

**ALTRUISM AS DEFENSE MECHANISM WITHIN EKKO'S
CHARACTERIZATION IN ANIMATED SERIES *ARCANE***



Intelligentia - Dignitas

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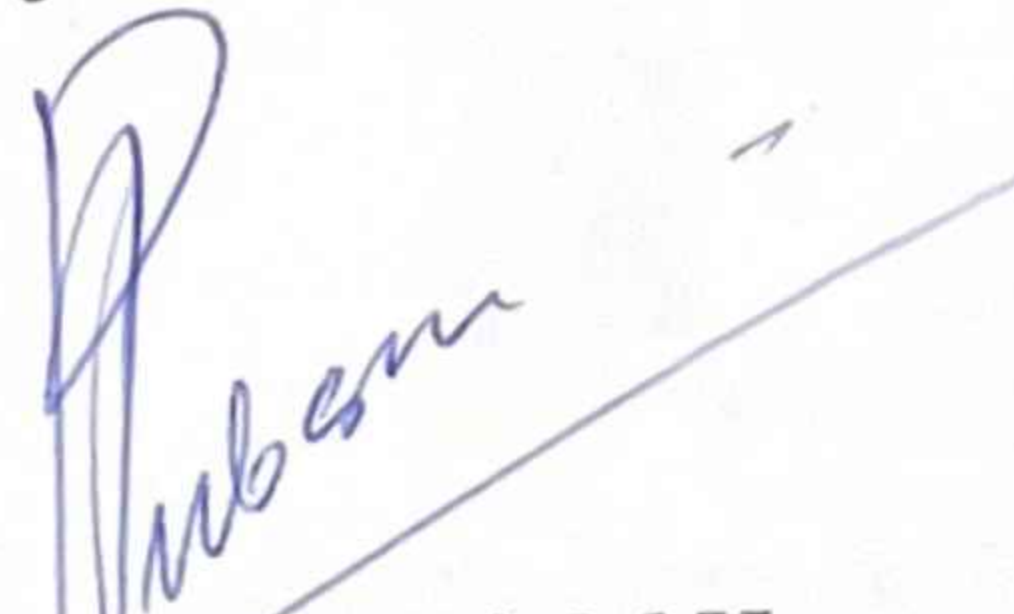
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ABSTRAK

Wibisono, Raihan Setio. 2025. *Altruisme sebagai Mekanisme Pertahanan dalam Karakterisasi Ekko pada Serial Animasi Arcane*. Skripsi: Jakarta, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

Studi ini menganalisis bagaimana altruisme berfungsi sebagai mekanisme pertahanan dalam karakterisasi Ekko dalam serial animasi *Arcane* (2021). Menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan metode deskriptif-analitis, studi ini menerapkan teori mekanisme pertahanan Anna Freud, khususnya altruisme, serta teori trauma dari Cathy Caruth untuk menganalisis bagaimana trauma yang belum terselesaikan membentuk perilaku pro-sosial Ekko. Data utama diambil dari adegan-adegan dan transkrip yang telah disortir sebelumnya dalam *Arcane*, yang dianalisis melalui pendekatan naratif dan semiotik. Temuan studi ini menunjukkan bahwa tindakan altruistik Ekko, seperti kepemimpinannya atas kelompok Firelights dan kecenderungannya untuk berkorban, bukan sekadar ciri kepahlawanan, melainkan berfungsi sebagai mekanisme pertahanan untuk menghadapi kehilangan emosional, rasa bersalah, dan kesedihan. Penerapan semiotika Peirce dan teori trauma Caruth lebih lanjut mengungkap bagaimana elemen visual seperti pencahayaan, gerakan tubuh, dan ekspresi wajah melambangkan permasalahan psikologis yang dialami Ekko. Hasil studi ini menunjukkan bahwa altruisme Ekko memiliki dua fungsi, yang pertama sebagai cara untuk melindungi orang lain, dan kedua sebagai sarana untuk mengelola trauma internal. Studi ini memberikan kontribusi pada kritik sastra psikoanalitik dan menegaskan kedalaman psikologis dalam narasi animasi.

Kata Kunci: *Arcane*, Ekko, altruisme, trauma, mekanisme pertahanan, semiotik



ABSTRACT

Wibisono, Raihan Setio. 2025. *Altruism as Defense Mechanism within Ekko's Characterization in Animated Series Arcane*. Undergraduate Thesis: Jakarta, English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This study analyzes how altruism operates as a defense mechanism within the characterization of Ekko in the animated series *Arcane* (2021). Using a qualitative approach and descriptive-analytical method, this study applies Anna Freud's theory of defense mechanisms, particularly altruism, and Cathy Caruth's trauma theory to analyze how Ekko's unresolved trauma shapes his pro-social behavior. The primary data were drawn from previously sorted scenes and transcripts in *Arcane*, which are examined through narrative and semiotic analysis. The findings of this study shows that Ekko's altruistic actions, such as his leadership of the Firelights and his self-sacrificing tendencies, are not merely heroic traits but function as defense mechanisms to cope with emotional loss, guilt, and grief. The application of Peircean semiotics and Caruth's trauma theory further reveals how visual elements like lighting, body movement, and facial expressions symbolize Ekko's psychological struggle. The result of this study shows that Ekko's altruism serves a dual function. The first one as a method of protecting others and also as a means of managing internal trauma. This study contributes to psychoanalytic literary criticism and affirms the psychological depth of animated narratives.

Keywords: Arcane, Ekko, altruism, trauma, defense mechanism, semiotic

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Raihan Setio Wibisono

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