

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**EMOTIONAL VOID AND CHILDHOOD TRAUMA:
A FREUDIAN PSYCHOANALYSIS CRITICISM ON
MATT HAIG'S *THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY***



By

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
SURABAYA**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Sarjana Degree of English Department Faculty of Humanities
Universitas Airlangga**

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2022**

DECLARATION

I declare that this undergraduate thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the degree of Sarjana Humaniora (S.Hum) of the English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga is entirely my own work and has been solely the result of my own original research. Hereby, I confirm that:

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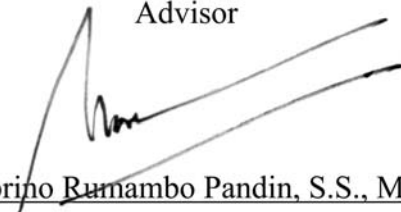
I dedicated my thesis to my mother and father for making me the happiest child and becoming the person I am today. This thesis could not have been completed without their limitless prayer, love, and support.

APPROVAL SHEET

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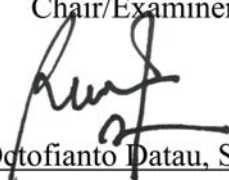
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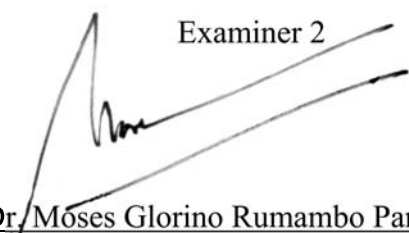
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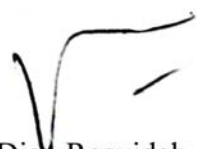
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If you want to be something you are not, you will always fail. Aim to be you. Aim to look and act and think like you. Aim to be the truest version of you. Embrace that you-ness. Endorse it. Love it. Work hard at it.

- *The Midnight Library*

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Abstract

Emotion is something that is always attached to every human and holds a substantial influence in affecting humans' cognitive processes. There are a lot of factors influencing the creation of emotion. One of the examples is childhood trauma. Childhood trauma can affect behavior problems such as emotion regulation. This study aims to reveal that there is a strong relationship between behavior and emotion, and childhood trauma can affect emotion in adulthood through the portrayal of the main character in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. It is a British science-fiction fantasy novel released in August 2020. The present study applies a qualitative approach and close reading by observing the textual context of the novel. In understanding the novel the intrinsic elements of the story such as plot, characters, and conflict will be analyzed. The data are analyzed by applying Freudian Psychoanalysis theory. The expected result will show that emotion in adulthood is affected by childhood trauma.

Keywords: childhood trauma, defense mechanism, psychoanalysis

Abstrak

Emosi adalah sesuatu yang selalu terhubung dengan manusia dan memegang peranan besar dalam mempengaruhi proses kognitif manusia. Banyak sekali faktor yang mampu mempengaruhi terciptanya emosi. Salah satu contohnya adalah trauma masa kecil. Trauma masa kecil dapat mempengaruhi masalah tingkah laku seperti regulasi emosi. Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap bahwa ada terdapat hubungan yang sangat erat antara tingkah laku dan emosi, dan trauma masa kecil dapat mempengaruhi keduanya melalui penggambaran tokoh utama pada novel *The Midnight Library* karangan Matt Haig. Buku ini adalah sebuah novel fiksi ilmiah fantasi yang diterbitkan di Inggris pada bulan Agustus 2020. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan *close reading* dengan cara mengobservasi konteks tekstual novel. Dalam upaya memahami novel, unsur intrinsik seperti alur, karakter, dan konflik akan dianalisa. Data yang telah dikumpulkan akan dianalisa menggunakan teori Freudian psychoanalysis. Ekspektasi hasil akan diketahui bahwa emosi saat dewasa sangat dipengaruhi oleh trauma masa kecil.

Kata kunci: trauma masa kecil, mekanisme pertahanan diri, psikoanalisis