

## UNDERSTANDING THE CHILD'S MIND THROUGH LITERATURE: A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY IN PINKALICIOUS INNER CONFLICT BY VICTORIA KANN AND ELIZABETH KANN

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 14-08-2025 Revised: 04-09-2025 Accepted: 08-10-2025 Published: 05-12-2025 Volume: 9 Issue: 3 DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.33019/lire.v9i3.520">https://doi.org/10.33019/lire.v9i3.520</a>	The purpose of this study is to analyze the internal conflict experienced by the main character in the children's literature work "Pinkalicious" by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann. Furthermore, this study also analyzes the self-defense mechanisms, specifically denial and rationalization attitudes, of the main character, Pinkalicious, when facing problems through the lens of Sigmund Freud's psychological personality theory. Then, the research method employed in this study is a descriptive qualitative approach. The data obtained in this study came from the short story "Pinkalicious" by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann, in the form of quotations and dialogues, which reveal the personality structure of the main character, Pinkalicious. Regarding the results of this study, the Id and Ego structures control the Pinkalicious character's attitude in everyday life. However, the superego can reduce the attitudes of the id and ego, which makes Pinkalicious a little loosened. As a result, the form of self-defense mechanisms carried out by the main character, Pinkalicious, only focuses on denial and rationalization. Therefore, this greatly influences the personality of the main character, Pinkalicious, in terms of decision-making.
<b>KEYWORDS</b> <i>Self-mechanism, Internal Conflict, Pinkalicious, Children literature.</i>	

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is written communication such as poetry, drama, and fiction that provides an account of human experiences (Daulay & Ulfah, 2022). According to Diana in (Nurfarahana, Setiawan, & Suprpto, 2023), literary works are the author's experiences of everyday life, such as social conditions in society, which are conveyed through the ideas and values expressed by the author through their characters. Therefore, literary works are presented in a standardized manner regarding what is conveyed through the form of a person's life, and ultimately, this expression is conveyed in the form of language. Literary works can be enjoyed by all age groups, from children to adults.

According to Nurgiyantoro in (Kusuma, 2022), children literature presents enjoyable entertainment wrapped in stories to encourage readers to imagine a life full of tension. According to Rosid in (Rachman & Wahyuniarti, 2021), childhood is the happiest phase of life, where this phase has a colorful world of play. During the childhood phase, children experience daily life filled with fantasy or imagination, accompanied by developmental stages. The conflicts addressed in children's literature involve emotional, sensory, cognitive, and moral aspects, all packaged in linguistic form.



Children literature reflects imaginative works using both spoken and written language so that they can be understood by children, according to Santosa in (Luthfiyanti & Fithratunnisa, 2017). *Pinkalicious* is a children literature work by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann that tells the story of a little girl who experiences internal conflict within herself, leading to negative consequences due to eating too many pink cupcakes. The story is presented in an enjoyable manner.

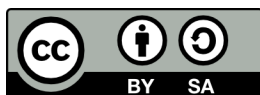
The characters in the 2012 children literary work *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann have a storyline that is appealing to readers. The child character named Pinkalicious lives her life like other children. She is portrayed as a cheerful child with an obsession with the color pink, evident in both her food choices and the objects she prefers. The main character, Pinkalicious, constantly struggles to resist eating too many cupcakes made by her mother, despite being warned.

As a result of her bad behavior, Pinkalicious body gradually turns pink. At first, she wasn't worried and thought the changes in her body were fun. Unbeknownst to her, this indicated that her body was unhealthy due to eating too many cupcakes. Despite being forbidden, Pinkalicious secretly continued to enjoy them, worsening her condition. As a result, she began to realize the importance of living healthily and started accepting and enjoying healthy green foods for her own good.

Based on the background of the problem above, *Pinkalicious's* children's literature has an internal conflict within itself, starting with an obsession with a certain food, which she is unaware will have a negative impact on her body. When facing issues with her changing body, she tries to make the situation as enjoyable as possible. This reflects a person's anxiety to mask the discomfort caused by what is actually happening. Internal conflict and excessive anxiety can hinder a child's psychological development. When studying literary works, it is important to consider values that align with the work itself. *Pinkalicious* is one literary work that explores human psychology. This can be linked to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis. The main character, Pinkalicious, exhibits personality structures such as the id, ego, and superego, and then displays defense mechanisms when facing problems. According to Sigmund Freud's concept, Pinkalicious here attempts to accept the cause and effect of her own behavior due to her excessive obsession with her mother's pink cupcake.

Sigmund Freud's opinion that human personality comes from life experiences and from factors brought from birth, namely, the instincts of a human being. Id is part of the instinct or lust to seek pleasure, which has two types that affect human personality patterns about life and death, according to Nurgiyantoro in (Tiara & Haryanti, 2024). The way the id works adapts to a principle of satisfaction to get a sense of comfort, according to Minderop in ((Saputra, Ikhwan, & Kurniawan, 2024). Of course, the Id has a function as a biological aspect of the human self to cause the presence of ego and superego which makes the impulse of the id uncontrollable or not in accordance with reality.

A function as a biological aspect of the human self to cause the presence of ego and superego which makes the impulse of the id uncontrollable or not in accordance with reality. Meanwhile, the ego acts as a reality principle that thinks about reality to fulfill the satisfaction of needs in a plan. According to Sigmund Freud, the ego is a defense that can withstand the passions and instincts of the superego against the ego (Saputra, Ikhwan, & Kurniawan, 2024). According to



Minderop, the existence of ego is caused by human needs that require harmony with objective reality according to Setiaji (Krisnanto, Sadewa, & Kurniawan, 2024). The ego acts as a control over the id regarding reality situations and the ego is a trait that comes from the subconscious. Basically, the ego is a form of satisfying the id itself. Then, the superego is part of the instinctual, moral and rational elements (Seriefaza, Vardani, & Citraningrum, 2025).

The superego is related to the moral message of a person who has the purpose of seeing and judging right and wrong things and an action that is appropriate or not among the community (Seriefaza, Vardani, & Citraningrum, 2025). Of course, this superego attitude shows an attitude of guilt when someone commits a prohibited act (Ashlah & Karman, 2024). Thus, the superego represents a form of resistance from the id and ego, serving different functions and meanings.

On the other hand, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory also discusses the dynamics of personality, one of which is the defense mechanism (Defense Mechanism). This defense mechanism comes from the human consciousness, which has the aim of protecting itself from an uncomfortable atmosphere. One form of self-defense mechanism is denial, this denial explains that a person will reject a reality as an excuse to cover the hurt.

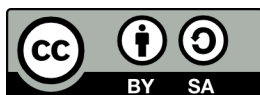
Additionally, it discusses the rationalization mechanism, a component of the self-defense mechanism. The rationalization mechanism justifies all thoughts and behaviors that, in fact, are not true according to reasoning. The reasons used aim to justify one's behavior and seek acceptance from those around. The factor of the emergence of this rationalization mechanism is to reduce the fear of doing wrong.

Thus, this study uses psychological theory to analyze a problem of the main character, Pinkalicious, because the entire storyline and conflict show a clear manifestation of the relationship between id, ego, and superego, as well as ways of self-protection such as rationalization, attitudes, and self-defense mechanisms from the problems experienced by the character Pinkalicious from psychological theory by Sigmund Freud.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This study examines the concept of psychoanalysis in relation to Sigmund Freud's theory of personality structure. Sigmund Freud's theory of personality (Fikri, Ismail, Zainiyati, & Kholis, 2023) explains that psychoanalysis focuses on human consciousness or observable behavior. Freud also explains that studies on the unconscious aspects of human beings primarily encompass psychological disorders caused by issues in daily life, which lie beneath the human subconscious. Through Sigmund Freud's theory, the children's literature work *Pinkalicious* depicts a child who has internal conflicts with herself, where she also uses denial and rationalization to reduce anxiety in her mind. With Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, one can gain insight into the structure of personality and the mechanisms of behavior in a literary work.

There are various literary works that have been studied using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory, one of which is a study by (Rachman & Wahyuniarti, 2021). The study discusses the personality structure of the main character, Lilian, in Ramya Hayarestha Sukardi's novel *Pink Cupcake*. The results of the analysis describe the development of a child who is able to control her emotions in her environment. Another study by (Chamalah & Nuryyati, 2023) also examines the psychological development of the main character using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. The results of this study show that the main character has different analysis



results. This is due to a person's life experiences in a literary work. Furthermore, (Saputra, Ikhwan, & Kurniawan, 2024) discuss the psychology of the main character in the novel "*Rupanya Aku Bisa*" by Maria Klavia, which shows the dynamics of personality according to Sigmund Freud, namely a child who strives to understand themselves.

Based on the three studies above, this study shares similarities, particularly in the use of Sigmund Freud's psychological theory to describe the main character's self-acceptance in the storyline. In addition, the difference between previous studies and this study lies in the formulation of the problems raised.

The research questions addressed in this study are as follows: (1) What internal conflicts does the main character in the story *Pinkalicious* experience? (2) What defense mechanisms does *Pinkalicious* employ when facing conflicts between her desires? (3) Can the main character's rationalization overcome the problems she faces? Thus, this study aims to provide readers with benefits or positive value by applying Sigmund Freud's psychological theory.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative method approach. The qualitative method is a research approach that aims to gain insight or knowledge through a process of understanding and discovery. According to Bogdan and Taylor in (Abdussamad, 2021) qualitative research is research that produces data such as written and oral as well as the behavior under study. Of course, qualitative research is a scientific tool used or applied in social science and education by a researcher. Qualitative serves to be used as knowledge through an understanding.

Therefore, qualitative research is research based on events that occur in human life. In general, qualitative research is concerned with human behavior or inductive thinking patterns based on participatory objective experiences in the social environment. The social environment in question is of course in the form of present, past and future conditions related to social, culture and economy. This research focuses on individuals and groups on certain problems and tries to understand the impact of this. Then, this research must be based on theory when analyzing an object and in essence qualitative research pays attention to a person's behavior and understands the structure of their language from the experience of an individual or group to get the required data results.

Descriptive research is a method for describing experiences and understanding in accordance with the characteristics of the research. At the time of the research, the author carried out the action to reread a literary work to become a source of discussion data. Furthermore, this qualitative method uses an approach to examine the psychological review of the main character in children literature, namely the short story *Pinkalicious*. This psychological theory focuses on character experience based on the main character's behavior. The literary work entitled *Pinkalicious* is very interesting which is identical to the pink color of the character published in the Maya SK Merpati Japan library. Techniques at the time of data collection or information in this study using re-reading techniques by adjusting to the formulation of problems such as:

- 1) Repeatedly reading the research data source in the children literature work *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann.
- 2) Identify the content of the novel, especially those related to the psychology of the main character in the children's literature work *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth



Kann using Sigmund Freud's theory of personality psychology, namely id, ego, superego, and self-defense mechanisms.

- 3) Record the formulation of research problems to be discussed in the form of sentences and paragraphs in accordance with the personality structure data on the main character of Pinkalicious.

Then, the data described in accordance with the language structure is related to the problem formulation and explained using Sigmund Freud's personality theory.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 The internal conflict of the main character in the children literature work *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann.

#### A. Addicted to sweet pink cupcake

In the *Pinkalicious* storyline, it describes the character of a little girl who likes the color pink. Her passion for the color pink makes her interested in everything in the form of goods and food, for example, liking her mother's homemade cakes. In the event, *Pinkalicious* is described as being at home because the weather outside is raining. Therefore, her mother invites positive activities, namely making cakes at home with her child. The main character here is also described as a cheerful child who always wants to be obeyed what she wants for her pleasure.

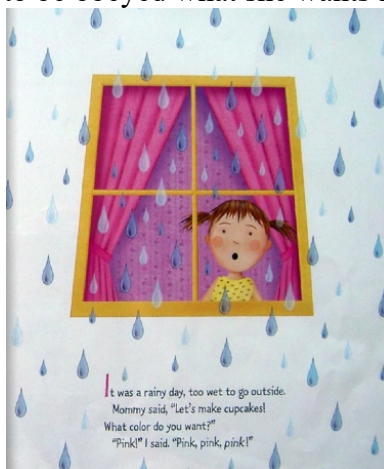


Figure 4.1 *Pinkalicious* was very excited when she mentioned the color of the cake she wanted.

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

Her pleasure when invited by her mother to make cakes at home is also narrated through a sentence, namely: "Mommy said, *Let's make cupcakes! What color do you want?*" "Pink!" I said. "Pink, pink, pink!" (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The sentence shows that *Pinkalicious* wanted the color pink for the cake she made to please herself. By repeatedly saying pink with passion makes it clear that she has a strong enough interest. This reflects the id drive that works as the pleasure principle. According to Sigmund Freud, the Id is the individual trying to get what they want, they or what is referred to as lust, which exists in humans, and tries to obtain pleasure to avoid pain (Seriefaza, Vardani, & Citraningrum, 2025). In addition, *Pinkalicious* is also described by the main character who is cheerful when helping her mother make cakes, this can be seen from the following sentence:



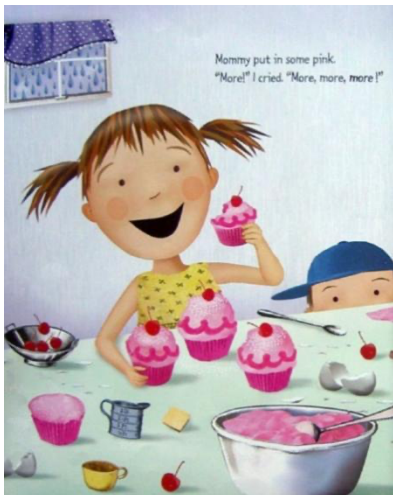


Figure 4.2 *Pinkalicious* expressing her excitement.

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

When making the cake, she is always described as the main character who always wants to decorate the cake with pink color continuously. This can be seen from the quote, namely: "Mommy put in some pink. "More!" I cried, More, more, more!" (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The expression in the sentence shows the urge of the id that is not restrained. The goal is to get satisfaction for her request without thinking about the long-term risks which then turn into addictive effects. This is supported by the instinct of the unconscious that controls the thoughts and actions of Pinkalicious. According to (Krisnanto, Sadewa, & Kurniawan, 2024) id is a personality system that exists since we were born related to psychology such as instincts, impulses. Therefore, the id is not able to distinguish between right and wrong. The occurrence of Pinkalicious addiction continues when she begs for more cupcakes. this can be seen in the following sentence:

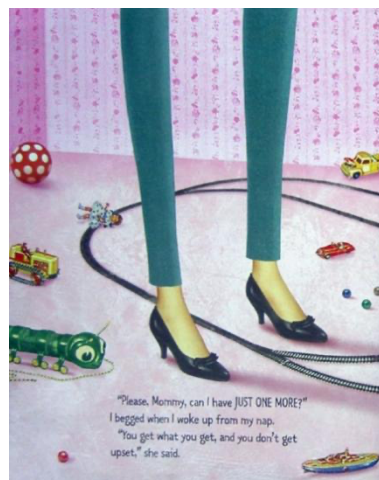


Figure 4.3 *Pinkalicious* was upset because her parents didn't her eat pink cupcakes anymore.

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)



When she asked to eat another pink cupcake, her mother had forbidden her because she had eaten too many pink cupcakes, causing her to feel upset and rebellious. she conveys her feelings which can be seen from the sentence: *"Please, Mommy can I have JUST ONE MORE!"* (Kann & Kann, 2008).

Illustrates that the protagonist is starting to lose control of her own desires. Pinkalicious protagonist doesn't care about the consequences of eating too many pink cupcakes despite her parents warnings. The emergence of problems from desires that cannot be restrained is called the Id, and the emergence of the ego slowly begins to realize the consequences of the actions she takes such as the discoloration of her body. In accordance with Freud's explanation, the ego functions as a mediator between the desires of the id (instinctive urges) and the demands of reality, which in this case are represented by prohibitions or rules from parents. According to (Faixxin, Rohman, & Wijayanti, 2025) By trying to fulfill individual pleasures that are limited by reality, the Ego is between two conflicting and guarded forces. Then, in this phase, it causes guilt for the actions she did with the condition of the body that has turned pink. This caused anxiety in her mother who then took Pinkalicious to the doctor to have her abnormal condition checked.

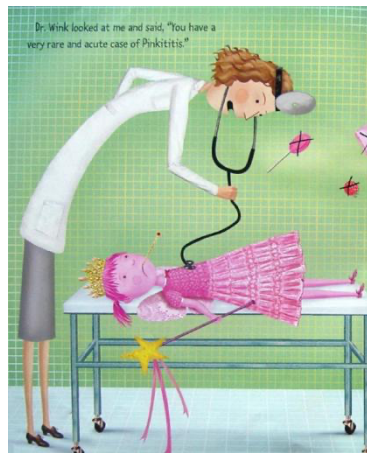
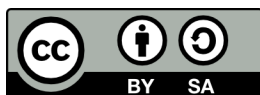


Figure 4.4 Pinkalicious being examined by a doctor

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

When her mother became worried about her daughter's condition, she immediately took Pinkalicious to the doctor to check her condition. It turns out that her illness is described in the following sentence: *"Dr Wink looked at me and said. "You have a very rare and acute case of pinkitis."* (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The quote explains that Pinkalicious had pinkitis as a result of her actions. Therefore, Pinkalicious began to realize that eating pink cupcakes excessively caused bad problems to her body. Then, Pinkalicious here tries to eat healthy foods to get herself back to normal. This is the superego of the main character Pinkalicious. Superego is a person's idea of moral values that are considered right or wrong (Anzar, Muliana, & Amelia, 2025). Therefore, the main character of Pinkalicious accepts the consequences of her actions despite being in the stage of trying not to get addicted to eating pink cupcakes.



## B. Crossing the prohibited line

Pinkalicious as the main character enters a phase where she crosses the forbidden line of a rule that she should obey. In this phase the main character experiences inner conflict again driven by a sense of desire for pleasure by ignoring existing rules. Therefore, in this phase, she does not have a long enough thought because for her, yesterday's action was indeed a mistake but she still has the right to pleasure herself. The following sentence shows that she still has the drive of her desire:



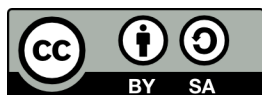
Figure 4.5 *Pinkalicious* is trying to take cupcakes secretly

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

According to the protagonist, she has the right to eat more cupcakes for the sake of her wishes because she had previously followed the rules. The feelings of the main character can be seen from the following sentence: "*I took just one more pink cupcake and ate it. Then, I licked the pink cupcake wrapper clean*". (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The quote depicts that Pinkalicious took the pink cupcake and licked it clean. The quote emphasizes that the main character enjoyed the pink cupcake without any leftovers. It is clear that the conflict is part of the personality structure, namely id. According to Husin (Istikawati, 2024), id is an instinct that every person has from birth. If that desire is fulfilled, then the person will feel happy.

When the main character takes one more pink cupcake, it is a basic action for spontaneous satisfaction. Therefore, it is from the main character's instinct that there is no consideration or compromise with the ego's reality in this matter. Even though she follows the rules to eat vegetables, she still does the forbidden things because, for her, it is natural. She believes that getting a cupcake pin is her personal right.



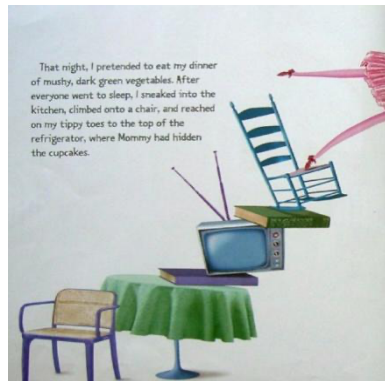


Figure 4.6 *Pinkalicious tries to find the pink cupcakes hidden by her mom.*

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

The main character tries to find pink cupcakes secretly when all her family is asleep at night. This shows a sense of eagerness which is illustrated by the sentence, namely: *"After everyone went to sleep, I sneaked into the kitchen, climbed onto a chair, and reached on my tippy toes to the top of the refrigerator, where Mommy had hidden the cupcakes"* (Kann & Kann, 2008).

It shows that the main character Pinkalicious that she does not immediately take action to make herself happy because she actually realizes that there must be consequences from this. Therefore, she tried to follow healthy eating such as green vegetables in order to get the pink cupcake secretly at night after all her family had gone to bed. She secretly took one pink cupcake without guilt because Pinkalicious felt that she had followed the rules during the day. This shows that the ego works based on reality even though the id still continues to satisfy the craving in a way that is safe for her. The results of the analysis in the phase of crossing the forbidden line on the main character Pinkalicious show that she has not been able to fully restrain her lust. This is due to the strong desire from within to fulfill the sense of desire and sense of pleasure as soon as possible for the in the phase of realizing there is a mistake, the main character has an effort to correct the mistake.

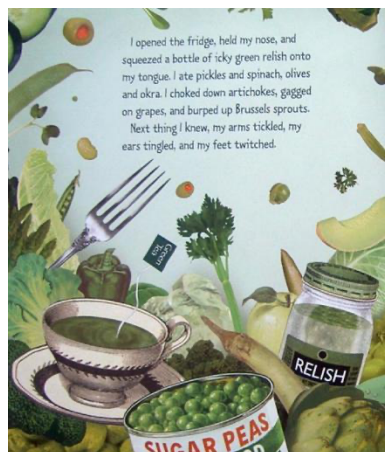


Figure 4.8 *Pinkalicious tries to live healthy.*

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)



The main character tries to be a character who follows the rules of eating healthy foods, such as green vegetables. This is described in the following sentence: “I open the fridge, hold my nose, and squeeze a bottle of icky green relish onto my tongue” (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The quote describes a child accepting the social rules made for her for the good of the future. Although she has a dislike for eating vegetables, she continues to try to eat them by covering her nose in order to keep implementing the rules. This indicates that the ego has taken over, attempting to restore balance between the superego and the impulsive desire (id). To achieve a better physical and mental condition, the Ego chooses a more rational, albeit difficult, compromise path.

The analysis of the problems experienced by the main character, Pinkalicious, shows her attitude related to the three elements of personality, namely: Id, Ego, and Superego, according to Sigmund Freud. The three elements of personality can overcome internal conflicts within themselves. During this period of self-development, the main character Pinkalicious began to become a better person. Previously, she couldn't resist consuming pink cupcakes made by her mother, which made her condition worse. The condition of changing her body into a soft pink color did not deter the main character of Pinkalicious from continuing to eat unhealthily. However, the encouragement from the superego here really helps her personality realize that the orders and support from her doctor and parents are good actions for her future good.

#### **4.2 Defense mechanisms in the main character of “Pinkalicious” to overcome conflicts of desire**

Defense mechanisms are a process of the human consciousness to protect itself from perceived anxiety. Obviously, the mechanism has the purpose of maintaining a sense of discomfort from external actions or threatening impulses that arise. Self- defense mechanisms have 10 elements, but in this analysis only relates to two self-defense mechanisms, namely denial and rationalization according to Sigmund Freud.

Self- Defense mechanisms (denial) are an attitude of denial when someone gets news of facts that are very difficult to accept and will make it difficult to adapt to the social environment according to (Prastya, Muhammadiyah, & Kurniawan, 2023). While, this rationalization is one part of the ego defense mechanism, namely the attitude of a person to justify her actions. Where someone will not realize that their actions are not good actions. This is done to find their own reasons. According to (Ashlah & Karman, 2024) the impetus for this rationalization mechanism comes from desires or emotional urges that are difficult to accept consciously.

##### **A. Denail of reality**

The results of the analysis of the main character Pinkalicious, when she experienced an internal conflict that resulted in physical changes in her that required the main character to obey the rules to restore her condition to normal. After hearing that she has pinkitis as a result of eating too many pink cupcakes, the main character is affected by denial where she does not believe that she has pinkitis. Defense mechanism in the form of denial is depicted by the main character of Pinkalicious when she started having the disease, she always thought that there was nothing to worry about her body condition.

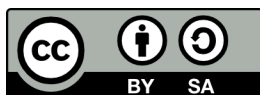




Figure 4.9 Bans for the good of Pinkalicious.

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

The protagonist doesn't feel like she has an illness that anyone needs to worry about. This is described in the following sentence: *"I guess that's not the worst thing that could happen. Just call me PINKERBELLA!"* (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The quote above shows that the main character is in a state of anxiety about the facts she is experiencing, which is called denial. Denial is the rejection of reality as it is experienced, including thoughts and feelings (Febrianto, Irma, & Kurniawan). When she heard the bad news, she tried to sigh slowly and ease the tension in the room. She even created a new identity as pinkerbelle. This illustrates her refusal to acknowledge and accept the seriousness of the problem she was facing. Pinkalicious still thinks there is nothing to worry about her condition. The quote shows that the main character is experiencing denial to avoid unpleasant feelings. Then denial was shown again by Pinkalicious when her parents were busy calling doctors to consult for her health.



Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

The main character is experiencing anxiety so she covers it up by finding a new identity for her own pleasure. This can be shown in the following quote: *"my hair was the color of raspberry sorbet, I cried because I was so beautiful. I even had PINK tears. I put on my pink fairy princess dress and twirled in front of the mirror, while Mommy speeddialed the pediatrician"*. (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The main character is trying to find a way to conceal the anxiety caused by the discoloration on her body. She feels that she likes the color pink therefore the change makes her feel like a



princess by wearing a dress. Although she says there is nothing to worry about, it is a self-defense mechanism to reduce anxiety over what she is experiencing, or called denial, from the main character of Pinkalicious when she accepts the changes in her body condition.

The analysis of this problem reveals that there is an attitude of denial of reality, which serves to cover up the sadness of what is happening. Of course, imagining so as not to drag on with anxiety over the ban. The attitude of the denial mechanism employed by the main character, Pinkalicious, is a human self-defense mechanism rooted in the subconscious. Of course, at this stage of denial, the main character Pinkalicious tries to think positively and imagine hiding sadness and anxiety. This is an impulse that helps to mask the discomfort of the prohibition order she must carry out.

### B. Justification of the wrong actions of the main character Pinkalicious

Rationalization is a self-defense mechanism that distorts reality with the aim of finding racial reasons in order to be socially acceptable and to hide mistakes or wrong actions. This rationalization makes a person's character unable to accept reality for their own benefit. In the short story *Pinkalicious*, there is an attitude of rationalization in the main character, where she distorts the facts to hide her bad habits in order to be accepted in her family.

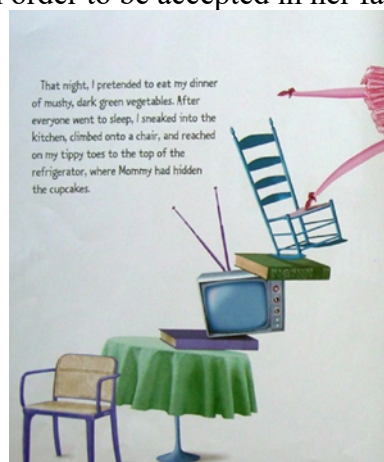


Figure 4.11 The main character felt her action were worth it.

Source: (Kann & Kann, 2008)

The main character tries to find where the pink cupcakes are so that her mother can eat them as soon as possible. This shows a sense of eagerness, which is illustrated by the sentence, namely: "That night, I pretended to eat my dinner of mushy, dark green vegetables. After everyone went to sleep, I sneaked into the kitchen, climbed onto a chair, and reached on my tippy toes to the top of the refrigerator, where Mommy had hidden the cupcakes" (Kann & Kann, 2008).

The main character exhibits rationalization when she secretly takes the pink cupcake that her mother has hidden. She thinks that she has the right to eat the pink cupcake as a reward for eating the vegetables she dislikes. To mitigate the guilt associated with her actions, this perspective serves as a rationalization mechanism.

Then, from the above statement, it is evident that Pinkalicious employed a rationalization mechanism to justify her wrong behavior. Although the rules were made for her good, the main



character could not obey the prohibition not to eat the pink cupcake anymore. Therefore, she uses the self-defense mechanism of rationalization secretly so as not to be scolded by her mother when eating her favorite pink cupcake.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis of the personality of the characters in the children's literary work *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann, it can be concluded that using the study of the personality structure of Sigmund Freud's literary psychology theory is divided into three elements of personality, namely: id, ego, and superego. The state of id in *Pinkalicious* character refers to the subconscious. The ego in *Pinkalicious* responds quickly to the illness in her body due to her actions, although it is difficult for her to restrain her ego from eating unhealthy foods. The superego possessed by *Pinkalicious* is a figure who tries to become a better person by overcoming the problems he creates due to his actions. Then, this children's literature work also analyzes the self-defense mechanism in *Pinkalicious*, where she experiences anxiety so that she covers up her problems with denial. Then, the rationalization self-defense mechanism in *Pinkalicious* begins to justify her actions.



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