

## **A Study of the Defense Mechanism in The Characters of the Novel Viragaya**

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### **Abstract**

Viragaya novel written by Martin Wickramasinghe in 1956 is a turning point in Sri Lankan modern literature. The psychology that emerged with the advent of Sigmund Freud strongly influenced literary criticism in the early 20th century. As a result, psychological novels emerged in the 1960. Among these, Viragaya novel is important because it took a different path in the art of novels. Defense mechanism is a very important part of Freud's psychoanalytic theory. What is the 'Defense Mechanism' seen by the characters in the novel Viragaya? was the research problem in this study. The purpose is to identify the defense mechanism seen in the characters of the novel Viragaya. This research is a qualitative research and data was explored through library and internet sources. The defense mechanism of the characters could be identified through the characters of Aravinda, Menaka, Bathi, Sarojani and Aravinda's father. Mainly Defense Mechanism could be identified in Aravinda's character. Among them, Repression" Denial" Reaction Formation were abundant' For an example Aravinda always expelled his feelings to the Unconscious mind. Repression is found there. The projection was seen through the character of Menaka. For an example Menaka is always scolding Sarojani and Bhathi about their bad behavior. But Menaka also has same bad qualities. She finds relief by assigning her mistakes to others' Finally, it can be concluded that these defense mechanism has led to the building of the personality structure of these characters.

**Keywords:** Viragaya Novel, Defense Mechanism, Characterization, Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyticism

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