

### Abstract

This study discusses about the impact of childhood trauma depicted in the antagonist character, Martin Vanger, in Stieg Larsson's novel *The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo*. This study focuses on Martin Vanger's sadistic personality as a product of his childhood trauma and the defense mechanisms developed from his traumatic childhood. Martin, as a victim of sexual abuse of his father develops strong impulse to rape and kill women. The impulse is suspected as the impact of his trauma and disruption on psychosexual stage. The analysis was conducted using Sigmund Freud's theory of Psychoanalytic Criticism. The parts of the theory that were carried out in this study were psychosexual stage and defense mechanism. In the process of analysis, the writer used qualitative method by providing descriptive analytic and justification through the events related to the analysis. The research was done by collecting the selected data, analyzing the statement of the problems, and concluding the findings. This study proved that Martin Vanger was fixated on anal stage because of his situation as an abused child. It causes the disruption and failure in the next stages. In addition, Martin Vanger also displayed repression, denial, reaction formation, rationalization, displacement, and fantasy as defense mechanisms towards his trauma. This indicates that the disruption on psychosexual stages and development of several defense mechanisms take significant part on the formation of personality.

**Keywords:** child sexual abuse, dysfunctional family, impulse, sadism.