

**NON-HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY AS PROTAGONIST AS SEEN  
IN *THE VOW* MOVIE  
A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Literature



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Yogyakarta, January 12<sup>th</sup> 2021



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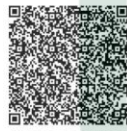
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# NON-HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY AS PROTAGONIST AS SEEN

## IN *THE VOW* MOVIE

### A GRADUATING PAPER

#### ABSTRACT

*The Vow* is a 2012 American romantic movie directed by Michael Sucsy. The movie is inspired by the true story of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter. Although this movie is about amnesia, the researcher focuses on masculinity in crisis that happens to Leo and Paige's father named Bill. It focuses on both men because they do many things to get the attention from the desired woman. Desired woman here means that both men have a deep love to the woman as a husband and father. The aim of this research is to understand the crisis of masculinity between Leo and Bill. Furthermore, to answer the problem statement, the writer uses Masculinity theory by Todd W Reeser and applies qualitative method. By using that method, the researcher gets the answer of problem statements which are: there are two factors why masculinity in crisis happens in this movie. The first process describes love triangulation which has made Bill gets more attention from Paige because of his efforts. The second analyzes the different characteristics between Leo who is non hegemonic and Bill Thornton as someone who has hegemonic characteristic.

**Keywords:** *domination, hegemonic, masculinity, non hegemonic*

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## INTISARI

*The Vow* adalah sebuah film romantis Amerika yang disutradai oleh Michael Suczy pada tahun 2012. Film ini terinspirasi dari kisah nyata sepasang tukang kayu bernama Kim dan Krickitt. Walaupun film ini mengisahkan tentang amnesia, penulis berfokus pada krisis maskulinitas yang terjadi diantara Leo dan ayah Paige. Penelitian ini focus kepada mereka karena mereka melakukan banyak hal untuk mendapatkan perhatian dari wanita yang diinginkan. Wanita yang dimaksud disini adalah saat kedua lelaki tersebut mempunyai rasa cinta kepada wanita yang sama tetapi cinta mereka itu sebagai seorang suami dan ayah. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memahami krisis maskulinitas yang terjadi diantara mereka. Oleh karena itu, untuk menjawab rumusan masalah, penulis menggunakan teori Maskulinitas oleh Todd W. Reeser dan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Dengan menggunakan metode tersebut, penulis mendapatkan jawaban dari rumusan masalah yaitu ada dua faktor yang menyebabkan krisis maskulinitas terjadi di film ini. Yang pertama adalah cinta segitiga yang mana membuat Bill mendapatkan perhatian yang lebih dari Paige karena usahanya. Kedua menganalisis perbedaan karakter antara Leo yang non hegemonik dan Bill Thronton yang mempunyai karakter hegemonik.

**Keywords:** *dominasi, hegemonik, maskulinitas, non hegemonik*

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**MOTTO**

**The best way to do revenge is make ourselve better than  
before**



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**DEDICATION**

**This graduating paper I dedicate to:**

**My beloved Parents**

**My Family**

**English Literature Department State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga**

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Furthermore, this paper is far from perfect due to limited knowledge of the researcher. Therefore, critics and suggestion from the reader are needed to the perfection of this paper.

Finally the researcher hopes that this paper can be useful for the readers and all of parties that mentioned above get rewards from Allah SWT.

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Yogyakarta, 12 January 2021

The researcher,

Suvriarti



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literary works are developed by human in a society. One of them is movie. Movie is collection of pictures that arranged by someone that can move from one side to another or it can be called as moving picture. Barsam and Monahan also said that movie is “simply short of motion picture” (2010:3). Movie is one of literary works that has many spectators. In the study of movie, a lecturer usually gives example how to examine or to learn the content of movie. “Film education is to notice or to confirm, revise, and reject those same assumptions when tested against the understanding of cinema” (Villarejo, 2007:12). So when spectators feel curious about a movie, they can learn how to examine and give an opinion about a movie.

Movie gives us the new sensation in enjoying a literary work. It means, we are not only can see the picture but also we can learn something new like information of life style, culture and education. It also changes our attitude, mindset and behavior when we watched it frequently. For example there are many spectators who imitate actor’s fashion style and their language. This case is interesting to be followed because their style is so fashionable.

The researcher decides to choose *The Vow* movie because the character of this movie have opposite characteristic and opinion that made a lot of conflicts between them. Both men wanted to stay with the desired woman so they did more

efforts to get more attention from the desired woman. Their efforts in getting the attention called rivalry. According to Reeser, rivalry is “not simply based on a desire to defeat or to vanquish the rival or to kill him off, but also implies a desire to emulate, to identify with, or to be like him” (2010:57). Sometimes the rivalry is shown explicitly but far from hostile, and vicious (2010:56). Those competition pure comes from their own as a way to get more attention to the desired woman.

*The Vow* movie tells about woman who lost her memory after got amnesia. Her name was Paige. She could not remember about her husband’s name Leo but she could remember about her past such as family and her friends in college. Paige was the daughter of Bill Thornton and Rita Thornton. She also had a sister named Gwen Thornton.

At first, she moved to the city because her father registered her to Law School but she preferred to take Art School. Her father also betrayed her family. Her father was in relationship with her friend named Diane. Because of that reasons, she decided to live alone and she met Leo. After she met Leo she decided to get married with him. When they were in the way to go home Paige relinquished her seatbelt to kiss her husband. Suddenly their car was stricken by big truck. It made Paige’s head strike the front mirror of the car and it broke her head. After that she was in hospital and the doctor said that she got amnesia.

After she got amnesia there are many problems in her life. She got confused to choose her life. Moreover, her parents forbade her to live with Leo. In another side Leo forced her to stay with him in order she could remember her past

and gave her love to Leo. Her parents were still sturdy with their conviction that Paige had to come back to her family.

Based on that relationship, the researcher suspects there are opposite characteristic that made conflicts between Leo and Bill Thornton. They also show their masculinity in their society and how they face something in their life. The idea of masculinity is not only about dominations of men over women but also their reaction and solution when they face something. According to Reeser domination is articulated as a way in which men are themselves dominated by their own domination and suffer from masculinity (2010:33). Domination in this context refers to Leo and Bill that doing more things to get attention from the same desired woman. It also shows their personality when they have different opinions especially in the process of getting Paige's attention.

There are lot of meanings served by images and dialogues of characters in a movie. According to Nurgiyantoro "character is figure who is showed in a story, as an attitude, interest, desire, emotion, and moral rule which belong to that figure in a movie" (2010:165). It will also influence the plot of a story and also the spectators. The character gives a role and does anything arranged in a story by the director. They also can influence the mood of spectators when they see the story in a movie.

Discussing about masculinity, it belongs to men. They have more roles and their position also have been decided by Allah SWT. According to Reeser, "woman was created after man. It can be studied in the creation of Adam and Eve. Adam is the first human in the world. Then Eve was created from one of Adam's

part.” (2010:78). In this movie Paige as a wife, she had to respect and follows her husband’s rule. As explanation about Adam and Eve a woman (Eve) created from a man body’s part (Adam). So in this life, a wife must protect and keep herself when she is far away from her husband because he is her leader. In the Holly Qur’an also explains about the rule of woman. This is the verse of Holly Qur’an which tells that a wife must protect and keep herself when their husband is not home or go to some places.

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ  
فَأَلْصَقْنَ لَهُنَّ حِفْظَهُنَّ لِلْغَيْبِ بِمَا حَفِظَ اللَّهُ وَالَّتِي تَخَافُونَ نُشُوزَهُنَّ فَعِظُوهُنَّ  
وَأَهْجُرُوهُنَّ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ وَاصْرَبُوهُنَّ فَإِنْ أَطَعْنَكُمْ فَلَا تَبْغُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ سَبِيلًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ  
عَلِيمًا كَبِيرًا ﴿٣٤﴾

*Means: “Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because God has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore their righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in (the husband’s) absence what God would have them guard. As to those women on whose part ye fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly); but if they return to obedient, seek not against them means (of annoyance): for God is Most High ,Great (above you all).” (Q.S An- Nisa: 34)*

From verse above, it can be seen that man is created as a leader especially in household. Allah creates man with that role, because marriage is not only one of important thing but also sacred. Simone Debeauvoir also said that “marriage is the destiny traditionally of offered women by society (1953:415)”. Marriage is also one of the ways to develop human being in this world. It has functions to



unite and tighten the different ethnics and cultures. Through marriage too human can be maintain their life and can be social creature. Woman is also mentioned because in a marriage, woman also has rule as house wife who will give affection to her husband and children.

A woman should keep herself when her husband is not home. It is one of woman's duties as mentioned in the verse above. It is better to get intensive communication to avoid misunderstanding in their household. Furthermore, explanation above is not only discusses about man as husband but also man as a father. Father role is also difficult like mother, besides as family leader father also has many roles too.

A father has to finds the basic necessities of life, guard his family, and work hard for other things. Muhammad SAW also give His utterance about man as mentioned above "as well as you are who very kind with your family, and I am the best one who treat my family excellently, and if someone from your family die, then leave him" ( HR. At-Tirmidzi:285). Based on Hadits, it explains a person who treats their family better is a father or leader of family. Those problematic relates to this research because in this paper is discussed about the opposition character between Leo and Bill.

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on problematic above, the researcher formulated research question as below

1. What kind of the opposition characteristic of masculinity that made a lot of conflicts between Leo and Bill Thornton? Why it happens to both of men?

### **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on research questions above, the researcher explains the opposition characteristic of masculinity between Leo and Bill Thornton that made a lot of conflicts.

### **1.4 Significance of Study**

The significance of study in this research aims to develop the contribution literary study both theoretically and practically. Theoretically this research provides the information about Masculinity theory by Todd W Reeser in *The Vow* movie. This research is also to add knowledge, reference and understanding of Masculinity theory through *The Vow* movie.

Practically, explain the Masculinity theory and help the readers or student to understanding more about Masculinity theory by Todd W Reeser.

### **1.5 Literary Review**

There are three previous researches that discuss about *The Vow* movie. The first research was written by Komang Ayu Widayanti 2016 entitled “the Analysis of Sexist Language in Movie’s script ‘*The Vow*” from the Extension Program Faculty of Letters and Culture Udayana University. This journal concerns on women characteristic and men language, their differences and similarities and the language style of their conversation. This journal uses qualitative description to get analysis and clear explanation. It also use theory of women characteristic language from Lakoff (1975), the language style of women

and men by *Coates (1986)* and the supporting theory is Gender Performativity theory by Butler (1990).

The second research was written by Muhammad Abdul Muhyi 2015 from English Department State Islamic University of Yogyakarta, entitled “The Portrayal of Modern Masculinity in *Pirates of The Caribbean 1: The Curse of The Black Pearl*”. This graduating paper focuses on Jack Sparrow’s masculinity as the main idea and pirates. It uses R.W Connell’s book of Masculinity theory.

The last research was written by Muhammad Syamsun Ni’am 2017 from English Department State Islamic University of Yogyakarta, entitled “Hegemonic Masculinity as Seen in *I am Malala*”. This graduating paper focuses on hegemonic masculinity in social practice by the men character in *I am Malala* movie. It uses Masculinity theory by R.W Connell.

The first previous research uses Linguistic theory therefore, it has differences but discussing about the same movie. Then two previous researches use Masculinity theory by the different writers. Those previous researches also have differences in the method of research. Those three previous researches are different from this research because they only discuss masculinity in general. While in this paper discusses about crisis of masculinity where a man dominated by woman in their life. It also shows their role and their wisdom on facing something.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approaches**

Based on the objectives and the scope of study, the researcher uses Todd W Reeser’s Masculinity theory as the main theory and film theory to support the

analysis. Masculinity refers to someone that called men. It discusses about men physical appearance, their role, and men's characteristics. According to Reeser, masculinity has four patterns the basic of study they are, discourse, power, instability, and power (2010:10).

Discourse have important role in creating masculinity terms. It becomes important because it uses as a tool that creates and take a life of masculinity (Reeser, 2010:31). It means that discourse distract masculinity through language. As the example in Reeser's book, we took the discourse of military. Military men have a good body builder such as, have strong muscle, have many skills in sport, and it made women trying so hard to get their attention. Another discourse of military men that they might have several certain promises such as honor, glory, status, a pension and women who like men in uniforms (2010:31).

Power is also relates to masculinity because men have higher position than women in real life such as household. In discussing of power, masculinity has something that can be called as domination. It explains about the domination of men over women. Here, a man uses their power to get the desired woman. According to Reeser, domination is a way of men to hide their own domination when they suffer from masculinity (2010:33).

Instability of masculinity is as unstable result of defining masculinity. It also can be interpreted as kind of anxiety about undefined masculinity because of masculinity is unstable and hard to admit of stability (2010:40). Sometimes the origin of masculinity can be called as the opposite of femininity. It refers and belongs to men.

Representation of masculinity can be found from their practice in daily life in a movie. Their action includes doing something like gymnastics even football. They dress in jacket and ties, and play the toy with guns (Reese, 2010:24). Their practice shows the representation of masculinity.

In analyzing this research, the researcher uses Masculinity theory from Todd W Reeser under main problematic which is the opposition characteristic of masculinity. The definition of Masculinity cannot be seen only from Men's body but also from their role in their life. Reeser also said that "Masculinity is not always about an obvious use of power and muscle to overcome an enemy, and can work by detour in insidious way (2010:7)". Although masculinity belongs to men, it doesn't mean that they cannot be in crisis or cannot be dominated by woman because they will lack masculine when they have a rival.

Masculinity might be in crisis when many men in a given context feel tension with larger ideologies that dominate or begin to dominate that context (Reeser, 2010:27). It means that men might be in crisis when they have rival to get something and they will also do something more to compete with their rival. It can happen because crisis masculinity is not only talks about domination woman over men but also about rivalry as mentioned before. They will also do rivalry or imitation to get attention from the desire woman but they will not show their rivalry in front of the woman desire in order to avoid bad impression from her.

Although the researcher used Masculinity theory as the theory to analyze the problem but film theory also needed to support the main one. This is used to analyze the masculinity in crisis of characters in the movie. Sometimes many

people called movie and film as the same thing but it has difference. According to Barsam and Monahan

“Film is often applied to a motion picture that is considered by critics and scholars to be more serious or challenging than movie that entertain the masses at the multiplex. While film is a motion picture that passes long process to make the perfection of spectators such as cut, capture and projected (2010:3).”

In this research, the researcher uses *mise en scene* to support analysis the data of this research. “*mise en scene* is staging or putting on action or sense and thus is sometimes called staging” (Barsam& Monahan,2010:156). In other word, *mise en scene* is the process of staging of a film from beginning until the end. It emphasizes the lighting , figure behavior, cinematography, editing and sound (Villarejo, 2007: 28-29).

According to Amy, there are three points of lighting they are a key light, a fill light and a backlight (2007:32). Key light provides the most illumination of the primary subject. The fill light make the surrounding area of movie softens. There are two kinds of fill light effect, they are high key and low key. Back lighting creates a halo around the hair and suggesting the character’s saintliness (33:2007). Lighting helps the spectators understand the setting of the movie or helps them to see the effects of the movie.

Figure behavior in a movie means to describe the movement, expression or action of the actors of other figures like animal, monster or animated thing (Amy Villarejo, 2007:36). It shows the placement of figures in the frame, various forms of figure’s expression like happiness or sadness. The action of actors might can be understood when they got emotional feeling to someone or something so they do

something as a self defense. It also helps the spectator to get point of view from the character of the movie.

The term cinematography is the process of capturing moving images on film or digital storage device (Barsam & Mohanan, 2010:208). The activity of a director in took the shot of a movie really influence the mood of spectator. It happens because when the image or the scene is not agrees with the light even background it would not give a better image. It shows that the cinematography become important because the cinematographer uses camera maker as the device to deliver the meaning in a movie.

Cinematography also includes the camera movement in making a film to get good effect for the spectator. It includes the act of framing the event in a movie such as how to set the camera distance, camera angle, camera depth, and also camera movement (Villarejo, 2007:36). When the quality of picture in a movie is good, the spectators will be in good mood in watching the movie.

Moreover Gilles Delezu said that “the frame teach us that the image is not just given to be seen. It is legible as well as visible” (1986:12 as cited in Amy Villarejo: 36). When we see about the film analysis also has evolved an anthropocentric taxonomy for describing distance that is using the human body as the reference point for each designation. Amy gives several process of capturing pictures in a digital storage such as:

The extreme long shot (ELS) which barely distinguish the human figure, the long shot (LS) is frame human smaller than the background so it looks like dwarf, the medium long shot (MLS) which covers human from the knees up, the medium shot (MS) is framed the human from the waist up , the medium close-up (MCU) is frame the human from the chest up, the close-up (CU) and the extreme

close-up (ECU) is frame the detail of human's part like an eye, lips or ears. (Villarejo, 2007:38).

## **1.7 Method of Research**

To get the clear result of this research, the writer using four methods as follows:

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

This research is categorized as literary criticism because it analyzes a literary work. This work is *The Vow* movie that was by Michael Sucsy. In this research, the researcher uses qualitative method that refers to a set of interpretive activities. Miles and Huberman said that

“Qualitative method is largely an investigative process where the researcher gradually makes sense of a social phenomenon by contrasting, comparing, replacing, cataloguing and classifying the object of the study (as cited in John W Creswell: 226)”.

This research stress how crisis of masculinity can be explained through a woman. She lost her memory after got an accident and it makes two men dominated by her because of her position. It means that woman character named Paige makes both her father and her husband doing rivalry to get her attention. This research uses method of observation by read some books in the library to get more references. The researcher also uses supporting references such as journal and web browser to get the relate data of this movie.

### **1.7.2 Data Sources**

In this research the main data source is elements of *The Vow* movie by Michael Sucsy. The elements are images from the character and *The Vow* movie



script. The supporting data are books, journal and internet sources that relates to the movie critic.

The Vow movie is used to illustrate the crisis of masculinity because of woman. All the clips are used taken from this movie. This movie tells about love triangulation between father, daughter and son in law. Triangle love here means both men desire a woman to make her comfort and stay with one of them. The movie was released in 2012 and both couple Paige and Leo as the main character

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

This research uses documentation method to collect the data. In the data collection technique, the researcher did some steps in observation. First, the researcher watched and analyzed the characters, setting, scene, and plot of the movie.

Second, the researcher looks for the data relates to the characters and their role in the movie. Those are the action of Paige, Leo and Bill. The data refers to images in some scene and the script of The Vow movie that represent masculinity in crisis. The last, the researcher describe, explain and synchronize the data with the theory.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

The researcher applies Masculinity theory by Todd W Reeser in explaining both men that create masculinity in crisis in this movie. In this theory, the main point is love triangulation from both men to the woman character and it makes masculinity in crisis between them. Crisis of masculinity can be seen from

both men in doing rivalry such as in action, in giving attention and looking for the social status.

Furthermore, the researcher doing some steps in analyzing the data of this movie as below.

a. **Categorizing Data**

The researcher classifies the data of the characters. The main data of this paper are images of the characters and the movie script. Then, the researcher analyzes the classified data based on Masculinity theory to answer the research problem. The classification of the data also refers to masculinity in crisis because of love triangulation.

b. The researcher finds the significance of masculinity in crisis in *The Vow* movie through the characters' practices.

### **1.8 Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes the general information of the research including the background of choosing the subject, research questions, objectives of study, significances of study, literature reviews, theoretical approaches, research method and paper organization. The second chapter consists of the intrinsic elements of the movie "*The Vow*" such as theme, character and characterization, setting, plot and summary of the movie. The third chapter is the analysis about the data. In this chapter, the researcher applies Masculinity theory to analyze the characters. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion of the research.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

The objective of this research is to figure out masculinity in crisis that happens to Bill and Leo in *The Vow* movie. This research analyzes masculinity in crisis between Bill and Leo to get the contrastive characteristic between them. The researcher formulates the data to Masculinity theory by Todd W Reeser conducting two processes of masculinity in crisis. The first process describes love triangulation between Leo, Paige and Bill Thornton through their opposite characteristics. It explains about both men efforts in getting more attention from the same desired woman by showing their own characteristics. Then, the second process describes their differences which are proved by analyzing the elements of movie, scene, and dialogue.

In the love triangle shows that the characters in this movie or the participants of triangle love are active so the love triangle can be maintained. In other hand if one of them being passive, the love triangle cannot be maintained because there is no comparison or rival to create love triangle. The participant that active shows that he has hegemonic masculinity. It means that he could stand by themselves and interest to be followed. Meanwhile the passive participant has non hegemonic masculinity because he is powerless and submissive. Furthermore, the conflicts between Leo and Bill Thornton happened because of both of them are trying to get the attention from the desired woman. Both of them love the same desired woman with the different kinds of love. It is love from a husband to his

wife and love from a father to his daughter. Their rivalry also can be seen from their practices in treating Paige, both Leo and Bill had several differences. Bill is more active to get Paige attention through his power and ability so he can be called as hegemonic masculinity. While Leo does the better things to Paige in order to get her attention, such as loyalty, affection, and happiness. Leo's affection makes him as non hegemonic masculinity character. Although Bill has several actions to make Paige happy, at the end she still chooses to come back to Leo as close friend. It happens because of Leo's sincerity to Paige and family.

In conclusion, the researcher concludes that there is opposition character between Leo and Bill Thornton in their life. They are also using their own characteristics to get more attention from Paige. Leo Collins includes non hegemonic masculinity because he feels so little than Paige's family. He is less power, submissive yet a gentleman. Then Bill Thornton is hegemonic masculinity. It can be seen from his daily life, he uses his power to solve any problems such as register his daughter to Law school by using his connection at that school. Bill Thornton has more power to solve his problem, arrogance, cruel yet an educated man.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The movie has several moral values in life including love. Love from someone can be sincere even because of something. In this movie shows the relation of humans about sincere love that make a rivalry. It can be analyzed by using Masculinity theory by Todd W. Reeser. The researcher concludes that *The Vow* movie tells about sincerity and struggle from man to be loved. The man is a

people from low social status but he struggles for his marriage through many challenges from his wife's parents. Thus, at the end of the movie the man can get his wife back. The researcher suggests for the next research for this movie to analyze with the different theory such as Psycho analysis. In addition, for the next researcher may find the other interest character or problem by using other theories.



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