

ABSTRACT

Core Issue of Sakura Yamauchi in Yoru Sumino's *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* (2015)

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During the phases of life, human always have different ways to express their feelings. It is represented in literary works to make it easier for people to understand the pattern. The aim of this study is to explore the core issues followed by the self-defense mechanisms applied by Sakura Yamauchi, the deuteragonist character of a novel entitled *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* by Your Sumino. The writer started with observing the representation, reaction, and basic motives of Sakura Yamauchi to figure out the core issues she experiences. The writer used descriptive qualitative design where the writer needed to compile the primary data from the novel, that would be supported by the supporting theories: i.e. Character and Characterization, Human Behavior, Motives, and Psychoanalysis. After doing the analysis, the writer found three core issues of Sakura Yamauchi: Fear of Engulfment, Fear of Intimacy, and Low Self-Esteem. The findings of the core issues led the writer to the self-defense mechanisms applied: Selective Perception, Avoidance, Sublimation, and Reaction Formation. At the end of the study, the writer concluded Sakura Yamauchi experienced the core issues that were mostly caused by her pancreatic disease and relationship with her closest relatives. She tried to reduce the pressure by applying self-defense mechanisms that affected her behavior, decision, and motivation.

Key Terms: Core issues, motives, psychoanalysis theory, self-defense mechanism.