loving but hold a core of anger and jealousy inside. Outside forces will trigger the "tsuntsun" side to come out, which is usually the love interest. Ami Kawashima from Toradora! can be considered an example of this type of tsundere. Wow two types of tsundere in one anime lol.

Three Useful Sub-Categories of Tsundere: *This isn't for you. I-I'm writing this for s-someone else. Okay?*

Under the two major categories of tsundere we can view three prominent sub-categories of the harsh/sweet dynamic. These three types have been named by Tvtropes.org as the "Wolf Girl" Tsundere, Discipline Tsundere and the Tragic Past Tsundere.

"Wolf Girl" Tsundere: This tsundere can't, or won't, be honest about how they feel. These tsundere are quick to judge the main character and, with even the slightest provocation, will launch all-out assaults on them frequently. Naru Narusegawa from Love Hina and Louise from Zero no Tsukaima can be put into this sub-category.

Discipline Tsundere: This type of tsundere is usually a fellow student who is put into some position of power and they are rather strict about the rules. They are keen on blaming, and punishing, the main character for any and all breaches of etiquette. The main character is usually surprised at being singled out. The main character usually doesn't attribute the behavior to any romantic motivation, until further evidence otherwise. Yui of To Love-Ru and Kyou of CLANNAD can be put into this sub-category.

Tragic Past Tsundere: This type of tsundere has a dark past which causes personal expression to be very difficult. Making contact with this type of tsundere is sure to cause many misunderstandings. Many times the main character is at risk of physical violence. Yami of To Love-Ru and Taiga Aisaka from Toradora! can be put into this sub-category.

Strategies Employed by the Tsundere: *I don't need anyone's help. I know who I am just fine. Stupid!*

Tvtropes.org organizes strategies that tsundere use into the "tsuntsun" and "deredere" categories.

Tsuntsun Strategies:

The Cold Shoulder: The tsundere resolves to not give the man in question the time of day. If she does talk to him, responses will be monosyllabic. Obviously ignoring him in conversation and scornful looks round out the total freeze that she will lay on the hapless fellow. Example of a tsundere who favors this tactic: *Genshiken*'s Chika Ogiue.

The Violent Approach: The tsundere in a bad mood will punctuate verbal abuse with plenty of good old fashioned violence. Kicks, punches, slaps, and other painful forms of physical violence will follow. Heaven help you if she's got a sharp weapon; the most creative ones may even wield a whip. Example of a tsundere who favors this tactic: *Ranma 1/2*'s Akane Tendo.

The Taunt: The tsundere will constantly belittle the love interest with insults and putdowns. Favorite expressions include "Baka!", and "Urusai!" ("Shut up!"). A tsundere who knows the guy's point of pride will not hesitate to insult him on that account, and when this tactic is employed nothing the guy can do will be good enough to impress her. This kind of tsundere might be vulnerable to a "Shut Up" Kiss. If she ever treats his injuries, she berates him for acquiring them, or jeers at him for pained reactions — often to not-gentle treatment. Example of a tsundere who favors this tactic: *Neon Genesis Evangelion*'s Asuka Langley Soryuu.

Tyrannical Rule: While the above three forms of hostile behavior can be the result of anything, from No Social Skills, to awkwardly expressed emotions, sometimes it's made clear that they are just a bossy type of person, who likes to *dominate* their partner, like a slave-owner. A common trait among Shana Clones.

All Of The Above: The tsundere's reactions will *heavily* depend on the situation she and the guy are placed in. Example of a tsundere who demonstrates this: *Kimagure Orange Road*'s Madoka Ayukawa.

Deredere Strategies:

The Un-giver: Giving Valentine's Chocolate to her love interest, usually with an excuse ("I felt sorry for you"), as well as other gifts that might have romantic undertones. Example of a Tsundere who favors this tactic: Chiharu Mihara from *Cardcaptor Sakura*, England from *Axis Powers Hetalia*.

The Helper: Helping him with his chores. Cooking for him is a favorite tactic — even if she won't admit to it. Examples of Tsunderes who favor this tactic: Takako Ayase (*Midori Days*, cooking) and Shinichi Chiaki (*Nodame Cantabile*, cleaning).

The Trainer: Beating him in a session of extreme training or helping him out to beat an enemy in combat. Example of a Tsundere who favors this tactic: Evangeline A. K. McDowell from *Mahou Sensei Negima!*.

The Defender: Protecting a love interest or friend from bullying, often claiming "I Was Just Passing Through!". Example of a Tsundere who favors this tactic: Tatsuki Arisawa from *Bleach*.

The Nurse: Sitting by the love interest's bedside if he falls sick or has an accident, double points if she falls asleep next to him. The after battle patch-up session also affords a chance to show her tender side by nursing, though it may be peppered with *tsun* taunts about acquiring the injuries in the first place.

The Advisor: Listening to his non-romantic woes once in a while and helping him out with them, especially if the guy is Book Dumb and the Tsundere helps him with schoolwork. Example of a Tsundere who favors this tactic: Madoka Ayukawa from *Kimagure Orange Road*.

Psychological Understandings of the Appeal of the Tsundere: *You l-love me? Y-you idiot! Don't say dumb things. Stupid!*

The psychological concept of "splitting" is, put very simply, when a person sees everything in terms of a black and white dynamic. See the Texas Psychiatry link below in references if you would like to read more about it. The idea of a black and white concept of reality causes interactions with others to be based on a polarized dynamic. The tsundere will not find an understandable middle ground in the main characters actions but push their actions to extreme ideas of good or bad. Both love interests and regular characters are treated in this way by the tsundere. The good attributes by other characters make them seem impossibly superior to the tsundere while at the same time the tsundere sees the negative attributes of characters as infinitely inferior to the tsundere. This is an interesting extreme undervalue-extreme overvalue concept the tsundere can be interpreted to fit into.

Yoshihito Nautou sought to explain the tsundere appeal using science. Nautou argument formed on the heels of a study done by Gerald Clore of the University of Illinois. Clore performed an experiment where he showed 4 videos of two people interacting. Each of the interactions had the two act in different ways. The poll was done with the assistance of 338 subjects.

- Video 1: Person A is pleasant to person B.
- Video 2: Person A is initially pleasant to person B, but becomes more standoffish as the conversation continues.
- Video 3: Person A is initially unpleasant to Person B, but mellows as the conversation continues.
- Video 4: Person A acts like an enormous, raging turd for the entirety of the conversation.

The majority of subjects chose the third video. The psychological reasoning for this can be interpreted to be based on a process of gain-loss. The initial interaction in the third video creates a baseline of expectations, those being very low. As the interaction becomes more pleasant, it is interpreted as progress which is psychologically stimulating.

I-It's not that I like that you read through my article. I just found it interesting that you made it to the end. I wouldn't care if you read my other stuff or looked me up on YouTube at "Anime History." Stupid!

…Thanks for reading through you guys lol.

References:

http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Tsundere

http://news.mynavi.jp/c_cobs/jijinews/trend/2012/03/0410pt1.html

http://texaspsychiatry.com/splitting.htm

Galbraith, Patrick W. (2009). *The Otaku Encyclopedia: An Insider's Guide to the Subculture of Cool Japan*. Kodansha International. pp. 226–227. ISBN 978-4-7700-3101-3.

Galbraith, Patrick W. (2009). *The Otaku Encyclopedia: An Insider's Guide to the Subculture of Cool Japan*. Kodansha International. p. 44. ISBN 978-4-7700-3101-3. Lum-chan is the source of moe, the queen. She's the first tsundere character.