

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This research thesis discusses the psychoanalytical conflict of the main character in two short stories: *The Black Cat* and *Berenice*, all written by Edgar Allan Poe. The intrinsic discussion of the short stories focuses on the character and characterization of the main character, the setting, and the conflicts presented throughout the narratives. The narrator in *The Black Cat* is portrayed as an animal lover and a loving husband. But everything changes when alcohol poison the narrator. The narrator becomes insanity and full of cruelty with his wife and his cat. Similarly, the main character in *Berenice* also displays a changing character from the beginning of the story. Egaeus in *Berenice* is portrayed as an introverted, unhealthy, and love his cousin, Berenice. It changes when Egaeus illness attack him, monomania. Egaeus becomes obsessive with Berenice teeth, and ends up killing Berenice to take her teeth. The settings of place, from the narrator house, and cellar in *The Black Cat*, and the Egaeus great house and library in *Berenice*, serve as a reflector the psychological state of the main character. And the setting of time in *The Black Cat* and *Berenice* is same, the night that had symbolized horror and mystery. The conflicts include both internal struggles, such as affection, cruelty, madness, rationality and obsession, and external tensions with other characters. These elements work together to depict each main character personal transformation.

Meanwhile by using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical approach, this research thesis explores the extrinsic elements that focus on the ego-defence

mechanisms in the main character. The analysis demonstrates that the main characters had a similar way to cope their distress with ego-defence mechanisms, like rationalization, repression and projection. But, in the narrator of *The Black Cat* also used displacement and denial to cope his distress. While, Egaeus used isolation to cope his distress. Furthermore, both characters employ ego-defence mechanisms as a way to cope their distress, though unsuccessfully. The narrator of *The Black Cat* relies on his anxiety to reduce his guilt, while Egaeus in *Berenice* represses his anxiety into obsessive monomania. Ultimately, the failure of these defence mechanisms emphasizes how unresolved unconscious conflicts and anxieties can overpower the ego, leading to destructive actions and psychological collapse.

This research thesis can provide insight how psychoanalytical conflict in people can be understood through literature. The findings show that short stories is not only a source of entertainment but also a meaningful tool for teaching supporting emotional and social development. Through stories like these, readers are invited to reflect on the importance of gratitude, empathy, and perspective, making literature a powerful medium for shaping psychological awareness from an early age.