

**EGO DEFENCE MECHANISM OF THE MAIN  
CHARACTER IN “THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY” BY  
MATT HAIG: PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**THESIS**



By  
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PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY**

**2024**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Sarjana Sastra (S1)**



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## **SURAT PERNYATAAN ORISINALITAS**

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Batam, 17 Juli 2024



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## **DECLARATION OF THESIS ORIGINALITY**

I, Rahmat Djihar, NPM. 201210026

Hereby declare that the term paper entitled:

### **EGO DEFENCE MECHANISM OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN “THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY” BY MATT HAIG: PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

Is the real work of myself and I realize that this thesis has never been published in other media before, partially or entirely, in the name of mine or others

**Batam, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**



**Rahmat Djihar  
201210026**

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**This thesis has been examined on the date as indicate below**

**Batam, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Drs. Gaguk Rudianto, M.Pd.**

**Supervisor**

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis struktur kepribadian dan mekanisme pertahanan ego dari tokoh utama dalam novel "The Midnight Library" karya Matt Haig. Novel ini bercerita tentang Nora Seed sebagai karakter utama yang menemukan dirinya berada di perpustakaan ajaib antara hidup dan mati, di mana ia dapat menjelajahi berbagai alternatif kehidupan. Karakter utama yang memiliki penyesalan dan harus membuat keputusan. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan teori psikologi Freud (1920) khususnya pada pembahasan ego struktur kepribadian dan ego mekanisme pertahanan. Data yang telah di bahas berkaitan dengan karakter utama sehingga penelitian ini menerapkan pendekatan psikologi. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif oleh (Creswell, 2018). Data yang dikumpulkan data-data yang berupa kalimat, frasa, teks ataupun dialog. Penelitian ini membahas ego karakter utama yang berperan penting dalam berbagai keputusan dan tindakan yang diambilnya sepanjang cerita. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa ego yang berfungsi sebagai pengambil keputusan, berusaha menyeimbangkan kedua kekuatan ini dan membantu karakter utama membuat keputusan yang realistik dan dapat diterima secara sosial. Penelitian ini telah mengidentifikasi beberapa mekanisme pertahanan ego yang digunakan oleh karakter utama. Penelitian mendapatkan hasil bahwa mekanisme pertahanan ego berperan penting dalam cara karakter utama menghadapi ketidaknyamanan karakter utama. Mekanisme pertahanan yang muncul adalah regresi, represi, pembentukan reaksi, proyeksi, introyeksi, sublimasi, perpindahan, dan penolakan.

**Kata Kunci:** Pendekatan Psikologi, Ego, Mekanisme Pertahanan

## ABSTRACT

This research analysed the personality structure and ego defence mechanisms of the main character in the novel "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. This novel tells the story of Nora Seed as the main character who finds herself in a magical library between life and death, where she can explore various alternative lives. The main character has regrets and has to make a decision. The analysis was carried out using psychological theory of Freud (1920), especially in discussing the ego, personality structure and ego defence mechanisms. The data that has been discussed relates to the main characters so this research applies a psychological approach. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive method by (Creswell, 2018). The data collected is in the form of sentences, phrases, text or dialogue. This research discusses the main character's ego which plays an important role in the various decisions and actions he takes throughout the story. This research found that the ego, which functions as a decision maker, tries to balance these two forces and helps the main character make realistic and socially acceptable decisions. This research has identified several ego defence mechanisms used by the main characters. Research shows that ego defence mechanisms play an important role in how the main character deals with the main character's discomfort. The defence mechanisms that emerge are regression, repression, reaction formation, projection, introjection, sublimation, displacement, and denial.

**Keywords:** Psychological Approach, Ego, Defence Mechanism

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

### **MOTTO**

**“There are no good ideas, accept all ideas from others” – Raditya Dika**

### **DEDICATION**

**I dedicate this thesis to myself, my beloved parents, and my friends who are  
struggling with their thesis**

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Bismillahirrahmanirrahiim, alhamdulillahi rabbil ‘alamina, washolatu was salaamu ‘ala asyofil anbiyaa-i wal mursaliina sayyidina wa maulaana muhammadin,. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds. May peace and blessings be upon the noblest of prophets and messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and companions. Alhamdulillah, all praises and thanks are due to Allah SWT for guidance, and blessings, which have enabled the writer to complete this thesis titled “Ego Defence Mechanism of The Main Character in “The Midnight Library” By Matt Haig: Psychological Approach”. One of the requirements for the Sarjana Sastra degree in the English Department of Putera Batam University is fulfilled by the submission of this thesis.

The research realizes that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, the author will always accept criticism and suggestions with pleasure. Despite all the limitations, the author also realizes that this thesis would not have been possible without help, guidance and encouragement from various parties. Additionally, appreciation is extended to all those who were involved, both directly and indirectly, particularly to:

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Apart from expressing regret for all mistakes made during the research process, the researcher hopes that this thesis can be useful for readers. May Allah SWT give us all sustenance, safety, happiness and health.

Aamiin

Batam, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024



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