

## ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses the defense mechanisms influenced by personality dynamics and conflict in a character in Alex Michaelides's novel *The Maidens* 2021, with a focus on the main character, Mariana Andros. This study aims to identify and analyse the types of defense mechanisms used by Mariana Andros in *The Maidens*. This thesis research uses library research and a psychological approach. The writer analyses the character, characterization, and setting for intrinsic elements, while the psychoanalytic approach is analysed using Freudian psychoanalysis theory, including personality structure, anxiety, psychoanalytical conflicts, and defense mechanisms. The results of this study show that Mariana uses several types of defense mechanisms, including repression, denial, rationalization, regression, and displacement, to avoid unpleasant feelings resulting from the conflicts and pressures she faces.

Keywords: *The Maidens*, *Defense Mechanism*, *Psychoanalysis*