

ABSTRACT

NUSA, IGNATIUS FRIDOLIN NGGERE (2025) **Michael Corleone's Defence Mechanisms as the Corleone Family Leder in Coppola's *The Godfather***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma

The psychoanalytic approach enables a comprehensive analysis of characters in literary works, including film. Its application to film is undoubtedly based on the similarities between literary and film elements. By applying psychoanalysis to film characters, the psychological dynamics influencing characters' actions can be explained. These same psychological dynamics can be explored in the character of Michael Corleone in Coppola's *The Godfather*. This research comprehensively discusses the forms of defence mechanism as Michael's ego's strategies in interacting with his superego, id, and reality, which influence his action in the film.

The research will focus on three problem formulations to identify Michael Corleone's characterisation that impacts the conflicts he experiences. The research aims to examine the conflicts, both external and internal, that influence Michael Corleone's anxiety. Lastly, it is to explain how Michael's ego defence mechanism influences his action in confronting his conflicts.

This qualitative research employs a close reading method to analyse data obtained through library research. The primary data are derived from Francis Coppola's film *The Godfather*. Secondary sources include books, journals, and proceedings that discuss the theories relevant to this study, including psychoanalysis, mise-en-scène, and cinematography.

The research identifies four types of Michael's ego defence mechanisms. There are rationalisation, repression, denial, displacement, and projection. Each mechanism is triggered by various anxiety resulting from the conflicts Michael experiences, both external and internal. These strategies unconsciously influence Michael's actions when confronting his conflicts in Coppola's *The Godfather*.

Keywords: *defence mechanisms, Michael Corleone, psychoanalysis, The Godfather*

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Pendekatan psikoanalisis memungkinkan kajian komprehensif karakter karya sastra, termasuk film. Aplikasinya pada film tentu didasari pada kesamaan unsur tulisan sastra dan film. Dengan aplikasi psikoanalisis pada karakter film, dinamika psikologis yang memengaruhi tindakan karakter dapat dijelaskan. Dinamika psikologis yang sama dapat dijelaskan pada tokoh Michael Corleone dalam film *The Godfather* karya Francis Coppola. Riset ini secara komprehensif mendiskusikan bentuk mekanisme pertahanan sebagai strategi ego berinteraksi dengan superego, id, maupun realitas, dari karakter Michael Corleone yang memengaruhi tindakannya.

Riset akan mendiskusikan tiga permasalahan utama yakni mengidentifikasi karakterisasi Michael Corleone yang berdampak pada konflik yang dialaminya, menemukan konflik, baik eksternal dan internal, yang memengaruhi *anxiety*, dan menjelaskan bagaimana mekanisme pertahanan ego Michael memengaruhi tindakannya dalam menghadapi konflik.

Penelitian ini menerapkan metode pembacaan cermat (*close reading*) terhadap data yang diperoleh melalui penelitian kepustakaan. Data primer bersumber dari film *The Godfather* karya Francis Coppola. Sumber sekunder meliputi buku, artikel jurnal dan prosiding yang membahas teori-teori yang relevan dengan penelitian ini, mencakup psikoanalisis, *mise-en-scène*, dan sinematografi.

Penelitian ini menemukan empat jenis mekanisme pertahanan ego yang ditunjukkan oleh Michael. Setiap mekanisme dipicu oleh berbagai bentuk kecemasan yang diakibatkan oleh konflik yang dialami Michael, baik eksternal maupun internal. Mekanisme tersebut secara tidak sadar memengaruhi tindakan Michael saat menghadapi konfliknya dalam *The Godfather*.

Kata kunci: *mekanisme pertahanan, Michael Corleone, psikoanalisis, The Godfather*