



**THE ANALYSIS OF DEFENSE MECHANISM THEORY
FOUND IN AKEELAH'S CHARACTERISTIC IN THE MOVIE
OF AKEELAH AND THE BEE**

Presented as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the undergraduate program

Ester Natalia Finnolius
20180600025

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
BUDDHI DHARMA UNIVERSITY
TANGERANG**

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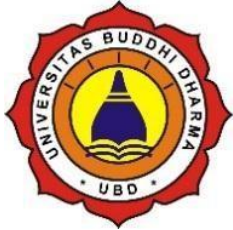
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FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Final Project Title : **The Analysis of Defense Mechanism
Theory found In Akeelah's characteristic In
the Movie of Akeelah and the Bee.**

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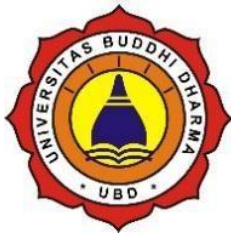
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On September 1st, 2023.

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I honestly declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true and correct that I do not take any scholarly ideas or work from others dishonestly. Those all cited works are quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing.



Tangerang September 1st 2023

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2018060025

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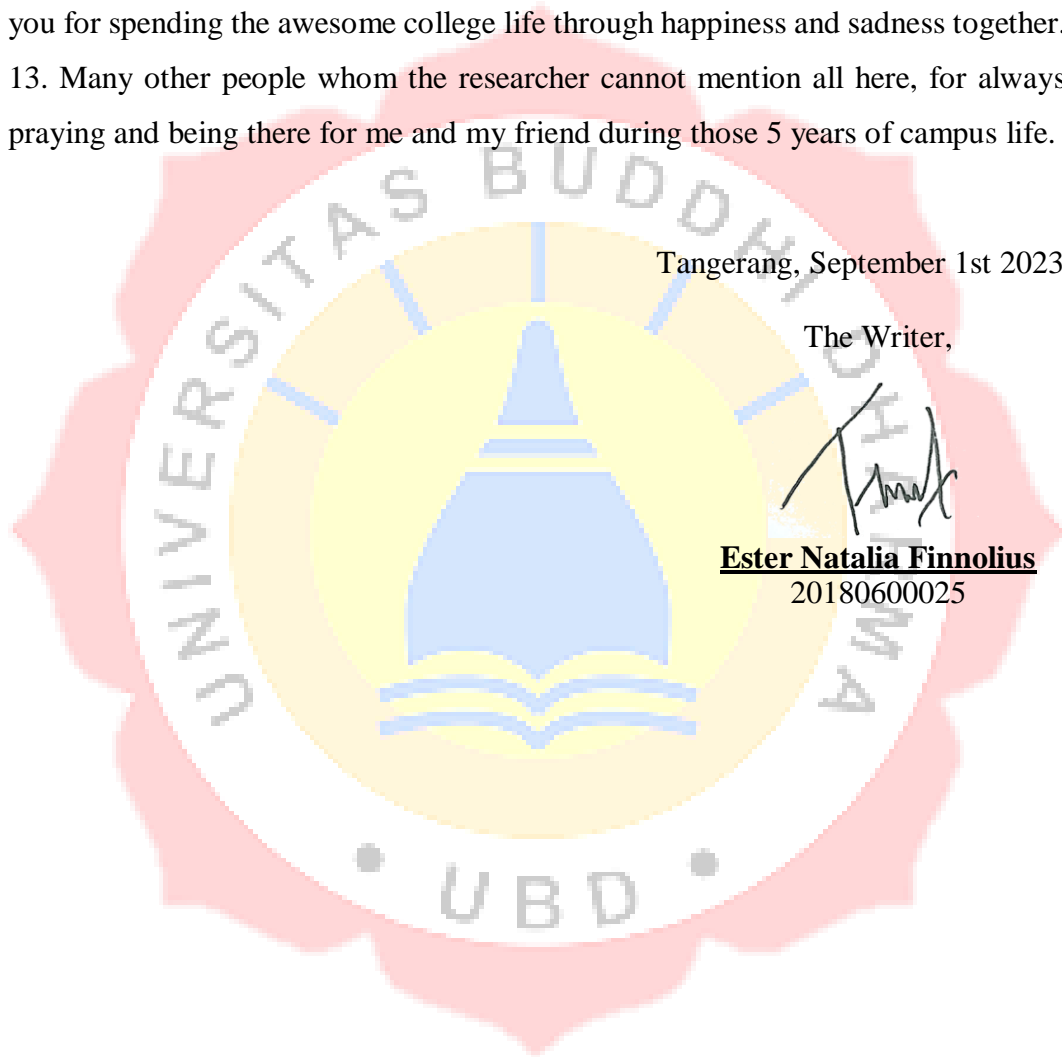
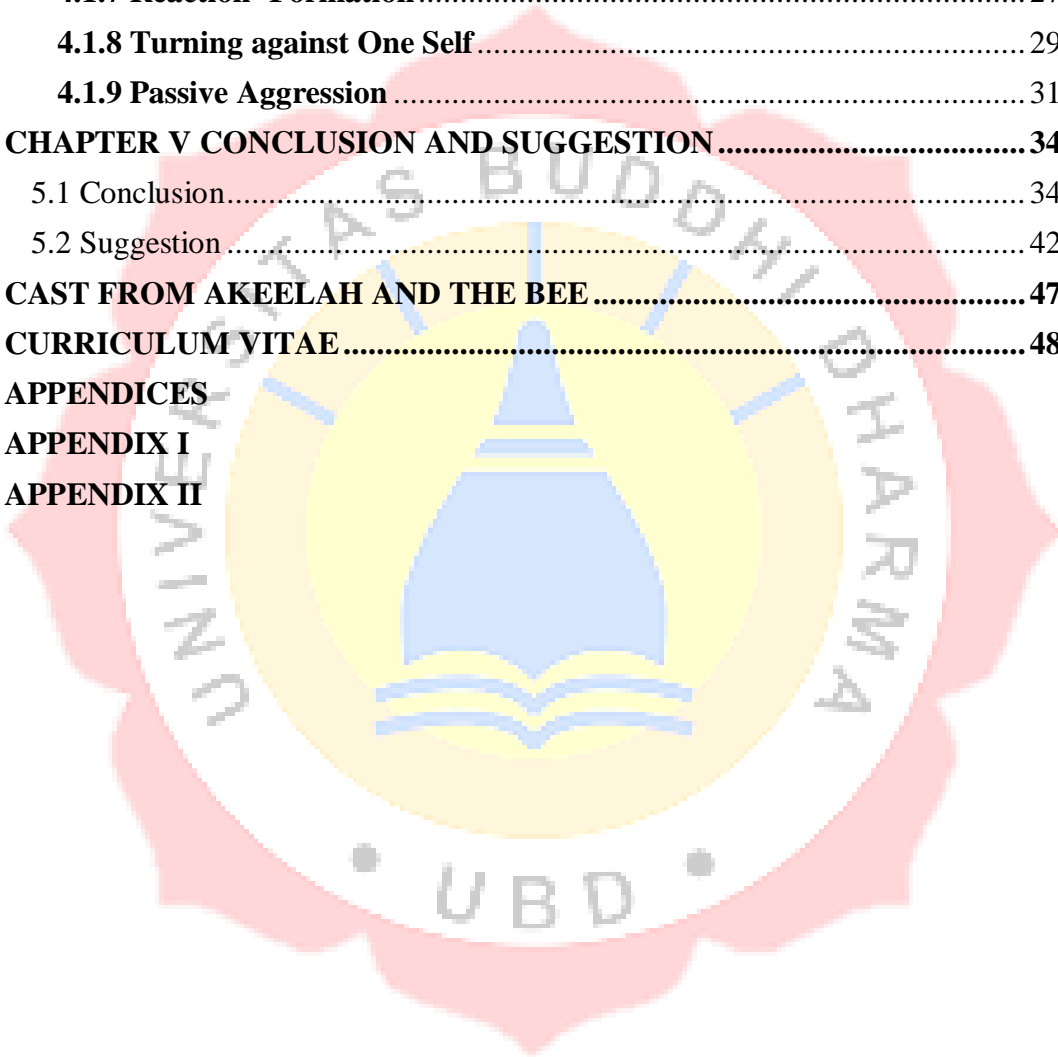


TABLE OF CONTENT

FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL	ii
RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ELELIGIBILITY OF FINAL PROJECT EXAMINATION.....	iii
THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS	iv
STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
ABSTRACT	x
LIST OF FIGURES	Error! Bookmark not defined.
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Research Question	3
1.4 Goal and Function.....	3
1.5 Scope and Limitation	4
1.6 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework.....	4
CHAPTER II THEORETICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
2.1 Previous Study.....	6
2.2 Character	8
2.3 Characterization.....	8
2.4 Freud Psychoanalysis Theory.....	9
2.5 Sigmund Freud's Personality	9
2.5.1 Id.....	10
2.5.2 Ego.....	10
2.5.3 Super Ego.....	11
2.6 Defence Mechanism Theory	11
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	16
3.1 Subject Matter	16
3.2 Material	17
3.3 Approach.....	17
3.4 Procedure.....	17
CHAPTER IV DATA ANALYSIS	19
4.1 The analysis of Akeelah's character using theory of Defence.	19

4.1.1 Denial.....	19
4.1.2 Repression	21
4.1.3 Displacement	22
4.1.4 Sublimation	23
4.1.5 Rationalization	24
4.1.6 Regression	26
4.1.7 Reaction- Formation.....	27
4.1.8 Turning against One Self.....	29
4.1.9 Passive Aggression	31
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION.....	34
5.1 Conclusion.....	34
5.2 Suggestion	42
CAST FROM AKEELAH AND THE BEE.....	47
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	48
APPENDICES	
APPENDIX I	
APPENDIX II	



LIST OF FIGURES

Graphic 1. 1 Conceptual Framework	6
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ABSTRACT

This research discussed about The Analysis of Defense Mechanism Theory found In Akeelah's characteristic In the Movie of Akeelah and the Bee. The writer uses Defense mechanism theory to find the power and strength of women in this movie. Based on the statement above, the writer conducted research specifically are Personality and Extraversion in main character "Akeelah". Also, explain the emancipation of Akeelah through all of this without her father and her friends. The writer applies the qualitative method of research. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (1993), qualitative is referred to research studies that investigate the quality of a relationship, situation, activity, or material. After analyzing the main character of the story, Akeelah Anderson (Akeelah), it can be concluded that Akeelah felt upset, sad, and happy throughout the story. She is isolated from society because of her appearance. Akeelah calls herself brainiac and a freak that she wants to change if it is possible. The truth is, her condition is permanent. Incurable is what the scientists say about her insecurity.

Keywords: *Akeelah, Characteristic, Defense Mechanism theory.*



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a form of artistic expression that uses words as a medium to describe various aspects of human life. Literature can be the work of humans both orally and in writing that uses language as an introductory medium and has the value of the beauty of words, style of language, and an interesting story style. One of the cultures that wants to present literary works that might spread like commonplace beliefs in society is popular literature. Works of literature include plays, novels, films, songs, and poems. Thus, Taum (1997:13) defined literature as "the use of beautiful and useful language to signify other things" or "a work of creation or fiction that is imaginative." Literature is writings activities that express related to human expression through characteristics. These can be Example drama, novel, movie and song (Britannica.com:2023). According to Effendi (1986:239) movie is a manifest of culture and it present an artistic expression. A movie is classify as a sequence of moving pictures that contain an audio-visual as communication way convey a message to others and it usually describe about a story which exposed in theatre or on television. Boeree (2009) classify characteristics of a person in believing, acting or feeling. Various theories of thought of characteristics grew to explain various key human characteristic.

Akeelah and the Bee movie released in 2006 American drama movie written and directed by Doug Atchison. This movie story about Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old spelling enthusiast, attends Crenshaw Middle School, a predominantly black school in South Los Angeles. Akeelah lives with her mother Tanya, her three older brother, sisters and also her infant niece. Her mother parenting style make her grow into insecure girl who always doubt about herself. So, this movie is talking about a teenager life, bullies, relation between parent and children and social issues that different from others movie. Besides, there is not found any related topic which discuss about these in Buddhi Dharma University and The selection of topic and titles that are currently popular in the community can be a reason and a separate power for the researcher. So, that is the reason for writer to analyze this topic. This thesis is using defense mechanism. Defense mechanisms are psychological strategies that we unconsciously employ to protect us from fear that arises from unacceptable thoughts and feelings. According to Freud's theory, defense mechanisms somehow distort reality so that we can better deal with the situation. This defense mechanism theory is relevant to use as the tools to analyze the characteristic of the main character, Akeelah. The writer want to analyze the defense of the character to develop her and change her life through the movie.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The object of this research is Akeelah on "Akeelah and the Bee" movie. This movie released in 2006 written and directed by Doug Atchison. This

movie story about Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old spelling enthusiast, who attends Crenshaw Middle School, a predominantly black school in South Los Angeles. Akeelah is strong woman, very smart in her class but she is very nervous on the spelling contest stage. She has only a few friends, mother, her three older brother and sisters and also her infant niece. Her mother is doctor and very disciplined, she was the head of the family since her husband died being shot from a stranger from the direction he wanted to go home. This thesis want to analyze about she main character, who is Akeelah's personality through defense mechanism theory proposed by Sigmund Freud.

1.3 Research Question

Based on a statement of the problem above, the research question will be formulated as below: How do Akeelah characteristic in the movie of Akeelah and The bee found through defense mechanism theory?

1.4 Goal and Function

The objective of this analysis study is to learn more about psychoanalytic theory in the movie "Akeelah and the Bee" as well as actual Akeelah traits. Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old spelling aficionado, attends the largely black Crenshaw Middle School in South Los Angeles. She resides with Tanya, her mother, a widow, her three elder siblings, Kiana, Devon, and Terrence, as well as her unidentified newborn niece. She first rejects Mr. Welch's suggestion that she participate in the Crenshaw School wide Spelling Bee. Additionally, to give readers a general understanding of defense mechanism theory and to talk about the importance of the next research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is a character in the movie *Akeelah and the Bee*. The writer chooses a movie by Doug Atchison. This movie was released in 2006 and got many awards including Black Movie Award for Best Leading Actress. In this study, we've dissected the film "*Akeelah and the Bee*" in order to better understand the character of Akeelah. The author employs concepts from defensive mechanism theory to demonstrate his point and to symbolize the defense mechanism ideals presented in the film.

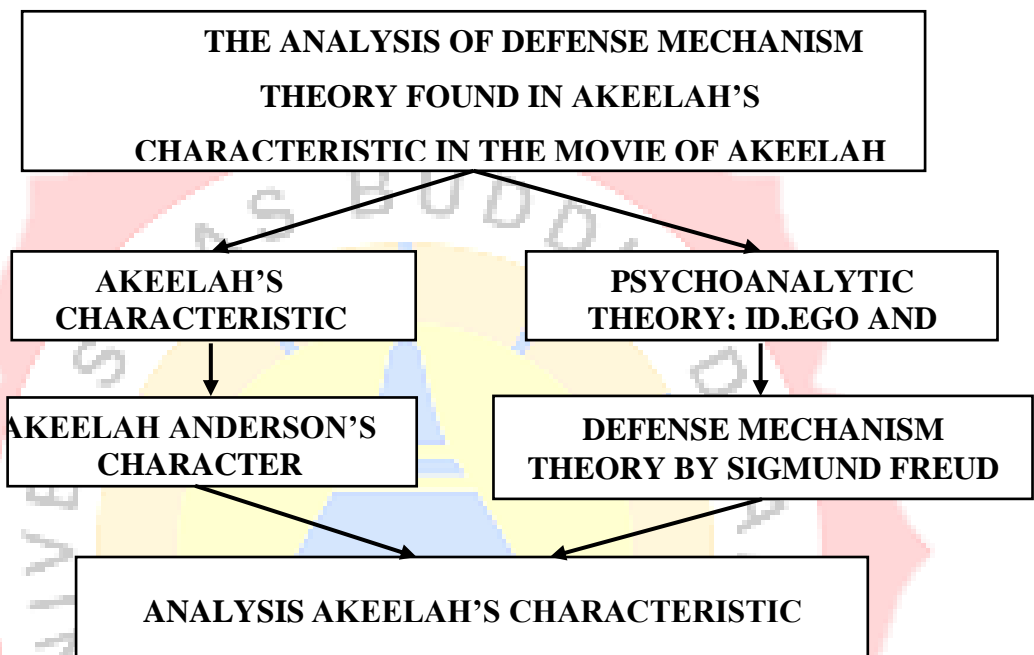
The scope of this study is limited to learning more about the robust and perceptive Akeelah female population. To show readers that there is another side to Akeelah's story, one in which strong women are not alone, and one from which they may draw inspiration. As a kind of defense, the author makes use of the type theory.

1.6 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

The author would now want to elaborate on the methodology she used throughout this investigation. Using insights from Defense Mechanism Theory, the author identifies the agency and resilience of the film's female characters. Also, please elaborate on how Akeelah was able to become independent of her father and her peers in the face of such adversity.

From the beginning to the end of this study, the authors want to provide a clear explanation of this framework. The authors want to clarify the purpose of this *Akeelah* and any more information on the issue stated within. The author may also discuss the theoretical frameworks under which they work.

The following step is a discussion of the limitations of the study, after which the writer explains how they arrived at the research topic and set out to answer it. The analysis will be explained graphically by the author.



Graphic 1. 1 Conceptual Framework

The aforementioned conceptual framework may be broken down into the following:

1. The Writer found the movie Akeelah and the Bee by Doug Atchison.
2. In this part, the writer uses the Psychoanalytic theory in this thesis.
3. The writer explains Akeelah characteristic that the writer is using for this research and Akeelah Anderson character the writer uses for the research.
4. This section of the thesis is dedicated to explaining the writer's proposed defense mechanism theory.

5. The writer will draw a conclusion after doing all the necessary analysis.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Study

The author did not rely just on secondary sources for his knowledge; he also sought out studies that drew on psychoanalytic theory. In 2013, Niken Krismaninggar sent in a thesis she had written to complete some of the requirements for her degree. She analyzed the main character's attitude shift in Ahmad Tohari's "Bekisar Merah" through the lens of psychoanalysis. She shed light on the novel's protagonist's drive, allowing the author to better understand the psychoanalytic study at the novel's core. She explained the motivation for the main character so that the writer could learn about the psychoanalytic study in Ahmad Tohari's 'Bekisar Merah'

The Second Previous of Study, A Psychoanalysis on Main Character in Paulo Coelho's "The Zahir" by Recksha Ferdha Herditya. S.S English Literature Bachelor (2017). She wrote about a psychoanalysis of the main character in Paulo Coelho's "The Zahir" novel. This study is aimed to describe how id, ego and super ego of main character in the story. She told the writer about the main

character in Paulo Coelho's "The Zahir" so that the writer could learn about the psychoanalytic study.

The third is Fitrah Abdul Kahar's dissertation (2017), He wrote about "Amba's Defense Mechanism Reflected in Laksmi Pamuntjak's The Questions of Red Novel (2014): He told the writer about Amba's Defense Mechanism as reflected in Laksmi Pamuntjak's, so the writer could learn about the Psychoanalytic Approach from The Questions of Red Novel.

The fourth is Diyah Aslami Yamani (2007) , She wrote about Anxiety and Defense Mechanism of Charlie Gordon in Flowers For Algernon By Daniel Keyes. She told the writer about anxiety happens when the ego cannot deal with the demands of people desires, the constraints of reality and their own moral standards. Anxiety acts as a signal to the ego that things are not going right. As the result, some actions also occur to defense the pain and punishment that will be received and is known as defense mechanisms. So the writer could learn about Defense Mechanism from Anxiety and Defense Mechanism of Charlie Gordon.

That four previous research studies are different with this research because this movie is describe about a young teenager who struggling and try to survive in her life. Even she is smart, in fact it is not enough to get acceptance from others.

There are many issues bring here, like bullying, family relation and friendships. Also, there is no research found yet which use defense theory to analyze kind of this movie. So, the writer choose this theme as her thesis.

2.2 Character

Character is a person, animal, being, creature, or thing in a story. Character is the qualities that distinguish something from others. According to Kamisa, character is a person's psychological traits, morals, and character that distinguishes them from others. Character is a property of narrative and discursive textuality, even as it is also a moral and ethical category referring to individual and collective norms of behavior and motive. Characters come in a variety of shapes and sizes to help us understand the type of character in the film. Every story has a protagonist, who is the main character.

2.3 Characterization

Characterization is a method by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. According to Griffith, in order to develop the characterization, there are two ways which are done by the author: directly and indirectly. Direct characterization is clearly informative, and often uses the narrator, the protagonist, or the character themselves. The narration, "Akeelah grow up without self-confidence shy and introverted." is a form of direct or explicit characterization. Meanwhile, indirect or implicit characterization uses behavior, speech, and appearance, as well as the opinions of other characters.

From those understanding, we can conclude that characterization makes the writer know how hard the character makes effort in her life to reach a better life. Characterization gives the writer explanation that the character have a strong characterization which can make them reach what they want.

2.4 Freud Psychoanalysis Theory

Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939) was the founding father of psychoanalysis, a method for treating mental illness and also a theory which explains human behavior. Defense mechanisms are discussed in many of Sigmund Freud's writings, including *Inhibition, Symptom, and Anxiety* (1926). These defenses, on the one hand, characterize the kind of mental condition and, on the other, may be linked to the forming stages of the psychical machinery.

According to contemporary psychiatrist George Valliant, Freud's defense mechanisms can be compartmentalized into four different levels of dysfunction. The first level is considered pathological, and denial is one defense mechanism that falls under this umbrella. The second level is immature, and projection falls into this category. The third level is neurotic, with mechanisms like displacement and repression comprising this stage. The fourth category encompasses mature defenses, which includes sublimation.

2.5 Sigmund Freud's Personality

The id, ego, and superego are the three components of the mind that Freud identified in his Tripartite model of personality development proposed in his 1923 book, *The Interpretation of Dreams*. These are not components of the brain or the body, but rather systems.

Freud's psychoanalytic theory divides the mind into three parts: the id, which contains sexual and aggressive drives and hidden memories; the super-ego, which acts as moral conscience; and the ego, which is the more rational part that mediates between the id's desires and those of the super-ego.

2.5.1 Id

The id is the more primal aspect of the mind that craves instant fulfillment of innate or biological wants. wants like hunger, thirst, and a desire to have sexual relations are examples of biological wants, whereas needs like these that are not learnt are examples of innate needs. The id is the subconscious, instinctual side of oneself that acts without giving any attention to good and wrong.

Example: The instant impulse to obtain that ball will push you to seize it by whatever means, which is unreasonable and may lead to confrontation between the guys if your id passes through a boy playing with a ball. Therefore, Id is the wellspring of psychic energy, the driving force behind every other mental factor.

2.5.2 Ego

The ego is the rational and self-aware aspect of consciousness that is linked to the concept of reality. This implies that it strikes a reasonable middle ground between the needs of the ego and those of the super-ego in everyday life. Ego is self-aware and controls Id by using sound external-world reasoning.

Example: Your ego will act as a peacemaker between your Id and super-ego if you see the same kid playing with the ball and decide to go out and get a new ball for yourself. While your Id would be harmed by this choice, your Ego would make it since it satisfies your need for a ball without requiring you to engage in any inappropriate or socially unacceptable activity.

2.5.3 Super Ego

A person's Super-Ego is connected to the ethics and principles he comes to embrace throughout the course of his life. A person's moral compass may be sharpened by this, and it also serves as a limitation on less-than-ethical actions. A person's sense of what is good and wrong is shaped by his exposure to and internalization of the culture in which he lives.

Example: The super-ego wouldn't steal the ball from the youngster if it saw him playing with it since it knows that doing so is wrong and may cause a fight. That's why having a strong super ego may help keep you in check and on the straight and narrow. But if your Id is more powerful than your super-ego, you will take the ball by whatever means necessary.

2.6 Defence Mechanism Theory

Here are defense mechanisms from Sigmund Freud followed by short examples: Sigmund Freud was the one who came up with the ideas of the theory of the theory of consciousness and psychoanalysis. Both are theories behind the formation of a person's personality. The theory of psychoanalysis is a theory that explains the development of human personality. This element includes internal and external aspects.

2.6.1. Denial

It might be seen as a mental or emotional resistance to anything that has arisen. This allows some victims of trauma to ignore or downplay their experiences. Consider the guy who beats his wife but denies doing anything

wrong. Instead of protecting against worry, this strategy is used to pierce the narcissist's ego.

2.6.2. Repression

Repression is a self-regulating process that prevents the representations of unconscious needs from accessing the conscious mind and deciding on a course of action. We term our deliberate efforts in this direction "suppression" or "condemnation." Psychoanalytic therapy, according to Freud's writings, requires replacing repression with conviction, or the processing at a conscious level of the struggle with the unconscious demands. For example, may be found in a case of hysterical amnesia, in which the victim has performed or witnessed some disturbing act and then completely forgotten the act itself and the circumstances surrounding it.

2.6.3. Displacement

This mechanism occurs often and is well-known as a part of the dream-forming process. When an emotion is displaced, it becomes linked to something that is spatially close to the original stimulus. For example, if a manager screams at an employee, the employee doesn't scream back-but he may yell at his spouse later that night.

2.6.4. Sublimation

Sublimation is the process through which an undesirable want is turned into a more socially acceptable one. The aggressive need is sublimated in the spirit of competition, as seen, for instance, in the world of sports. First, there's projection, which occurs when one attributes one's own motivations or personality traits to an external factor. Exaggeratedly criticizing the prejudices and shortcomings of others is a hallmark of projection. As for the second, intellectualization, it's easy to see in mental processes that try to reframe a distressing or unpleasant reality as something philosophical. That's why a bad grade might make you think about how your life is going or how success is relative.

2.6.5. Rationalization

It provides rational justifications for some prejudices and unpleasant behaviors that the individual may exhibit. The narcissist's ego might benefit from this defense strategy as well. For example, a student who is rejected from her dream college may explain that she's happy to be attending a school that's less competitive and more welcoming.

2.6.6 Regression

It means regressing to an earlier sexual maturity level or using an older item. To the oral phase, for instance, when one can experience persistent hunger or the unwillingness to eat (anorexia).

2.6.7 Reaction – Formation

Simply turning a desire around provides a simple explanation. A desire for unethical sexual encounters, for instance, might transform into a compulsive need to clean.

2.6.8 Turning against One Self

One common strategy is for the woman to insist that the husband is innocent and that the adultery is her fault for not talking to him enough. Start by deviating into some dramatic play. It's the tendency to act involuntary in response to a demand that comes to light during analysis, confirming the existence of something that has been suppressed and denied. Next, we look at the importance of belonging. It's a reflection of how comfortable one feels asking for and accepting assistance from others.

As for the third kind of purpose inhibition, this is when a person settles for a watered-down version of his original goal. Altruism, fourth, is the selfless commitment to the needs of others at the expense of one's own. Fifth, evasion; not wanting to have anything to do with troublesome people or circumstances. Sixth, compensation, the growth of interest and activity in one area to make up for dissatisfaction in another. 7th, a sense of humor. It's making light of a serious matter in order to make others laugh.

2.6.9 Passive Aggressive

Is characterized by the expression of negative feelings. Resentment, and aggression in an unassertive passive way. For example, a person might comment

on a topic they know makes another person uncomfortable, such as their dating life or weight.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research's topic, materials, methodology, and technique are all covered in this section.

3.1 Subject Matter

Doug Atchison's *Akeelah and the Bee* was the subject of this article's character analysis. The focus of this film was on the main character. However, Akeelah's personality is the root of the story's issues.

Without Akeelah's this story is about Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old spelling enthusiast, who attends Crenshaw Middle School, a predominantly black school in South Los Angeles. She lives with her widowed mother Tanya, her three older siblings, Kiana, Devon, and Terrence, and her unnamed infant niece.

Akeelah is a strong woman, very smart in her class but she is very nervous on the spelling contest stage. She has only a few friends, her mother, her three older siblings and her unnamed infant niece. Her mother is a doctor and very disciplined, she was the head of the family since her husband died being shot by a stranger from the direction he wanted to go home. Since the tale and existential psychoanalytic theory share common ground, the authors drew on both. This study is based on Akeelah and the Bee's plot and characters.

3.2 Material

In this section, the research material is from *Akeelah and the Bee* by Doug Atchison. The writer also used the movie, also some articles from the internet and movie. The protagonist of this tale deviates from the norm by leaving the house. other prizes have been given to this film, including the Black Movie Award (2006) and other Black Entertainment Television (BET) prizes (2007). The author also studied under Sigmund Freud, the Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis, for a more in-depth understanding of the subject. The author learns more about the background of psychoanalysis and the reasoning behind it.

3.3 Approach

In this study, the author uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research, as defined by Fraenkel and Wallen (1993), is conducted to learn more about some aspect of a given relationship, situation, activity, or object's quality. In order to address the research question posed in Chapter I, the author employs a qualitative analysis of *Akeelah's* character based on the aforementioned criteria. The writer also draws on cinematic and online sources for this purpose.

3.4 Procedure

Here below the steps that the writer do in order to analyze the data:

1. Select the movie based on the main character who has a psychology issue.
2. Watch the movie ten times while make a note in order to help understand about the movie.

3. Find out the relevant theory that can analyze the Akeelah's character based on the movie. The theory that relevant with the movie is theory from Sigmund Freud defense mechanisms.
4. While watch the movie, the writer type the script that might identify as a data of defense mechanisms' theory.
5. Analyze the data by using the defense mechanisms' theory.

Find out the conclusion from the character of Akeelah in the movie Akeelah and the Bee.

