

A Study Of V's Vengeance in *V For Vendetta*'s Movie Script

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Abstract

The research focuses on V's vengeance in *V for Vendetta*'s movie script. The researchers conducts a qualitative research using the movie script of *V for Vendetta* movie as source of data. The findings shows that in the movie script, there is a man who has desire to do a vengeance. There are four proofs of V's vengeance, those are: bombing two London's historical buildings, sabotages the broadcasting channel, and kill all people who related to Larkhill tragedy, and bombing the Parliament's building. There are three causal factors of V's vengeance, those are: the cruelty of government, the tragedy in Larkhill Medical Center, and V's personal factors, such as anxiety and depression which causes V's defense mechanism is appears, those are denial and identification with aggressor.

Keywords : vengeance, movie script, ,tragedy

A. INTRODUCTION

The thesis writer chooses vengeance as the main topic of this thesis because vengeance is related to reality in the real life. There is a vengeance that occurs in Lahat, South Sumatera, Indonesia. The suspect doing murder because of his personal problems in the past. The police unveil the motive behind the case, there is only misunderstanding between the suspect and his former girlfriend (Bambang MD, 2020). Another vengeance also befalls Wiranto, a former Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Affairs who is stabbed in Banten by Syahril Alamsyah. The police reveals the motive behind Wiranto's stabbing. Beside his anger of evicted house, and he is also the member of terrorist group Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) Bekasi and ISIS radicalism. Alamsyah feels upset since Abu Zee, the leader of JAD Bekasi is detained (Murti, 2019).

Vengeance is not only found in the real life but also portrayed in literary work. There are three genres in literary works, such as poem, drama, and prose. The thesis writer uses movie, which is a kind of drama because it gives more detail in describing the atmosphere, the setting of the place, and time. Moreover, it helps the thesis writer to analyze the topic of this thesis. The

author creates a literary work which has the atmosphere that is found in the real world. As Nani Tuloli states that the literary research has an important function in various aspects of human life. (Tuloli in Endraswara, 2013:10). The fact that the author of literary work gives their imagination into it. The struggle, truth, sadness, and happiness are explained as human experiences. Based on Anzar Ahmed, he said that “Our life is manifested in the form of literature. It is an embodiment of words based on human tragedies, desires, and feelings.” (Ahmed, 2017:129-130).

The thesis writer chooses a movie script entitled *V for Vendetta* because it is talking about strong vengeance that represents the protest of the victim in the case of the people or citizens. The movie genre is a dystopian political thriller directed by James McTeigue, written by Wachowskis, and produced by Joel Silver, Grant Hill, and The Wachowskis. This movie is based on 1998 DC/Vertigo Comics limited series with the same title by David Lloyd and Alan Moore. This movie is starred by Clive Ashborn, Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving, Stephen Rea, and John Hurt. This movie is release by Warner Bros. Production on March 17, 2006.

V for Vendetta tells about a man who has desire a vengeance to the government and he turned into a mysterious man and appears as a terrorist. He wears Guy Fawkes’ mask with long straight black hair, and all-black outfits. Actually he is one of the oppressed victim of the incident in the past. His name is V in *V for Vendetta*’s movie script. In this case, the thesis writer focuses on analyzing the action of V in expressing his vengeance and also causal factor why he do a vengeance. There is a causal factors why he do his vengeance, those are: the cruelty of government over their minority citizens, the past tragedy in Larkhill Medical Center, and V’s personal factors, anxiety, denial, depression, and identification with the aggressor. Because of that, there are three actions which caused by V, those are: bombing two London historical buildings, killing people who related in Larkhil’s tragedy, and bombing the Parliament’s building.

V’s desires to commit vengeance is quite strong. It has reasons, such as discrimination and injustice. V has bad experiences then he becomes oppressed. V likely never forgets the persons and the incident that makes him feeling oppressed. The evil sometimes is repaid with the same painful even more than he experienced. For him, doing vengeance is a kind of repayment that the oppressor suffer. What the oppressor do it to him, the government could pay it back. V believes that what he has done is right. For him, doing vengeance is one of the best ways to convey his anger as victim. The suffering of the victim becomes an evidence and makes the oppressor can

feel the same affliction as the victim had. The evil must be repaid with the same quality of evil as Mario Gollwitzer states:

However, the goal of revenge is fulfilled if the offender understood *why* revenge was taken on him. More precisely, the offender has to signal that he realizes that the penalty is visited on him *because* he behaved unjustly and in virtue of the *wrongness* of his unjust behavior. (Nozick in Gollwitzer, 2012 : 11).

Someone feels that his revenge is fulfilled when his foe get the same spiritual and physical pain.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers conduct a qualitative research which the process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis deductively building from general to specific themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The source of data is the movie script of V for Vendetta movie written by The Wachowskis.

C. ANALYSIS

The Proofs of V's Vengeance are in the following below :

1. Bombing two London's historical buildings

It is seen when V engages Evey to see what happened next, he meets Evey in the roof located not far from The Old Bailey and Madame Justice's buildings. V demand Evey to listen the music at that night. The louder of the music volume, suddenly The Old Bailey and Madame Justice's buildings are blow up. After the buildings are blown up, Evey does not believe what she has seen. The buildings are in crumbles and disappear into billowing clouds of smoke and dust. This idea can be found in the quotation below:

KA-BOOM.

Madame Justice EXPLODES, her scales vanishing into a cloud of angry fire.

The MUSIC RISES again, CYMBALS CRASHING, as the Old Bailey is suddenly leveled by a series of THUNDERING EXPLOTIONS.

(15, EXT. ROOF – NIGHT)

2. Sabotage the broadcast station

V sabotages the broadcast station to show himself, to speak up, and to inform the citizens how bad the government is. He also convinced all citizens what happened in the past secretly and says that their country is no longer peaceful. Thus, the government must see what will happen next. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

DING

The elevator opens; a white mask born upon a gray cloak glides out.

V opens his cloak, revealing rows of dynamite sticks strapped to his chest, the detonator in his hand.

(25, INT. TELEVISION SECURITY STATION – DAY)

V's face looms over the urban landscape.

V (V.O)

But in the spirit of commemoration, whereby those important events of the past, usually associated with someone's death or at the end of some awful, bloody struggle, are celebrated with a nice holiday --

(30, EXT. PICCADILLY CIRCUS – DAY)

...

V (V.O)

The truth is there is something terribly wrong with this country isn't there?

(32, INT. SUTLER'S OFFICE – DAY)

It is proved that V convinces the audience that his speech is strong, he also says something that can make the citizens surprised. He says “Cruelty and injustice, intolerance and opposition.” (32, EXT. FINGER HEADQUARTERS – DAY).

2. Killing all people who are involved to tragedy in Larkhill Medical Center

Based on the scene, V will kill four people in different days. V runs his plan smoothly. The first person of V’s choice to kill is a TV presenter named Prothero. At that time, he influences all citizens that the government’s law must be obeyed, no matter how cruel the law is. In addition, he also broadcasted the lies about what happened at Larkhill.

V goes to Prothero’s penthouse and meets him, a few moment later, Prothero is died. After killing him, V leaves a Carson rose above Prothero’s lifeless body. Finch, a policeman with his assistant investigate the death of Prothero. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

The two men stand over Prothero’s lifeless body. A single
Carson rose sits like an offering to the fresh corpse.
Green foam bubbles from his nose and mouth, eyes empty
and fixed.

(64, INT. PROTHERO’S PENTHOUSE – NIGHT)

Evey offers help to V and he accepts it. Now, they are cooperating to work together to kill the next target. Next day, the second people whom will kills is a bishop named Lilliman. Evey has attracted the Lilliman’s attention to get them into Lilliman’s room. A few moments later, V appeared in bishop’s room and Evey run away from the room. There is a brief conversation between V and the bishop, a shootout ensued between them and finally the bishop is dead. Like the last murdered, V leaves a Violet Carson rose on the bishop’s lifeless body. The murdered goes well. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

The Bishop’s lifeless body lies outlined in chalk. The circle
bloodstain floats above the head like the last word balloon
of a crude comic strip character. On his chest lies a Violet
Carson Rose.

(82, INT. LILLIMAN’S QUARTERS – NIGHT)

Next person whom V will kill is a Dr. Surridge. Dr. Surridge is the scientist that she is the Chief Medical Examiner in Larkhill. She knows that V is the cause of Prothero’s death and

Lilliman, she also knows that the next victim is herself. When she opens her eyes, she shocked because V is in her bedroom.

Without her knowing, V has already injected the poison into her body ten minutes before she is sleeping. In her dying, she is telling to V everything, the story in Larkhill in the past then she ask apology to V. Time goes by and Dr. SurrIDGE finally died in her bedroom. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

SURRIDGE

Are you going to kill me now?

V

I killed tou ten minutes ago.

While you slept.

SURRIDGE

Is it meaningless to apologize?

V

Never.

SURRIDGE

I am sorry.

...

The windows are open. Delia lies on her bed, her eyes fixed.

Finch sees the Violet Carson in her lap and knows they are, one more, too late.

(92, INT. DELIA SURRIDGE'S BEDROOM – NIGHT)

One by one the people who involved in the incident at Larkhill have been killed by V. Prothero, Lilliman, Dr. SurrIDGE, and the last is the Chancellor Adam Sutler. As V knows that Sutler is hard to find because he hide in the government bunker. Unexpectedly, V meets Commander Creedy, then V uses Mr. Creedy to bring Sutler to him by promising that Mr. Creedy will be the leader of the country and he will not blow up the Parliament's building.

Due to V's expectations, the reality is really come alive. Mr. Creedy brings out Adam Sutler to him with his head covered and the hands tied behind his back. Before Suttler killed, V

places a Violet Carson rose beside him. Finally, Sutler is shot right in his head. Creedy killed Sutler. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

He places a Violet Carson rose beside him.

...

Creedy lifts his GUN and BLOWS a bright red hole in Sutler's head.

(155-156, INT. VICTORIA STATION – NIGHT)

3. Bombing the Parliament's Building

Finally, V run his last plans successfully. He already prepared to blow up the Parliament's building before. He set up the rain filled with million of bombs. But, he decided to die in the train because he think that his vengeance's action is done. He asked Evey for help because only she can help him. He said that Evey have to bring V's body inside the train and she must hit the control button of the train twelve minutes after V died. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

The BUILDING ERUPTS, its walls and towers that have stood for centuries yielding to the baptismal flame of new life.

(165, EXT. PARLIAMENT – NIGHT)

The Causal Factors of V's Vengeance

1. The government's cruelty

The government kidnapped the immigrants, muslims, homosexuals, and terrorist. Sometimes the government kill them. Prothero is a one of the people who pro with the government and he proud of it. This idea can be found in the quotation below:

PROTHERO V.O

(on TV)

We did what we had to do.

Isslington, Enfield. I was

There. I saw it all. Immigrants.

Muslims. Homosexuals.
Terrorist. Disease-ridden
degenerates. They had to go!
strength through Purity, Purity
Through Faith! I am God-fearing
English-man and I am God-damned
proud of it!

(5, INT. EVEY'S APARTMENT – NIGHT)

2. Tragedy in Larkhill Medical Center

The kidnapped victims are placed in individual rooms. The victims then killed directly or even make the victim used as experimental material in one of the state-owned laboratories to create new invention. Another thing that proves is the government at that time also conducted a secret experiment which used the victim's body as a "guinea pig". It is proves in scene that the scientist named Delia Surridge who does the execution to her research stock in laboratory. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

SURRIDGE (V.O.)

My first batch of subjects arrived
today and I have to admit that I
am very excited. I can't help but
wonder if this is how Oppenheimer
felt. This could be the dawn of a
new age. Nuclear power is
meaningless in a world where a
virus can kill an entire
population and leave its wealth
intact.

The soldiers direct the people into a series of pens like
Those that are used to sort cattle.

(93-94, EXT. LARKHILL SORTING STATION)

A younger Surridge administers injections to her research

Stock.

(94. INT LARKHILL MEDICAL RESEARCH BLOCK)

3. V's personal factors

a. Anxiety

Anxiety also happen to V. V anxious because his bad experience in the past. This idea can be found in the argumentations below:

First, V suffers realistic anxiety because the memories of previous traumatic experiences that causes the signal of future danger. In his previous traumatic experiences, V is tortured, he scared that if he will die like the other victims. Second, V suffers moral anxiety because acts or wishes that violate one's standards of right and wrong, it includes feelings of shame and guilt. In the past tragedy, V face the humanity issue because the government's cruelty, it is supposed that the government protects their citizens. Third, V suffers neurotic anxiety because the feelings of hostility are often accompanied by fear of punishment. V feels anxiety because the horrifying situation that V has experienced in Larkhil Medical Center.

b. Depression

V does not only suffers anxiety but also V feels depression. It caused by the situation in Larkhill and he feels lose of someone although he never know her before. She is a victim too. Her name is Valerie. Valerie's prison cell is next on V's prison cell. Before she died, she writes a letter in toilet paper, she writes the story of her life. She is a beautiful woman with her love story and her happiness, but in the end, the sadness comes to her life. The letter and story are means a lot to V. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

EVEY

She's so beautiful. Did you know
her?

V

No. She wrote the letter just
before she died. I delivered it
to you as it had been delivered to
me.

(132, INT. VALERIE'S SHRINE – DAY)

c. V's defense mechanism against his anxiety

1. Denial

In the movie script portrayed when he is a victim, he denies with the reality. He considers that the government does not do anything bad to their citizens. As time goes by, V realizes that it is really true that the government have committed to crime. This idea can be found in the quotations below:

V (V.O)

But in the spirit of
commemoration, whereby those
important events of the past,
usually associated with someone's
death or at the end of some awful,
bloody struggle, are celebrated
with a nice holiday - -

(30, EXT. PICCADILLY CIRCUS – DAY)

2. Identification with the aggressor

Based on V's experience in Larkhill Medical Center's and his disappointment toward government's doing, V turns become the aggressor. It can be seen that the government is the aggressor and the victim is V.

The reasons why V turns become the aggressor are V think that he is different from the government (minority people), V is a victim, V think that he must do something and he must do a vengeance to the government.

From the four reasons above, he turns from a victim become the aggressor, those are: V is a subject which initially he is an object, he is a human, and he is able to do a vengeance than being "guinea pig". This idea can be found in the quotations below:

V

What was done to me, created me, a
chain of events in harmony with a
fundamental principle of the
universe; that every action will

create an equal and opposite
reaction.

(133, INT. VALERIE'S SHRINE – DAY)

D. CONCLUSION

The conclusion is there are four proofs of V's vengeance. The first proof is V bombs The Old Bailey and Madame Justice historical buildings. The second, he sabotages the broadcast station. The third, he kills four people who are involved in the tragedy in Larkhill Medical Center, they are: TV's presenter named Prothero, a bishop named Lilliman, Larkhill's Chief Medical Examiner named Dr. Surridge, and Cancellor Adam Sutler. The fourth, he bombs the Parliament's building.

There are three causal factors of V's vengeance. The first, government's cruelty. The second, tragedy in Larkhill Medical Center. The third, V's personal factor, anxiety, depression, and defense mechanism works on V after he suffers anxiety. The defense mechanism that appears in V are denial and identification with aggressor.

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