

**A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF DEFENSE MECHANISM IN EDGAR
ALLAN POE'S *THE BLACK CAT* AND WILLIAM FAULKNER'S *A ROSE
FOR EMILY***



An Undergraduate Thesis

**Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana
Sastra Degree**

**Aditya Mahsandito
1809010009**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO
2025**

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2025**

APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that this graduating paper entitled *A Psychoanalytic Study of Defense Mechanism in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat* and William Faulkner's *Rose for Emily** by Aditya Mahsandito has been approved by the advisor and the Head of the English Department to be examined by the Board of Examiners.

Purwokerto, 13 August 2025

Head of English Department

Advisor



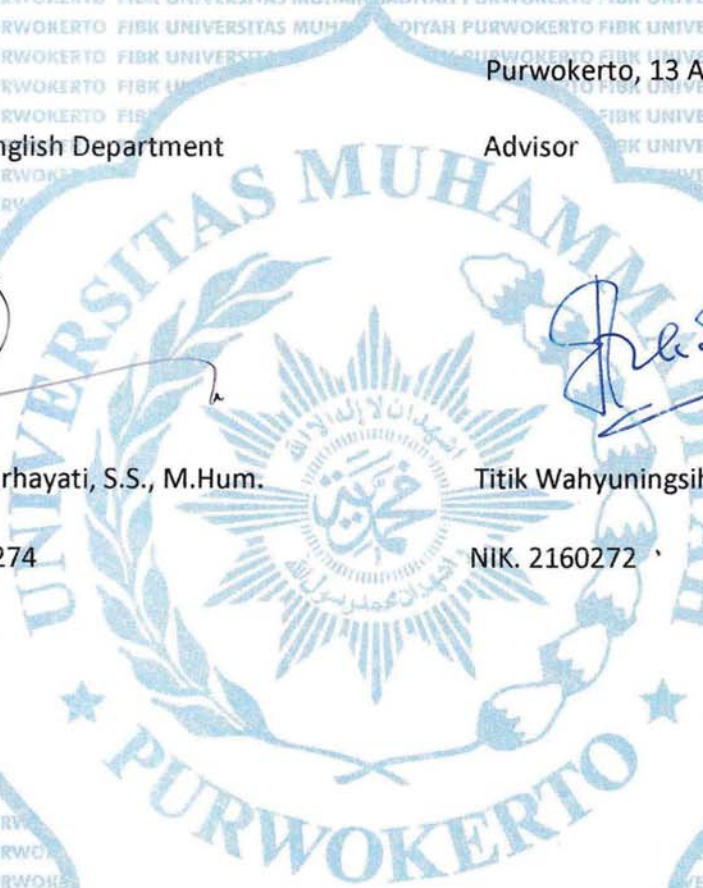
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VALIDATION SHEET

A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF DEFENSE MECHANISM IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

THE BLACK CAT AND WILLIAM FAULKNER'S A ROSE FOR EMILY

An Undergraduate Thesis

by

Aditya Mahsandito

1809010009

has been examined and approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for Sarjana Sastra degree on 13 August 2025

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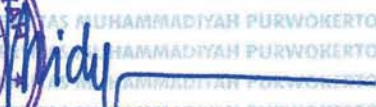
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Dr. Widya Nirmalawati, S.S., M.A.

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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Name : Aditya Mahsandito

Student Number : 1809010009

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled "**A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF DEFENSE MECHANISM IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S *THE BLACK CAT* AND WILLIAM FAULKNER'S *A ROSE FOR EMILY***" here attest and affirm that the material in this thesis has not been previously conducted or submitted and published for a degree in any university nor journals, and to my best knowledge, any referenced-quotations are shown in the arrangements of citations and bibliography. If, at any point, it is proven that this research is plagiarized or contradicts this statement, both the research and any associated degree shall be rendered invalid.

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Aditya Mahsandito

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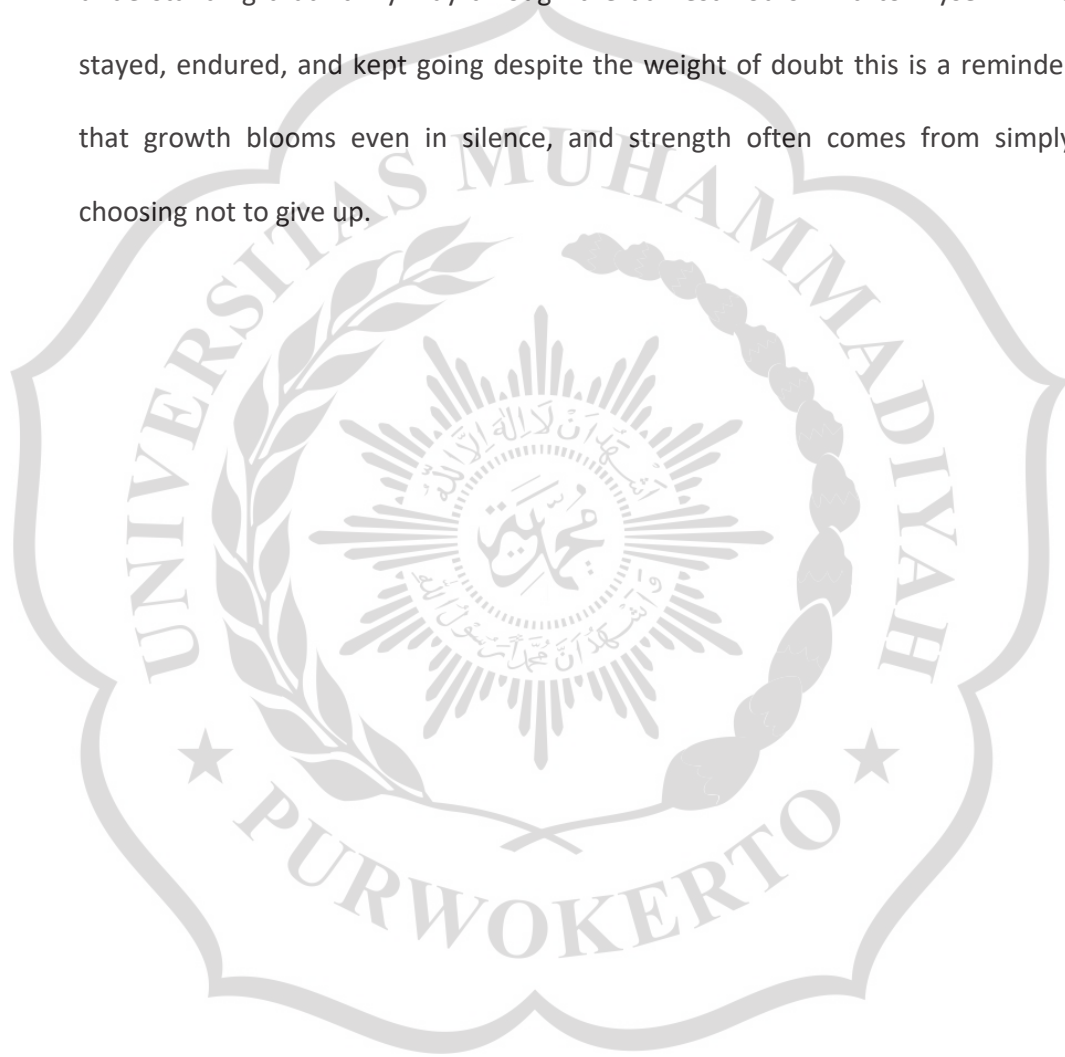
“No such thing as a life that’s better than yours”

-J. Cole



DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated with all my heart to my beloved parents, whose endless prayers, love, and sacrifices became the quiet force behind every step I took. To my dearest friends, thank you for the laughter, encouragement, and understanding that lit my way through the darkest hours. And to myself—who stayed, endured, and kept going despite the weight of doubt this is a reminder that growth blooms even in silence, and strength often comes from simply choosing not to give up.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, All praises be to Allah SWT, the Lord of the Worlds, who has given me strength, health, patience, and countless blessings throughout my academic journey, especially during the process of completing this thesis. Without His guidance, none of this would have been possible.

First and foremost, My dearest advisor, Titik Wahyuningsih, S.S., M.Hum, for her incredible patience, valuable insights, and unwavering support. Thank you for dedicating your time and energy to guide me through every stage of this thesis until it was finally completed.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the lecturers in the English Literature Department at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto. Each of you has contributed to my academic and personal growth in countless ways. The knowledge, inspiration, and experiences you have shared have helped shape my understanding and appreciation of literature and critical thinking.

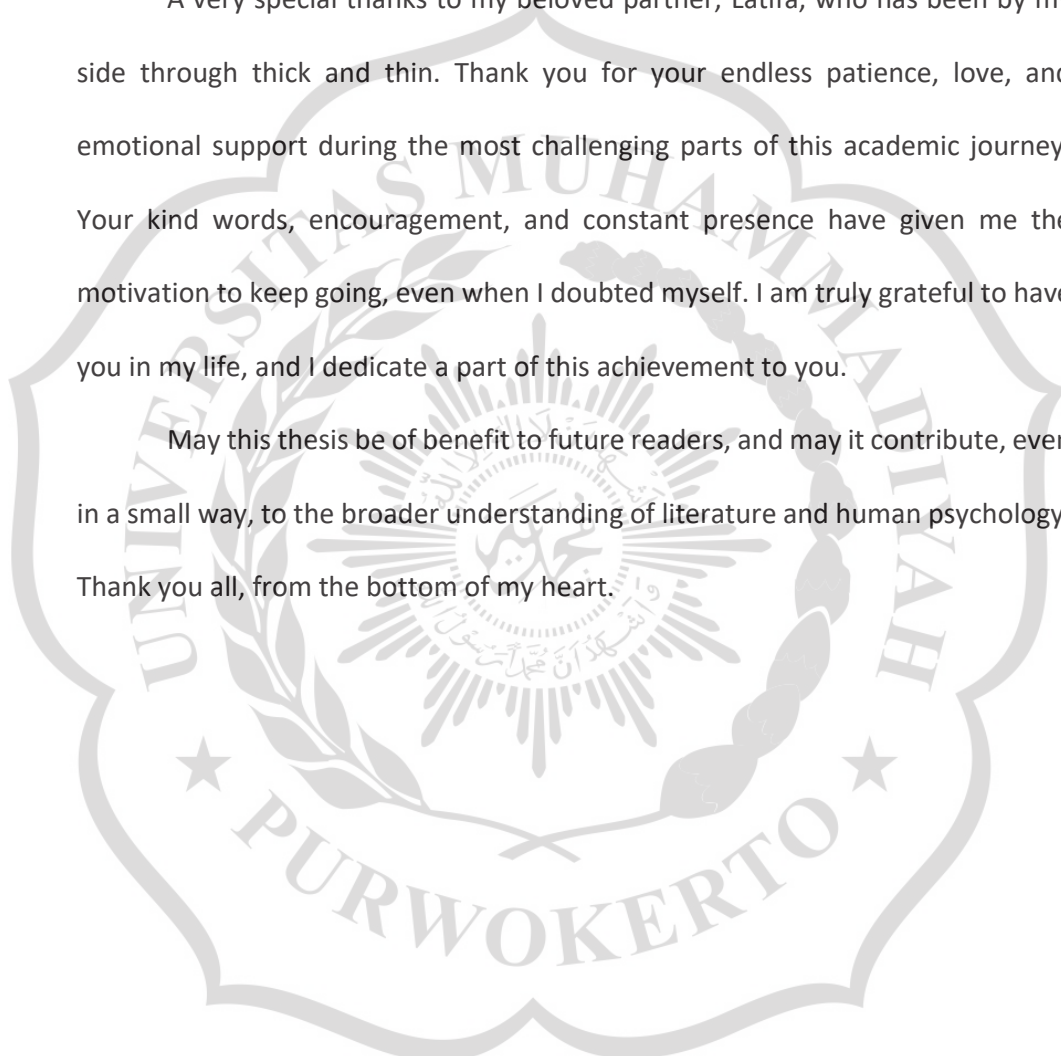
To the faculty staff and administration, thank you for your assistance and patience throughout my years of study. Your work behind the scenes made the academic environment more organized and manageable for students like me.

My deepest thanks go to my beloved parents, who have been my biggest source of strength and support. Thank you for your unconditional love, prayers, patience, and encouragement throughout every stage of my life. Your sacrifices and belief in me are the foundation of everything I have achieved.

To my friends and classmates in the English Literature Department, thank you for the companionship, laughter, and shared struggles. Special thanks to Rian and Samid for being there not only during the joyful moments but also in times of stress and uncertainty. You made this journey lighter and more meaningful.

A very special thanks to my beloved partner, Latifa, who has been by my side through thick and thin. Thank you for your endless patience, love, and emotional support during the most challenging parts of this academic journey. Your kind words, encouragement, and constant presence have given me the motivation to keep going, even when I doubted myself. I am truly grateful to have you in my life, and I dedicate a part of this achievement to you.

May this thesis be of benefit to future readers, and may it contribute, even in a small way, to the broader understanding of literature and human psychology. Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart.



ABSTRACT

Mahsandito, Aditya, 1809010009. Wahyuningsih, T. 2025: A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF DEFENSE MECHANISM IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S *THE BLACK CAT* AND WILLIAM FAULKNER'S *A ROSE FOR EMILY*. Undergraduate Thesis for Sarjana Sastra Degree, English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

This research analyzes the psychological defense mechanisms portrayed by the main characters in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat* and William Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily* through a psychoanalytic lens. This research employs a qualitative descriptive research method using a psychoanalytic literary approach. By applying Sigmund Freud's theory of defense mechanisms, this study aims to uncover the unconscious strategies used by the characters to cope with internal conflicts and traumatic experiences. The analysis identifies several key defense mechanisms such as denial, repression, projection, and displacement within the narratives. In *The Black Cat*, the narrator demonstrates pathological denial and projection as a way to displace guilt and justify his violent behavior. Meanwhile, Miss Emily in *A Rose for Emily* represses reality and isolates herself in order to avoid confronting change and loss. The findings reveal how psychological defenses shape each character's behavior and ultimately lead to tragic consequences. This study highlights the relevance of psychoanalytic theory in literary analysis, particularly in understanding the complexity of human behavior in fiction.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Defense Mechanism, The Black Cat, A Rose for Emily, Freud, Literary Analysis

INTISARI

Mahsandito, Aditya, 1809010009. Wahyuningsih, T. 2025: Sebuah Studi Psikoanalisis tentang Mekanisme Pertahanan Diri dalam The Black Cat karya Edgar Allan Poe dan A Rose for Emily karya William Faulkner. Skripsi untuk Gelar Sarjana Sastra, Jurusan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Ilmu Budaya dan Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

Penelitian ini menganalisis mekanisme pertahanan psikologis yang ditampilkan oleh tokoh utama dalam cerita The Black Cat karya Edgar Allan Poe dan A Rose for Emily karya William Faulkner melalui pendekatan psikoanalitik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan sastra psikoanalitik. Dengan menggunakan teori mekanisme pertahanan dari Sigmund Freud, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap strategi bawah sadar yang digunakan oleh tokoh-tokohnya dalam menghadapi konflik batin dan pengalaman traumatis. Analisis menunjukkan beberapa mekanisme pertahanan utama seperti penyangkalan (denial), represi, proyeksi, dan displacement. Dalam The Black Cat, sang narator menunjukkan penyangkalan dan proyeksi yang patologis untuk mengalihkan rasa bersalah dan membenarkan perilaku kekerasannya. Sementara itu, tokoh Miss Emily dalam A Rose for Emily menekan realitas dan mengasingkan diri untuk menghindari kenyataan akan perubahan dan kehilangan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bagaimana mekanisme pertahanan psikologis membentuk perilaku tokoh dan membawa pada akhir yang tragis. Studi ini menegaskan pentingnya teori psikoanalisis dalam kajian sastra, khususnya untuk memahami kompleksitas perilaku manusia dalam karya fiksi.

Kata kunci: *Psikoanalisis, Mekanisme Pertahanan, The Black Cat, A Rose for Emily, Freud, Analisis Sastra*

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