

ABSTRACT

This undergraduate thesis discusses the defense mechanisms of Dr. Henry Jekyll as the main character in Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The aim of this research is to examine how defense mechanisms shape Jekyll's character and lead him toward self-destruction. This research uses a psychological literary approach based on Anna Freud's theory of defense mechanisms. The data were collected through library research. The primary data is the novel itself, while the secondary data are books and journals related to the theory and the subject of the research. The intrinsic discussion covers character and characterization, conflict, and setting. The extrinsic discussion covers the triggers of Jekyll's defense mechanisms, the five defense mechanisms he uses, and their impact on his life. The results show that Jekyll uses repression to hide his dark desires and protect his social image. He uses isolation and projection to separate himself from Mr. Hyde's crimes and avoid guilt. He also uses reaction formation by acting extremely good in public, and turning against the self by blaming and punishing himself until he chooses death. In conclusion, these defense mechanisms destroy his identity and cause his complete psychological and physical collapse.

Keywords: psychological approach; defense mechanisms; self-destruction