



**The Ego-Defence Mechanisms in The Main Character of
Edgar Allan Poe's "The Black Cat" and "Berenice"
(2021)**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring Literature Studies in the English
Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

Submitted by:

Catherine Kezia Manoppo

NIM 13020121120015

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2025

PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly declare that this thesis is my own work and has not been copied from any research done at any university, whether for a diploma, S-1, S-2, or S-3 degree. I also confirm that I only used materials from other sources which are properly listed in references.

Semarang, 26th September 2025



Catherine Kezia Manoppo

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4 : 13

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5 : 16-18

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, brother, sister, whole family, dearest friends, and all who have continuously supported, encouraged, and believed the writer through this journey. I love you forever...

APPROVAL

THE EGO-DEFENCE MECHANISMS IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "THE BLACK CAT" AND "BERENICE" (2021)

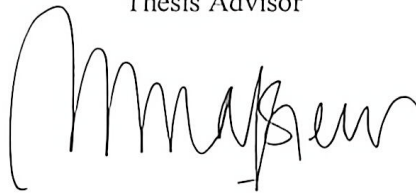
Written by:

Catherine Kezia Manoppo

NIM: 13020121120015

Is approved by the thesis advisor
on September 26th, 2025

Thesis Advisor



Dra. R.A.J. Atrinawati, M.Hum.

NIP. 196101011990012001

p.p. The Head of English Department

Secretary of English Department



Hadiyanto, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197407252008011013

VALIDATION

THE EGO-DEFENCE MECHANISMS IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "THE BLACK CAT" AND "BERENICE"

Submitted by

Catherine Kezia Manoppo

13020121120015

Is approved by

Strata I Thesis Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On December 9th, 2025

Chair Person

Ariya Jati, S.S., M.A.

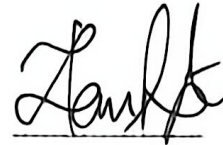
NIP. 197802282005021001



Member

Zletha Arlamanda Asri, S.Hum., M.A.

NIP. 199311132024062001



Thesis Advisor

Dra. R.A.J. Atrinawati, M.Hum.

NIP. 196101011990012001



Accepted and declared in Semarang on December 9th, 2025

The Dean of Faculty of Humanities



Dr. Alamsyah S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197211191998021002

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Semarang, 13th October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine', with a horizontal line underneath.

Catherine Kezia Manoppo

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis, the writer focuses on identifying the ego defence mechanisms faced by the main character in the short story *The Black Cat* and *Berenice* written by Edgar Allan Poe. Using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, this research aims to identify how the main character's internal conflicts influence his behavior and how the main character copes ego defence mechanisms. The writer employs the psychological approach to analyze the topic and the library research and descriptive qualitative approach to collect the data. The findings reveal that the main character experiences conflicts and ego defence mechanisms, such as rationalization, repression, projection, displacement, denial and isolation, which ultimately worsen the main character condition. The result of the analysis shows that the main character struggles with intense psychological turmoil, and the main character inability to manage anxiety healthily drives the main character toward irrational and self-destructive actions.

Keywords: psychoanalytical conflict, ego defense mechanism, rationalization, repression, projection, main character