

**V'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT SYSTEM
IN JAMES MCTEIGUE'S V FOR VENDETTA MOVIE (2005):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

All psychological phenomena are unified within the individual in a self-consistent manner. Literature as the reflection of human activity is created for understanding human's existence along with all of this mental and inner self-problem. Literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being that is why literature has closed relationship to psychology (Wellek, 1956: 94).

The psychology is a science or theory anatomy of mental personality proposed by Sigmund Freud, and psychology is divided into several parts and one of psychology parts is individual psychology. Individual psychology proposed by Alfred Adler is a science or theory of personality which emphasizes the uniqueness of each individual and the processes by which people overcome their limitations and struggle to reach their life goals. From the definition above, it means that individual psychology seeks to understand how human beings solve their limitation or sense of being inferior by doing some efforts to become superior, perfect or complete in order to achieve their life goal.

Literature is human's creature such as drama, novel, short story, poetry, poem, etc; it is based on the phenomena of life, many problems of society or just imagination it. The author draws the condition of the society, although the literary work is not authentic datum as like history. So the author

writes condition of society as he writes a history or reads history (Hardjana, 1985: 73).

November 5th 1997 in London, the vigilante known as V rescues a young woman, Evey Hammond, from a gang of police agents known as "Fingermen" who are about to rape her after arresting her for prostitution. After dispatching the fingermen, V then takes her to his secret lair, which he calls "The Shadow Gallery". There, Evey tells V her life story, describing the nuclear war of the late 1980s that leads to anomie, and then of the fascist coup d'état in which her father becomes a political prisoner.

A new government under the name of the old has risen. Investigation of V's bombing is assigned to Eric Finch, head of "The Nose" (the name by which the regular police are commonly known) and an experienced investigator who serves the government out of a love of order rather than political conviction. Through him V and Evey meet other figures in the Party, including the Leader, Adam James Susan, a recluse who is fixated on the police state's computer system "Fate"; Commander Derek Almond, the leader of "The Finger", the secret police; Rose, Almond's emotionally and physically abused wife; Dominic Stone, Finch's partner; Conrad Heyer, head of "The Eye", the visual surveillance branch; Helen, Heyer's extremely ambitious and ruthless wife; Brian Etheridge, head of "The Ear", the audio surveillance branch; and Roger Dascombe, in charge of "The Mouth", the branch in charge of broadcasting propaganda.

Next, V blows up the Old Bailey after pretending that he and the Madame Justice statue on the Old Bailey are conversing (which begins with V politely saying hello to Justice, and ends with him giving her a present with a bomb in it and calling her a whore, saying he has met a new woman named Madame Anarchy), and confronts three Party figures to accuse them of past crimes: Lewis Prothero, the propaganda broadcaster who serves as the "Voice of Fate"; Bishop Anthony Lilliman, a pedophile who represents the Party in the clergy; and Delia SurrIDGE, a seemingly apolitical doctor who had a personal relationship with Finch.

V attacks each of them in an ironic fashion, derived from previous encounters. Prothero is driven to insanity after V destroys his collection of priceless dolls in a reproduced death camp oven while having Prothero dressed up in a Commander uniform (Prothero was Commander of Larkhill); Lilliman is killed by being forced to consume a cyanide-laced communion wafer just as he is about to rape Evey dressed up in a little girl costume (Lilliman was a priest who was hired to give spiritual support to camp prisoners taking the Batch 5 drug); and Dr. SurrIDGE dies from a lethal injection (she was the doctor in charge of criminal medical experiments at the camp and who had studied V) - however, as she was the only worker at Larkhill that expressed remorse for her actions, the injection and her death are painless.

Upon leaving Delia's home, V is surprised by Derek Almond, who was warned by Finch that V was after SurrIDGE and tries to capture him.

Unfortunately for Almond, he forgets to reload his gun after having cleaned it earlier that same night and he is quickly killed by V. Finch begins his research upon his discovery of Dr. SurrIDGE's diary. It reveals that all three victims were officers at the Larkhill Resettlement Camp, and that over the previous years, every other staff member from the camp has died, apparently killed by V — the vendetta of the title. Finch later discovers that this apparent "vendetta" served as a diversion from the true cause of action.

V, the only prisoner to have survived the death camp, chose to eliminate its surviving officers to prevent the government from discovering his true identity. It could also be said that they were killed as retribution for the prisoners' pain and death due to the Larkhill officers' adherence to the fascist administration. With no records of his real name or personage existing, V can operate covertly. All that is known to the reader is that he was subjected to medical experiments involving hormonal injections of a substance called "Batch 5," which presumably triggered V's transformation into an obsessive and brilliant (though possibly psychotic) avenger.

Though "codename V's past and former identity remain a mystery, in Delia SurrIDGE's flashbacks (while Finch is reading her diary to the leader), one picture shows the back of his head and reveals that he is white (Book 1, Chapter 11, the picture in the upper-right corner of page 81). Naturally, Finch only reads the diary and cannot see that, but the reader, having access to imagery, can see that Codename V is white. Four months later (February 23, 1998), V breaks into Jordan Tower, the broadcast centre for the Party, to

broadcast an anarchist speech that calls on the people to take charge of their own lives. He escapes by tying up Dascombe, placing a copy of V's own costume and mask on him, and standing him up in the control room where he is shot by police who storm the room. Eric Finch, in going over the crime scene, punches Peter Creedy, a petty criminal promoted to Head of the Finger after Almond's death, for a personal remark related to Delia Surridge (with whom he was romantically involved) and is sent by The Leader on a forced vacation. Evey has developed a strong attachment to V, but he has begun to challenge her morality.

After a confrontation in the Shadow Gallery, she finds herself abandoned on a street, unable to find V. She is taken in by Gordon Deitrich, a petty criminal with whom she becomes romantically involved, and they cross paths unknowingly with Derek Almond's widow Rose; after the deaths of her husband and Dascombe (with whom she had been forced by circumstances into having a relationship with), Rose is forced to work as a burlesque dancer, and consequently develops a strong hatred for the Party. Creedy begins organizing a private militia, hoping to use V's destabilization of the Party to mount a coup against the Leader. V, maintaining surveillance on all of these various factions, appears to be manipulating them against each other.

When Gordon is murdered by the Scottish gangster Alistair Harper, whom he was dealing with, Evey attempts to kill Harper in revenge but is seized, arrested, detained, and accused of attempting to murder Peter Creedy as he was meeting with Harper. In her cell, Evey finds a letter from a

presumably dead former inmate named Valerie, an actress who was imprisoned for being a lesbian. Evey's interrogator tortures her multiple times and finally gives her a choice of collaboration or death; inspired by Valerie's courage and quiet defiance, she refuses to give in and is told that she is free. To her shock, Evey learns that her imprisonment was a hoax constructed by V, designed to put her through an ordeal similar to the one that shaped him.

He reveals that Valerie was another Larkhill prisoner who died in the cell next to his; the letter that Evey read is the same one that Valerie had passed on to V to read. Evey's anger finally gives way to acceptance of her identity and freedom. November 1998, V destroys the Party's communication and surveillance centre's (housed in Jordan Tower and the Post Office Tower), causing the death of Etheridge, effectively shutting down both The Eye and The Ear and spurring a wave of wanton violence and hedonism which is violently suppressed by Creedy's street gangs. Meanwhile, V notes to Evey that this is not The Land of Do-As-You-Please end result he wants, but rather it's mere chaos in The Land of Take What You Want — an interim period that he intends to follow up with the establishment of true anarchy, a voluntarily orderly society.

Finch's assistant Dominic realizes that V has had access to the Fate computer since the very beginning, explaining his foresight; this news accelerates the mental collapse of the Leader. Finch travels to the abandoned site of Larkhill, on the Wiltshire Downs, where he takes LSD. His hallucinations lead him to an intuitive understanding of V, and returning to

London, he deduces that V is hidden somewhere in Victoria Station, part of the abandoned London Underground, and goes to find him. V, who knows his time has come to an end, meets Finch and lets Finch shoot him. The bleeding V flees and dies in Evey's arms. Evey considers unmasking V, but decides not to learn his identity; instead, she assumes it, donning one of his spare costumes. Meanwhile, Rose Almond's private vendetta has led her to assassinate the Leader and she is last seen being taken by the Finger.

In the ensuing chaos, Creedy's own men kill him, while Finch reports the news that V is dead. When Evey appears to the crowd as V, a general insurrection begins. Evey completes V's final act of subversion. As requested by V, she performs the destruction of 10 Downing Street by giving her mentor a "Viking funeral" with an explosive-laden Underground carriage containing his body sent to detonate at the desired location. She rescues Dominic from the mob and takes him back to the Shadow Gallery, implying that she intends to train him as her successor, having vowed to help the people to create the society the original V dreamed of creating. Having removed the totalitarian old regime, there is no longer a need for destruction. Finch observes the chaos raging in the city before heading to the countryside. All forms of authority in Britain are now gone; its future is left uncertain. Thus, V has created chaos, which will allow voluntary order to occur. It is to be assumed that Evey will do her best to prevent another fascist government from arising from this order.

There are four reasons why the writer chooses the *V for Vendetta* movie: the first the writer likes the resist movement. The *V for Vendetta*

movie is about V's struggle against the fascist regime. *V for Vendetta* tells about the way of V to fight the fascist regime. The writer likes the way of V in the action process to tear down the fascist government. The fascist regime is like a Nazi government, killing the societies whose have no correlation to the government system. In other case the writer likes the theme of the movie. The theme of *V for Vendetta* movie is about "No more fascist in the government", and V tries to make a revolution to reach the goals.

The second is about the story of *V for Vendetta* movie. The story is not easy to understand and it makes the writer be interested to study the story. The plot of story in the movie is extraordinary that makes the movie be not easy to understand, so the writer has to repeat watching the movie. From the reason the writer is interested to learn more about the story. Literature uses some untruth to express a truth and it is different with politicians whose uses the truth to cover the untruth.

The third is about the character of *V for Vendetta* movie. All characters in the movie have strong character, but the writer focuses on the main character. The main character of the movie is glamour. The glamour character in the main character influences the writer to know a lot of main character personalities, the character who has no fear feeling in every step of his ways, the character who has a smart thinking, and the character who has a love feeling.

The fourth reason is about the rating award of the movie, but it is not main reason why the writer chooses the movie. *V for Vendetta* movie has

many awards in every kind of category award. But, it is not basic why the writer chooses the movie to study. The writer chooses the movie because; the movie has much strangeness in every part of the scene and the movie has much idea in every part of action. The writer calls the *V for Vendetta* movie is the best result of the thinking of human creativity in literature. The writer will study about the movie even *V for Vendetta* movie has no awards. The award is only symbol to approve the film is reasonable to watch and the award is a symbol that many people want to abolish the fascism in the world.

Moreover, the writer is interested to analyze this film by using individual psychological approach. In this study the writer encourages herself to give a title **“V'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT IN JAMES MCTEIGUE'S *V FOR VENDETTA* FILM: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE”**

B. Literature Review

To prove the originality of this study, the writer presents the previous study dealing with V's struggle against the fascist government in James Mcteigue's *V for Vendetta* movie: An Individual Psychological Perspective:

The first is "*V FOR VENDETTA AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: A CRITIQUE OF THOMAS HOBBS*" by James Sage, Ph.D. Department of Philosophy University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. James Sage tells about the film by using Hobbes's assumptions about human nature and political theory, James Sage gain a better understanding of dystopian narratives such as *V for*

Vendetta and Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. For example, James Sage are able to make important connections between different organizing concepts (such as fear and political rebellion), James Sage understand characters with greater depth and complexity (as with Evey and Winston), and James Sage develop additional insights into the human condition and political theory (the relationship between freedom and political control). This supports the view that philosophical ideas provide us with a perspective that is rewarding and meaningful when encountering examples of popular culture.

The second is "FROM 1984 TO *V FOR VENDETTA* VIA MINORITY REPORT" by A. A. Adams, 1st September 2006. In his research, he mentions the five points in the film research: 1). Much of the infrastructure of a surveillance state requires strong identification facilities. 2) Newspeak or Sapir-Whorf hypothesis: identification V identity. 3) Airports jumped on the chance to have facial recognition facilities installed post 11th September. 4) The UK "Identity Card" should be called an "Identification Card". 5) My Identity or Identities are innate and do not require external verification or validation. Identification is "for a purpose".

The difference study between this research and the previous ones is about the problem of the study. In this study, the writer focuses on the V (main character) struggle to fight the fascist regime in the England government.

C. Problem Statement

From the background of the study above, the writer would like to state the problem statement as “How is V's struggle to fight the fascist government system reflected in *V for Vendetta* movie (2005) using an individual psychology perspective?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on the analysis of the behavior and motivation of V as the main character of *V for Vendetta* movie based on the individual psychological perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the Problem Statement above, the writer can propose some objectives of the Study below:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements.
2. To identify The Struggle against the fascism government of V in *V for Vendetta* movie based on the individual psychological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, and particularly the literary study on *V for Vendetta* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding about the movie and give input to other writers who intend to analyze *V for Vendetta* movie.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In writing this research paper the writer uses qualitative research or secondary research that the sources are based on non-human data, especially the data taken from the movie *V for Vendetta*.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *V for Vendetta* film by James McTeigue.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

a. Primary Data Sources.

The primary data source is the film itself, *V for Vendetta* directed by James McTeigue.

b. Secondary Data Source.

Secondary data source are some books of literary criticism & article from Internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting method will be library research, research, released document to be observed. Meanwhile, the techniques are:

- a. Watching the film repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups on its classifications.
- d. Selecting particular part considered important and relevant for analysis.

e. Drawing conclusion and formulating suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The step of analyzing the data of this research is by analyzing the structural elements of the work and analyzing the individual psychological perspective of the work. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones.

H. Research Paper Organization

In order to make this paper easy to be followed, the writer gives some orders for the paper organization. Chapter I is introduction , it deals with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study , objective of the study , benefit of the study , theoretical approach , research method and paper organization. Chapter II contains underlying theory planning of individual psychology used to analyze the movie. Chapter III presents structural element and discussion of the movie. Chapter IV deals with analysis of individual psychology toward how struggle for making dreams into reality and discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion of the research.