

**SIGNOLES' DEFENSE MECHANISM IN GUY DE
MAUPASSANT'S A COWARD**

THESIS



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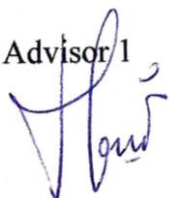
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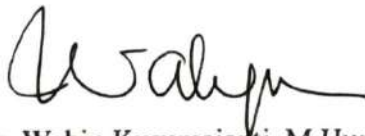
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ABSTRACT

Amalia, R.A. 2025. *Signoles' Defense Mechanism in Guy De Maupassant's A Coward*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, MA. (II) Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd.

This study aims to examine the influence of social pressure on Signoles' decision-making in a duel and analyze Signoles' defense mechanism when facing pressure. This short story adapts the phenomenon of dueling culture among men in the 1800s in France and describes the impact of the dueling culture. Therefore, the author exposes the problem's formulation in this study: (1) How does Signoles represent masculine men in the 18th century? (2) How does society represent pressure on Signoles' masculinity? (3) How does internal conflict contribute to Signoles' inability to engage in the duel effectively? (4) How does Signoles employ defense mechanisms to cope with anxiety and fear related to dueling?

This study uses a qualitative-descriptive approach that depict situations, phenomena, and events in depth and detail based on qualitative data. This study analyzes Signoles' dialogue and character depiction through narrative. The data was collected by reading the short story continuously and selecting relevant data then analyzed using the sociology of literature theory proposed by Alan Swingewood to examine the social pressure depicted in *A Coward* and the defense mechanism theory proposed by Sigmund Freud to analyze Signoles' efforts to restore a sense of security to his ego.

The results of this study indicate that the duelling culture in French society in the 18th century significantly influenced masculine men. Signoles who experienced social pressure due to fulfil masculinity standards, felt repeated anxiety until he experienced an internal conflict that affected his reputation, health, self-confidence, and decision-making. In addition, Signoles applied several self-defence mechanisms to restore their sense of security but experienced fatal failures that caused him to commit suicide. All of Signoles' efforts and thoughts illustrate that the standards of masculinity are complex and not measured by personal thought. Through a unique depiction, this short story illustrates that masculinity is not merely a theory but requires practice to fulfil its standards.

Keywords: social pressure, internal conflict, masculinity standard

ABSTRAK

Amalia, R.A. 2025. *Mekanisme Pertahanan Signoles di A Coward Karya Guy De Maupassant*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing (I) Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, MA. (II) Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji pengaruh tekanan sosial terhadap pengambilan keputusan Signoles dalam duel dan menganalisis mekanisme pertahanan Signoles saat menghadapi tekanan. Cerita pendek ini mengadaptasi fenomena budaya duel di kalangan pria pada tahun 1800-an di Prancis dan menggambarkan dampak dari budaya duel tersebut. Oleh karena itu, penulis memaparkan rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini: (1) Bagaimana Signoles merepresentasikan pria maskulin pada abad ke-18? (2) Bagaimana masyarakat merepresentasikan tekanan terhadap maskulinitas Signoles? (3) Bagaimana konflik internal berkontribusi terhadap ketidakmampuan Signoles untuk terlibat dalam duel secara efektif? (4) Bagaimana Signoles menggunakan mekanisme pertahanan untuk mengatasi kecemasan dan ketakutan terkait duel?

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif-deskriptif yang menggambarkan situasi, fenomena, dan peristiwa secara mendalam dan terperinci berdasarkan data kualitatif. Penelitian ini menganalisis dialog dan penggambaran karakter Signoles melalui narasi. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara membaca cerpen secara terus-menerus dan menyeleksi data yang relevan kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teori sosiologi sastra yang dikemukakan oleh Alan Swingewood untuk mengkaji tekanan sosial yang tergambar dalam *A Coward* dan teori mekanisme pertahanan yang dikemukakan oleh Sigmund Freud untuk menganalisis upaya Signoles dalam mengembalikan rasa aman pada egonya.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa budaya duel dalam masyarakat Prancis pada abad ke-18 sangat memengaruhi laki-laki maskulin. Signoles yang mengalami tekanan sosial karena memenuhi standar maskulinitas, merasakan kecemasan yang berulang hingga mengalami konflik internal yang memengaruhi reputasi, kesehatan, kepercayaan diri, dan pengambilan keputusannya. Selain itu, Signoles menerapkan beberapa mekanisme pertahanan diri untuk mengembalikan rasa amannya tetapi mengalami kegagalan fatal yang menyebabkannya bunuh diri. Semua upaya dan pemikiran Signoles menggambarkan bahwa standar maskulinitas bersifat kompleks dan tidak diukur dengan pemikiran pribadi. Melalui penggambaran yang unik, cerpen ini menggambarkan bahwa maskulinitas bukan sekadar teori tetapi membutuhkan praktik untuk memenuhi standarnya.

Kata Kunci: tekanan sosial, konflik internal, standar maskulinitas

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