

## ABSTRACT

Turnip, Riska Karina Sari. (2023). **The Defense Mechanism of Liz Murray in Murray's Breaking Night**. Yogyakarta: Departmen of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Characters in literary works reflect the lives of humans. Every character has their own conflicts. Through psychological approach, this can be implemented to understand characters in literary works. In *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard (2011)*, Liz Murray operates certain defense-mechanism to prevent herself from anxiety.

The researcher formulates three objectives in this study. This study aims to describe the characteristics of Liz Murray, reveal the core issues that Liz Murray has in the novel, and analyze the defense mechanisms of Liz Murray.

This study utilized a qualitative research design through a library research method. To analyze the problem, the researcher uses the theory of character and characterization by Johnson and Arp, the theory of core issues by Tyson and the theory of defense mechanism by Anna Freud. The researcher uses library methods to collect the data for analysis. The primary resource is taken from the novel *Breaking Night: A Memoir of of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard (2011)*. Meanwhile, the secondary data is taken from books, articles, journals, and other resources are required.

The first finding, Liz Murray's characteristics are obedient, caring, thoughtful, forgiving, and empathetic. In the second finding, Liz's core issues are low self-esteem and insecurity. In the third finding, it is revealed that Liz operates repression, fantasy, and sublimation.

**Keywords:** Character, core issues, defense-mechanism.

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Tokoh dalam karya sastra mencerminkan kehidupan manusia. Setiap karakter memiliki konfliknya masing-masing. Melalui pendekatan psikologis, hal ini dapat diimplementasikan untuk memahami karakter dalam karya sastra. Dalam *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* (2011), Liz Murray mengoperasikan mekanisme pertahanan tertentu untuk mencegah dirinya dari kecemasan.

Peneliti merumuskan tiga tujuan dalam penelitian ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan karakteristik Liz Murray, mengungkap *core issues* yang dimiliki Liz Murray dalam novel tersebut, dan menganalisis mekanisme pertahanan Liz Murray.

Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif melalui metode penelitian kepustakaan. Untuk menganalisis masalah tersebut, peneliti menggunakan teori penokohan oleh Johnson and Arp, teori *core issues* oleh Tyson dan teori mekanisme pertahanan oleh Anna Freud. Peneliti menggunakan metode kepustakaan untuk mengumpulkan data untuk dianalisis. Sumber utama diambil dari novel *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* (2011). Sedangkan data sekunder diambil dari buku, artikel, jurnal, dan sumber lain yang diperlukan.

Temuan pertama, karakteristik Liz Murray adalah penurut, peduli, bijaksana, pemaaf, dan empati. Dalam temuan kedua, masalah inti Liz adalah harga diri yang rendah dan rasa tidak aman. Dalam temuan ketiga, terungkap bahwa Liz menjalankan represi, fantasi, dan sublimasi.

**Keywords:** Character, core issues, defense-mechanism.