ABSTRACT

Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden* (1911) is a novel portraying a lonely girl who tries to find and revive her uncle’s garden. It also tells the readers about the girl’s uncle, Archibald Craven, who isolates himself after the death of his wife ten years before. He also locks his wife’s favorite garden, buries the key, and does not allow anybody to talk about it. But his most serious action is putting his son in his room by assuming that Colin will become a cripple and hunchback.

Concerning Archibald’s psychological problems and the ways he cope with his anxiety, this study is concerned with Archibald’s defense mechanisms. Relating to the analysis, Freud’s defense mechanism as a part of his psychoanalysis is applied in order to see the defense mechanisms Archibald has used. Besides that, Freud’s interpretation of dream is also applied in order to see his unconscious eagerness which appears in Archibald’s dream. Since the dream has helped to recover his anxiety, the symbols of revival are also analyzed.

From the analysis it can be found that Archibald uses some defense mechanisms, such as repression, rationalization, isolation, and displacement in order to reduce his anxiety. Other things, such as forget-me-not flowers, garden, lilies and roses can be considered as Archibald’s symbols of revival because they remind him of his wife and give him moral teaching to live longer, since those abandoned things can still live well. It means that he does not need to fear with the memory of his wife but keep them in his heart. There is no need to dismiss them.