Jack's Inner Conflict in Mary Pope Osborne's *Dinosaurs Before Dark*

THESIS



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ABSTRACT

Firdaus, B. (2025). *Jack's Inner Conflict in Mary Pope Osborne's Dinosaurs Before Dark.* English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum. (II) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

This study aims to investigate the inner conflict experienced by the main character, Jack in the children's novel *Dinosaurs Before Dark* by Mary Pope Osborne. The novel depicts the adventure of two children in the world of dinosaurs and highlights various emotional tensions, especially the fear and discomfort experienced by Jack. Therefore, this study seeks to answer the following research problems: (1) how is Jack's inner conflict portrayed in *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, and (2) what defense mechanisms influence Jack's inner conflict in the novel.

This research uses a qualitative approach to obtain a clear and systematic description of the phenomenon being studied. A descriptive study in textual analysis is applied to examine Jack's narration and dialogue throughout the novel. The data are collected through close reading and marking the texts that reflect symptoms of inner conflict, then analyzed using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory on personality structure and defense mechanisms. The analysis continues by identifying the forms of conflict and the psychological strategies used by Jack. Finally, the collected data are connected with Jack's emotional context and character development within the story.

The results of the study show that Jack experiences inner conflict between the urge to explore and his fear of danger. To deal with this conflict, Jack uses several defense mechanisms such as denial, repression, and rationalization. This inner conflict becomes a means of emotional and cognitive development for the character and shows that children's literature can serve as a medium for character education and emotional understanding for its readers.

Keywords: children's literature, defense mechanisms, inner conflict, psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud

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ABSTRAK

Firdaus, B. 2025. *Konflik Batin Jack di Dinosaurs Before Dark Karya Mary Pope Osborn.* Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum. (II) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti konflik batin yang dialami oleh tokoh utama Jack dalam novel anak *Dinosaurs Before Dark* karya Mary Pope Osborne. Novel ini menggambarkan petualangan dua anak dalam dunia dinosaurus dan menunjukkan berbagai gejolak emosi, terutama ketakutan dan ketidaknyamanan yang dialami Jack. Oleh karena itu, dalam studi ini penulis akan menjawab rumusan masalah yaitu (1) bagaimana konflik batin Jack digambarkan dalam *Dinosaurs Before Dark* dan (2) mekanisme pertahanan diri apa yang memengaruhi konflik batin Jack dalam novel tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif untuk mendapatkan deskripsi yang jelas dan sistematis tentang fenomena yang dikaji. Studi deskriptif dalam analisis tekstual diterapkan untuk menganalisis narasi dan dialog Jack dalam novel. Data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan dan penandaan teks yang menunjukkan gejala konflik batin, kemudian dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud tentang struktur kepribadian dan mekanisme pertahanan diri. Analisis dilanjutkan dengan mengidentifikasi bentuk konflik dan strategi psikologis yang digunakan Jack. Akhirnya, data yang diperoleh dikaitkan dengan konteks emosional dan perkembangan karakter Jack dalam cerita.

Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa Jack mengalami konflik batin antara dorongan rasa ingin tahu dan ketakutannya terhadap bahaya. Untuk menghadapi konflik ini, Jack menggunakan beberapa mekanisme pertahanan diri seperti penyangkalan, represi, dan rasionalisasi. Konflik batin ini menjadi sarana perkembangan emosional dan kognitif tokoh serta menunjukkan bahwa sastra anak dapat menjadi media pembelajaran karakter dan pemahaman emosi bagi pembacanya.

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Kata Kunci: konflik batin, mekanisme pertahanan diri, psikoanalisis, sastra anak, Sigmund Freud

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