AN ANALYSIS OF EGO DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF MR. BORKMAN IN
HENRIK IBSEN’S JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

THESIS

A thesis presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University as one of the requirements to get the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Studies

Written by:
Heny Kustiyah
NIM 070110101065

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2012
AN ANALYSIS OF EGO DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF MR. BORKMAN IN HENRIK IBSEN’S JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

THESIS

Written by:
Heny Kustiyah
NIM 070110101065

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2012
DEDICATION

Profoundly dedicated to:

1. My father and my other
2. My uncles and aunts
3. Kurnia Candra Safarina
4. My alma mater in faculty of letters

Jember, 11 Oktober, 2012

Heny kustiyah
Motto

Ambition leads to choices of success or failure
DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis “An Analysis of Ego Defense Mechanisms of Mr. Borkman in Hendrik Ibsen’s *John Gabriel Borkman* ” is an original piece of writing. I certify that analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree of any publication.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all source used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, 11 Oktober 2012

The writer

Heny Kustiyah

070110101065
APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the Examination Committee of English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Day : Thursday
Date : 11 Oktober 2012
Held in : Faculty of Letters, Jember University

The Examination Committee:

Secretary, Chairman,

Hari Suprono, S.S., MEIL Prof. Dr. H. Sutarto, M.A.

The Members:

1. Dra. Hj. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd. ........................................
   NIP. 195105211981032002

2. Drs. Imam Basuki, M.Hum. ........................................
   NIP. 196204141988031004

3. Erna Cahyawati, S.S., M.Hum. .................................
   NIP. 1973082711999032004

Approved by,
Dean of Faculty of Letters
Jember University

(Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed.)
NIP. 196310151989021001
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Allah the Lord of the universe for His blessing to me. He is the beneficent and the merciful Lord who became the only place to ask request and help. I express my thankfulness and gratitude to Him who gives me fluent way that makes me able to obtain a great deal of knowledge and complete writing my thesis.

In this great opportunity I would like to express my gratitude to those who are willing to help and support me. I would like to express my deep gratitude to:

1. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A., Dean of Faculty of Letters, and Drs. Albert Tallapessy, M.A, Ph.D, Head of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Jember for their approval to start writing this thesis.
2. Dra. Hj. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd., the first supervisor and, Drs. Imam Basuki, M.Hum., the second supervisor, for their guidance, assistance and patience during the writing process.
3. All of the lecturers of English Department who have given me the valuable references during my academic years.
4. All the staffs of Faculty of Letters and friends who have given their good service to me.
5. And, many others that I can not mention one by one who have given me their support and favor.

Jember 11 Oktober 2012

Heny Kustiyah
SUMMARY

An Analysis of Ego Defense Mechanisms of Mr. Borkman in Henrik Ibsen’s
*John Gabriel Borkman*, Heny Kustiyah, 070110101065, 56 pages, English
Department Faculty Of Letters, Jember University

The thesis discusses about the main character’s ego defense mechanisms in
the drama written by Henrik Ibsen *John Gabriel Borkman*, it was published in 1896
and the story tells about love and family. John Gabriel Borkman is a former director
of a bank who corrupts the bank’s money for his own life. That action makes his
family breaks down because he has bad relation with his wife and son. The incident
also affects his career; he is fired from his job as the Bank director.

Freud’s theory of personality will be used to discuss about the main character
ego defense mechanisms. Ego defense mechanisms are ego’s strategies to handle
conflict those are caused by id and super ego. There are many defense mechanisms
that are listed by Anna Freud but the researcher takes just ten of them that will
suitable with John Gabriel Borkman, those are projection, isolation, denial,
displacement, reaction formation, intellectualization, regression, repression,
sublimation and rationalization. The researcher wants to analyze this in order to find
out Mr. Borkman’s defenses, the reason and the effect of those defenses by
examining his dialogues and actions in Henrik’s Ibsen play *John Gabriel Borkman*.

The method to use in this thesis is inductive method that examines the
discussion from specific to general. The researcher uses the qualitative data as the
type of data and this thesis involves the description, analysis, and interpretation to
present the topic of the discussion. The type of research which is used in this study is
the library research because the thesis uses the books collection, the previous thesis and journals for the sources.

The result of the study shows that John Gabriel Borkman uses the six defenses, such as: projection, denial, isolation, displacement, reaction formation, rationalization. They are his way to handle his fear of punishment, fear of abandonment, shame, anger, and guilt. The defenses are also used to protect his self-esteem. The defense mechanisms are needed by everyone and each of them has different effect. There is a defense that brings positive and negative effects. In Mr. Borkman himself, the defense mechanisms give both the negative and positive effects. Those defenses bring negative effects to his relationship with his surrounding such as his lover, his family and his friend. Those make him far from them and destroy the bound between him and his family. The positive effects are just affecting to Mr. Borkman himself because by using the six defenses he can relieve and handle his fear, guilt, shame, and anger. Those can also protect his self esteem.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## AN ANALYSIS OF EGO DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF MR. BORKMAN IN HENRIK IBSEN’S JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRONTISPICE</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTTO</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL SHEET</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale.......................................................................... 1
1.2 The Problems to Discuss ................................................................ 5
1.3 The Goals of Study..................................................................... 5
1.4 The Method of Analysis.............................................................. 5

## CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 The Previous Research.................................................................. 7
2.2 The Approach to Use..................................................................... 9
2.3 Sigmund Freud’s Theory of Personality about Defense
   Mechanisms of Ego......................................................................... 10
   2.3.1 Denial.................................................................................. 16
   2.3.2 Projection............................................................................. 17
   2.3.3 Isolation.............................................................................. 18
CHAPTER 3: AN ANALYSIS OF MR. BORKMAN’S EGO DEFENSE MECHANISMS

3.1 Mr. Borkman’s Defense Mechanisms
3.1.1 Projection ................................................................. 29
3.1.2 Denial ........................................................................ 33
3.1.3 Isolation ..................................................................... 35
3.1.4 Displacement .............................................................. 38
3.1.5 Reaction Formation .................................................... 40
3.1.6 Rationalization ............................................................ 42

3.2 The Effects of Mr. Borkman’s Defense Mechanisms
3.2.1 His Household Condition ............................................ 45
3.2.2 His Friendship with Other People ............................... 46
3.2.3 His Relation with Ella Rentheim ................................. 48
3.2.4 His Way of Thinking .................................................. 49

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION................................................................. 53
BIBLIOGRAPHY ..................................................................... 54
APPEDIX:
1. The Bibliography of Henrik Ibsen ................................. xi