

ABSTRACT

HATI, AJENG SUCI. (2025). **Coping with Core Issues through Repression in Punchline's *Rule of Rose***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Video games tagged with psychological survival horror often evoke fear and anxiety in players through immersive narratives filled with dark plots. These plots sometimes highlight the character's core issues and defense mechanisms, which happens in the main character of *Rule of Rose*, Jennifer. This study aims to analyze how Jennifer cope with her core issues through repression as her primary defense mechanism.

The study has three objectives. The first objective is to identify and analyze how Jennifer's characteristics are described in the game narrative. The second objective is to find out the core issues Jennifer developed due to her childhood traumas in the game narrative. The third objective is to reveal how Jennifer copes with her core issues through repression.

The study uses library research method and qualitative method of approach. The primary source of the study is the video game script, *Rule of Rose*, written by the user mtkennerly on GameFAQs website while the secondary sources are from various books and journals related to the topic of the study. In order to solve the research question, the study will use psychoanalytic approach and various theories: Theory of Characterization through Storyworld Cues by Vandewalle et. al, Theory of Trauma by Michelle Balaev, Theory of Core Issues by Lois Tyson, and Theory of Repression and Defense by Peter Madison.

The study found that Jennifer is depicted as someone who is self-conscious, considerate, submissive, and timid. These characteristics are influenced by the traumas she lived in her childhood from neglect, bullying, to sight of death which manifest into her core issues: low self-esteem and insecurity. The study discovers that Jennifer copes with such core issues through repressive defenses: amnesia, conversion, and denial. The study also concludes that Jennifer's ability to live and socialize properly in her adulthood is reduced to below the normal standards due to her acts of repression in coping with her childhood trauma.

Keywords: *Defense mechanism, repression, psychoanalytic approach, Jennifer, Rule of Rose*

ABSTRAK

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Video game dengan tag *psychological survival horror* sering kali membangkitkan rasa takut dan cemas pada pemain melalui narasi imersif yang dipenuhi dengan alur cerita tragis. Alur cerita seperti ini terkadang menyoroti *core issues* dan *defense mechanism* dalam karakter, yang terjadi di karakter utama *Rule of Rose*, Jennifer. Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana Jennifer mengatasi *core issues* melalui *repression* sebagai *defense mechanism* utamanya.

Studi ini memiliki tiga tujuan. Tujuan pertama adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis bagaimana karakteristik Jennifer dijelaskan dalam narasi video game. Tujuan kedua adalah untuk mengetahui *core issues* yang dikembangkan Jennifer karena *childhood traumas* dalam narasi video game. Tujuan ketiga adalah untuk mengungkap bagaimana Jennifer mengatasi *core issues* melalui *repression*.

Studi ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka dan pendekatan metode kualitatif. Sumber utama studi ini adalah narasi skrip video game, *Rule of Rose*, yang ditulis oleh pengguna bernama mtkennerly di situs web GameFAQs sedangkan sumber sekunder berasal dari berbagai buku dan jurnal yang terkait dengan topik studi. Untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian, penelitian ini akan menggunakan pendekatan psikoanalitik dan berbagai teori: Teori *Characterization through Storyworld Cues* oleh Vandewalle dkk., Teori *Trauma* oleh Michelle Balaev, Teori *Core Issues* oleh Lois Tyson, dan Teori *Repression and Defense* oleh Peter Madison.

Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa Jennifer digambarkan sebagai orang yang sadar diri, perhatian, penurut, dan pemalu. Karakteristik ini dipengaruhi oleh trauma yang dialaminya di masa kecilnya mulai dari pengabaian, perundungan, hingga melihat kematian yang terwujud dalam *core issues*: *low self-esteem* dan *insecurity*. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa Jennifer mengatasi *core issues* tersebut melalui *repressive defenses*: *amnesia*, *conversion*, dan *denial*. Penelitian ini juga menyimpulkan bahwa kemampuan Jennifer untuk hidup dan bersosialisasi dengan baik di masa dewasanya berkurang hingga di bawah standar normal karena tindakan *repression* dalam mengatasi *childhood trauma*.

Kata Kunci: *Defense mechanism, repression, psychoanalytic approach, Jennifer, Rule of Rose*