ABSTRACT

The Memory Keeper’s Daughter is one of interesting novel written by Kim Edwards. It brings Down syndrome as the political issue in the story. The story happens in 1964 which was common for Mongoloid babies to be sent away to special homes at birth. It tells about Dr. David Henry’s life, an orthopedic surgeon who has an unpleasant memory of losing his little sister because of Down syndrome. Shortly, David’s wife delivers a boy, Paul, and a girl, Phoebe. Phoebe is born with Down's syndrome. He asks Caroline to send his daughter to institution tells his wife that their daughter has died. This action later changes his entire life and marriage. He has to deal with his guilty feeling and the existence of his past memories of losing. That is the point which encourages the writer to analyze the changing of David’s personality deeply. Furthermore, this thesis aims to give explanation and the reason why David’s personality changes.

The method that is going to use is descriptive analysis, the writer will search for data from library and online research. Sigmund Freud’s anxiety and defense mechanism will be applied in order to analyze David’s personality. The aim of this study is to examine David’s behavior from Freud’s theory. The findings of the study are the anxiety of David and the defense mechanisms he does to control the anxiety.

As the result, his traumas in childhood, his guilty feelings to his wife, his son, and his daughter, his fear to bound with poverty become the major factor why he suffers from anxiety. This anxiety later leads him to develop certain defense
mechanisms like repression, displacement, sublimation, projection, denial and also rationalization to keep the anxiety unconscious.