

HEDONISM PRACTICES AS REFLECTED IN AMERICAN PSYCHO

A FINAL PROJECT

**Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the requirement
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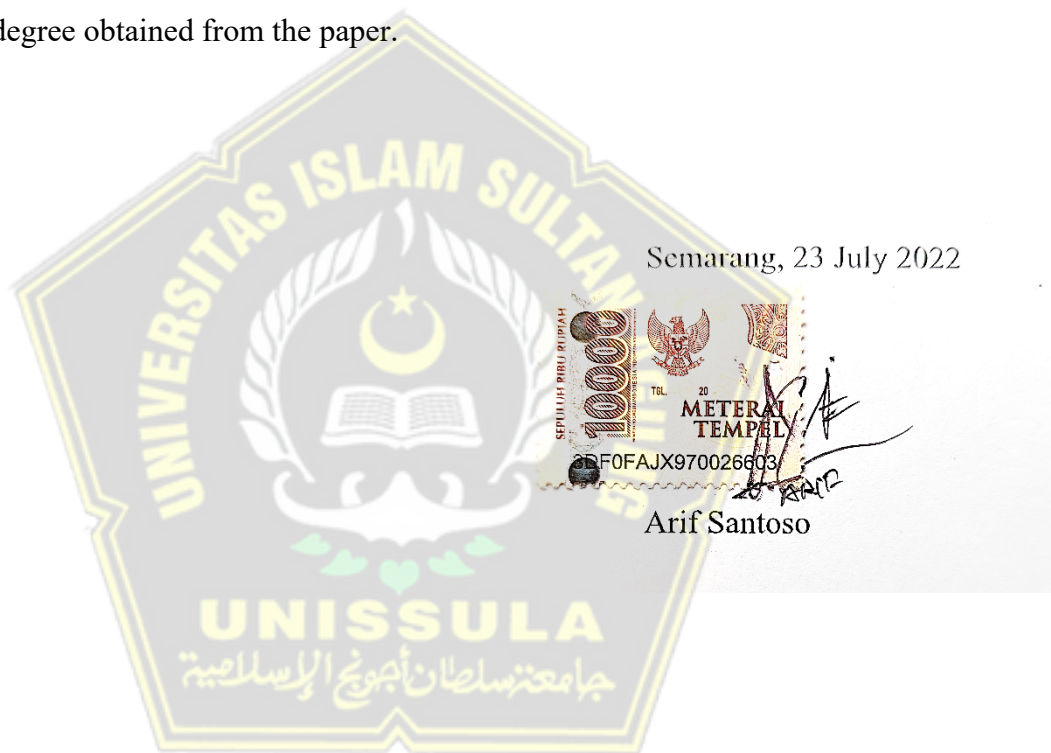
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STATEMENT OF WORK ORIGINALLY

Hereby, I honestly declare that the undergraduate thesis I wrote does not contain the work of other people, except those which were cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should. If my statement is not valid in the future, I absolutely agree to accept an academic sanction in the form of revocation of my paper and my degree obtained from the paper.



MOTTO

“Smooth sea, never made a skilled sailor”

DEDICATION

Initiated by saying Bismillah, followed with extra dedication I gave, a push from my parents, my dormy fellows, my surroundings—I finally had my final project done. In spite of the mess around, unfinished projects, I believe and strongly believe—my dedication will not fail me and yes, I finally reach the end of the line of my undergraduate program.

ABSTRACT

Arif Santoso. 30801700004. Hedonism Practices as Reflected in American Psycho. Final Project of Faculty of Language and Communication Science. English Literature Study Program. Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang. Advisor: Riana Permatasari, S.Pd., M.A., M.Pd.

This paper focuses on analyzing hedonism practices shown in American Psycho (2000) movie, specifically shown by the main character, Patrick Bateman. Some facts and proof found in the movie made hedonism practices as a proper problem to discuss in this paper.

Main character of American Psycho movie, Patrick Bateman, is the main object of this study. Since the data in this paper is non-numerical data, the right fit method used in this paper is descriptive qualitative method. Methods used to analyze the data in the movie were: watching the movie, reading the movie script, identifying the data, classifying the data, and reducing the data.

Based on the references used for analyzing the movie, there are six types of hedonism: (1) folk hedonism, (2) value and prudential hedonism, (3) motivational hedonism, (4) normative hedonism, (5) egoistic hedonism, and (6) hedonistic utilitarianism. The study in this paper finds that some of hedonism practices are shown by the main character of American Psycho (2000) movie, Patrick Bateman, such as: (1) folk hedonism, (2) value and prudential hedonism, and (3) egoistic hedonism. Those three hedonistic lifestyles in the end affect Bateman's behavior. One of the behaviors that is good to be underlined is the tendency to buy luxury stuff in order to become the center of attention.

Keywords: hedonism, american psycho, hedonistic lifestyle

INTISARI

Arif Santoso. 30801700004. Praktik Hedonisme yang ditampilkan dalam film American Psycho. Tugas Akhir Fakultas Bahasa dan Ilmu Komunikasi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang. Pembimbing: Riana Permatasari, S.Pd., M.A., M.Pd.

Tulisan ini berfokus untuk menganalisis praktik hedonisme yang ditampilkan dalam film American Psycho (2000), yang secara khusus ditampilkan oleh tokoh utama, Patrick Bateman. Beberapa fakta dan bukti yang ditemukan dalam film tersebut menjadikan praktik hedonisme sebagai masalah yang tepat untuk dibahas dalam tulisan ini.

Tokoh utama film American Psycho, Patrick Bateman, menjadi objek utama penelitian ini. Dikarenakan data dalam makalah ini adalah data non-numerik, maka metode yang tepat untuk digunakan dalam makalah ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Metode yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data dalam film adalah: menonton film, membaca naskah film, mengidentifikasi data, mengklasifikasikan data, dan mereduksi data.

Berdasarkan referensi yang digunakan untuk menganalisis film, ada enam jenis hedonisme (1) *folk hedonism*, (2) *value and prudential hedonism*, (3) *motivational hedonism*, (4) *normative hedonism*, (5) *egoistic hedonism*, and (6) hedonistic utilitarianism. Penelitian dalam makalah ini menemukan bahwa beberapa praktik hedonisme yang ditunjukkan oleh tokoh utama film American Psycho (2000), Patrick Bateman, yaitu: (1) *folk hedonism*, (2) *value and prudential hedonism*, dan (3) *egoistic hedonism*. Ketiga gaya hidup hedonistik tersebut pada akhirnya mempengaruhi perilaku Bateman. Salah satu perilaku yang bagus untuk digarisbawahi adalah kecenderungan membeli barang mewah agar menjadi pusat perhatian.

Kata kunci: hedonisme, american psycho, gaya hidup hedonistik

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Perfect is the only trait that is deserved only to God. All the creatures including this paper will always be imperfect creation. Therefore, as the writer of this paper, I will always open to positive suggestions and critics. Despite the imperfection in this paper, hopefully this paper can be a useful resource to those who curious about hedonism and/or those who want to write anything related to hedonism.

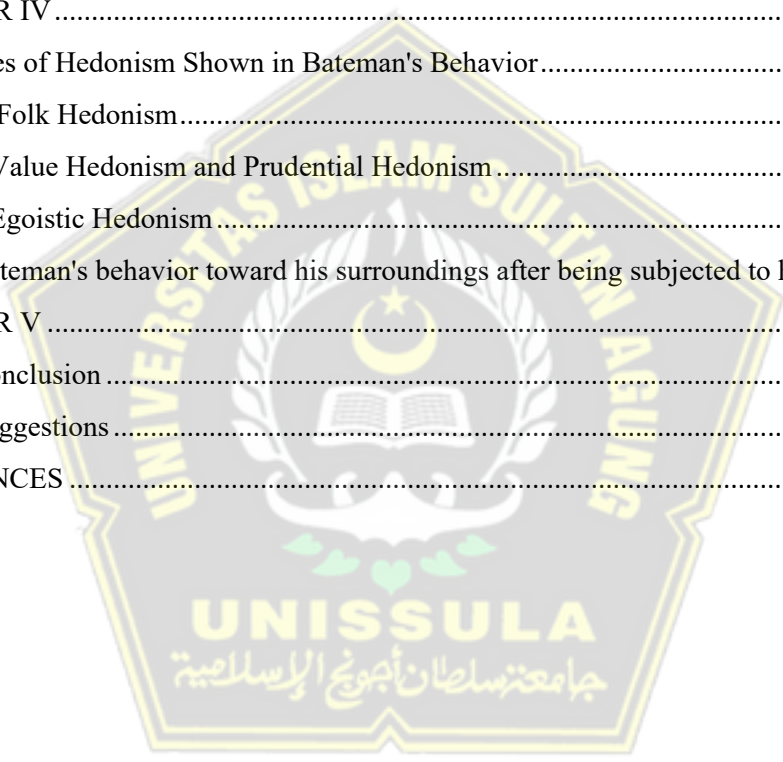
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A Background of the study

Pleasure is something that everyone fond of. No wonder everyone wants to achieve a pleasurable life. In achieving pleasurable life, according to Huta and Ryan, the happiness-pursuer needs to achieve three important things such as pleasure, enjoyment, and comfort (736). Hence, what happiness-pursuer does, tends to lead them to a social issue that exists and is well-nurtured up to today, hedonism. An activity that a hedonist does to seek pleasurable life and, most importantly, to become the attention center amongst his or her peers (Armstrong and Kotler 15). This practice is common in adulthood, yet fewer people are aware of this social issue.

Hedonism in many papers, has similar definition. As Weijers stated in his paper, the term 'hedonism' derived from the Greek ἡδονή (*hēdonē*) which means pleasure (15). Ksendzova et al. also stated similar definition as Weijers that Hedonism is the theory which prioritize pleasure over other life values (68). From two definitions above we see that hedonism has strong correlation with pleasure this is because what a hedonist sees and prioritizes in life is a mere pleasure. How a hedonist sees life clearly stated in a paper which says "Hedonism identifies that good life with the pleasurable life." (Heathwood 539). This means that a hedonist considers a good life is a life which only

contains pleasurable things. Hence, a hedonist tends to prioritize and pursue what considered to be pleasure to a hedonist.

Hedonism, a well-nurtured social issue in this modern era, is threatening the youth of modern society. The youth of modern society can easily be connected to many strangers through the ease of social media. Consequently, people want to be the center of their surroundings, seek a pleasurable life and avoid pain. Many people overlooked this phenomenon; ironically, hedonism is typical in the modern era. Hence, with the in-depth discussion of hedonism on the basis of Ellis' *American Psycho* (2000), this paper can be an eye-opener to the reader.

In accordance with Weijers, he stated that there are six types of hedonism (1) folk hedonism; (2) value and prudential hedonism; (3) motivational hedonism; (4) normative hedonism; (5) hedonistic egoism; & (6) hedonistic utilitarianism (qtd. in Ridho and Ningsih 251). As stated in Weijers' paper, folk hedonism is a kind of hedonism that comes from the rough combination of motivational hedonism and hedonistic egoism. In other words, a hedonist has to gain pleasurable life without even thinking of the consequences toward other people's life or the future impact (17).

If the previous type of hedonism is a combination of motivational hedonism and hedonistic egoism; and has no specific focus or intrinsic value, value hedonism has a more profound outlook than the previous one.

Value hedonism considers something valuable if something is valuable for its own sake (Weijers 17). An excellent example of this type of hedonism is money. This transaction medium has intrinsic value, which comes from what we can do with it. The following type of hedonism is prudential hedonism, referred to as a theory about well-being. Prudential hedonism is a kind of hedonism that focuses on the intrinsic value of happiness and intrinsic value and what the value is for (Weijers 18). A good example of this behavior is when Bateman wears a-thousand-dollar suit in a meeting, which is a Valentino Couture, and his friend, Carruthers—complements Bateman's suite (Ellis 30). The main difference between value hedonism and prudential hedonism lies in a hedonist's behavior. A prudential hedonist understands that avoiding short-term displeasure is not usually the best way to gain long-lasting pleasure.

The following kind of hedonism is a less descriptive level of hedonism, commonly referred to as motivational hedonism. A hedonist of motivational hedonism sets the hedonism traits daily. In other words, preventing pain and encountering pleasure has become part of a motivational hedonist behavior (Weijers 19). An excellent example of this kind of hedonism can be anything related to unpleasant-reliever practices such as the moment when Bateman ignores his fiancé because he got annoyed in the middle of their conversation (Ellis 14). He listens to music as an unpleasant-reliever

practice daily. Even he does turn on his favorite music while murdering his people.

Another kind of Hedonism is a norm of life or so-called normative hedonism. A hedonist of normative hedonism considers a valuable life as a life that only consists of pleasurable things and only pleasure—hence, all kinds of pain must be avoided (Weijers 21).

Another side of folk hedonism, besides from motivational hedonism, is egoistic hedonism. The key to fulfilling happiness in accordance with egoistic hedonism is something that interests a hedonist the most. In other words, something a hedonist interests the most must be achieved, although it will jeopardize the others or even sacrifice someone else's life for an egoistic hedonist will (Weijers 21). Lots of examples are shown in American Psycho movie. One good example is when Bateman is offended because his friend, Owen, showed off that he can make a reservation at Dorsia restaurant. Shortly after that, he killed his college over that matter with an ax (Ellis 58). The situation above describes that Bateman justifies any effort, whether or not it is good, in order to gain the pleasure that is a must to him.

All kinds of hedonisms above are only self-centered Hedonism. The last type of hedonism is hedonistic utilitarianism, the opposite version of egoistic hedonism. A utilitarian hedonist believes that the greatest net

happiness must be evolving his/her surroundings, or everyone and all has to be given equal weight.

All kinds of hedonism above exist in human lives and can affect how people behave in their lives. It is aligned with the statement by Weijers, which stated that a life of hedonist lies on the value of pleasure and only pleasure, while all intrinsically dis-valuable thing derived from displeasure able-related thing and all displeasure must be avoided (16).

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that discussing hedonism is important because it affects how people behave in their lives. The depictions of hedonism can also be seen in literary works; one of the literary works highlighting the issue of hedonism is American Psycho movie by Bret Easton Ellis released in 2000 In this movie, the main character, Bateman, indicates hedonism practices in his life. Throughout the movie, Bateman shows many actions related to how he focused on pursuing pleasure no matter the ways of getting it was good or wrong. Thus, this study is HEDONISM PRACTICES AS REFLECTED IN AMERICAN PSYCHO that is intended to analyze hedonism as reflected by Bateman and its effects on his behavior.

B Problem Formulation

1. What types of hedonism are shown in Bateman of American Psycho movie?
2. How does hedonism affect Bateman's behavior toward his surroundings?

C Objectives of the Study

Based on the background of the study and research questions, the objectives of this study are:

1. To show types of hedonism shown by Bateman of American Psycho movie
2. To describe how hedonism affects Bateman's behavior toward his surroundings

D Significance of the Study

This paper is expected to be a good source for those who want to seek for a paper related to hedonism and an in-depth discussion of American Psycho movie. In addition, this study also discusses about types of hedonism, especially shown by Patrick Bateman, the main character of American Psycho movie and how hedonistic lifestyle affects Bateman.

E Organization of the Study

This thesis contains five chapters. The first chapter of this paper discusses the introduction which is systematically divided into subchapters. The subchapters are: background of the study, the limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and organization of the study. Chapter followed the first chapter is the review of related literature, which contains synopsis and a review of related literature on types of hedonism. Chapter following the second chapter is the third chapter, Research Method. This chapter consists of Types of Research and Data Organizing. The fourth chapter of this paper is Findings and Discussion. Finally, this paper ended with the fifth chapter which contains Conclusion and Suggestion.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The second chapter of this paper will discuss related literature, which will be divided into two sub-chapters. Those are the synopsis of the movie and the review of related literature. The review of related literature consists of types of hedonism and how hedonism affects someone's life.

A. Synopsis of American Psycho

The movie began with a blood-looking sauce spilling over a white plate, followed by a fine-looking knife chopping a steak, mimicking a murderer in action. This scene ended with a ready-to-serve steak lifted by a hand and brought to a table. All short of delicious-fancy meals shown in the frame followed by voices of customers' chatters. Another server walked to a table serving meals to a group of customers and explained to customers, politely and carefully, what the house had tonight. A colored-race server followed the other server explaining what the house had tonight.

A table full of wealthy Wall Streeter showed in the scene where the main character, Patrick Bateman—a man in a black suit, sat with his friends. One of Bateman's friends, Price, complained about the restaurant. Once he stopped complaining-- another friend of Bateman, Mc. Dermott, talking

about Dorsia—a high-class restaurant. Bateman flicked a toothpick at his friend, who talked about Dorsia.

The conversation was distracted when Mc. Dermott, one of Bateman's co-workers at another table, mistaken Reed Robinson for Paul Allen. The conversation continued about Paul Allen. Shortly after, a waiter came and provided them with a bill of \$570 over the plate. Without thinking so much, they drew their credit cards and put them on the plate.

The movie moved into another scene. A hand was full of money counting; it took some of it and gave some to a woman. A group of gentlemen walked into a nightclub. Bateman sat on a chair, ordered a beverage, and then paid it with his credit card. The woman server refused it because the bar only accepted cash. That refusal made Bateman furious; he then showed his anger by saying nasty things to her.

The scene moved into a fancy-looking interior or a place where Bateman lived. There Bateman explained where he lived and all sorts of activities he did in the mornings. At the end of the scene, the narrator (Bateman's voice) explains what he felt and who he was all the time.

Fun music faded in, followed by tall buildings in the scene, and it ended up zooming in to a specific building window. There showed Bateman walking while listening to music through his headphones, ignoring all the

people around him, and heading to his room. A woman in-suite, Jean, asked him why did he late, and Bateman replied that he had a yoga class. Bateman then got into his room, and Jean told him some other upcoming appointments—without thinking too much, Bateman declined it all.

The movie is moving on. It started with a conversation between Evelyne and Bateman in a car heading to a party. He seemed to be in the middle of his favorite song while ignoring his fiancé's chatter. The car then got to a restaurant, Espace. After having dinner, the scene moved to an outdoor scene—where Bateman withdrew his money from an ATM and walked alongside a stranger-woman and somehow followed with an argument between a Chinese Laundry clerk Bateman over a blood-stained bed sheet.

In an indoor, colored primarily on white—there was Patrick Bateman, having a call with his lady discussing a dinner plan. He planned to have their dinner at Dorsia; however, during his call to Dorsia to make a reservation, the receiver laughed for no reason. The scene then moved to the inner of a taxi. It seemed Bateman could not make a reservation at Dorsia. It was Barcadia instead of Dorsia, the name of the place shown on the menu.

It was in an office. A group of people gathered around a table. One of Bateman's friends, Carruthers, complained about his expensive suit, but Bateman stopped him from touching it. The chatters continued— someone

approached Bateman and mistaken him for another person; nevertheless, the talking continued. The man, namely Allan, then showed off his fancy name card, followed by Bateman showing off his even more expensive name card. The situation intensified when Patten, Bryce, and Allen entered the name card show-off competition.

The following scene showed Bateman heading to his home. On the way home, he saw a homeless person begging for money, accompanied by his dog. Bateman looked at him, underestimated him. Acted as if trying to help the homeless man, Bateman opened his briefcase, took a knife out of his briefcase, then stabbed the homeless man—stomped on the dog to death. Bateman then continued his way home.

The movie continued onto a scene where Bateman had himself a treatment. Shortly after that, it continued onto a Christmas celebration event. In that scene, Allen mistakes Bateman for Markus. Despite that mistake, Bateman resisted inviting Allen to dinner at Texarkana. He then took Allen to one of the rooms in Bateman's house, which contained furniture wrapped in white sheets and newspaper spread on the floor. Bateman made small talk while putting on a coat and preparing other things for the murder of his friend, Allen. As Allen was sitting on a couch, intoxicated from drinking too much alcohol at Texarkana, Bateman tuned in his favorite music while proceeding with his chatter with Allen. Bateman

approached his intoxicated friend as he dragged the ax. Allan turned his face to Bateman—simultaneously, Bateman swung the ax to Allen. Bateman Chopped him down to death. Bateman continued chopping Allen's dead body while screaming maniacally. After chopping his friend, Bateman, sitting on a couch staring at the dead body, lit his cigar.

The afterward scene is getting intense. Bateman dragged the dead body out of the room, passing the security guard, and putting it in taxi luggage. As Bateman was trying to put the dead body covered in a black sheet, a friend of Bateman's, Luis, accidentally met Bateman and greeted him. Bateman tried to hide the dead body, even though Luis wondered what Bateman had put inside the luggage. He kept ignoring Luis as he got into the taxi and headed to Luis' apartment to plot a fake scene.

Arrived at Luis' apartment. Bateman rushed to Luis' wardrobe, got some suitcases, and packed some clothes into the suitcases. While preparing suitcases, he thought of which country would be the final destiny of Luis' dead body. In short, Bateman decided to send the dead body to London, faking it as if Luis was having a trip to London.

A morning in an office, accompanied by music through the headphones. Jean came in, telling him that a detective, Donald Kimball, wanted to see Bateman. The detective came to ask questions about the disappearance of Paul Allen. Bateman was cooperative during the discussion. In short,

Bateman tried to end the discussion by telling Mr. Kimball that he was about to have an appointment at a place so-called the Four Seasons.

Another faking action is in the making. Bateman tried to make a fake scene by renting a woman. The first fake action was done. One of the women was shown not in good condition. Swellings found on her face.

Shortly after that day, Bateman asked the same woman (the one with swellings on her face) with the other some woman to come to his apartment. However, one did not want to get beaten up for no reason like before. Bateman assured her that he would not do that to her. After getting to Bateman's apartment, they then had intercourse. The woman with swellings on her face realized something wrong with her other whore fellow. She then tried to escape from Bateman's apartment. As she escaped from Bateman, he realized that the other woman had tried to run to safety. That pissed off Bateman a lot. Bateman screamed at the woman as he looked for a chainsaw to murder the whore he rented. The woman managed to get to the other floor of the building. Bateman, who was on the upper floor of the building, drew the chainsaw at the woman and killed her at once.

The next afternoon at a restaurant with Bateman's fiancé. He was having a conversation while enjoying the meal. Amidst the conversation, Bateman confessed that he wanted to terminate the relationship. That remark made Evelyn cry. Without overthinking, Bateman left her to return

a compact disk. On his way somewhere, Bateman stopped at an ATM to withdraw money. A stray cat walked in front of him. Bateman then picked it up. Shortly after, a message appeared on a screen “FEED ME A STRAY CAT.” After seeing that message, Bateman drew a gun out of his pocket and pointed it at the cat. A stranger woman saw it and uttered something upon his action. Instead of shooting the cat, Bateman shot the woman and ran away because a police car came chasing him.

The situation is getting scarier. A herd of police cars chasing Bateman. As he ran away from the police, he tried to make distractions by hitting the car to trigger the car alarm. Running to his office was the only option for him. After managing to get to his office, Bateman tried to look calm in front of the office security guard—to his room, he went. Once he got into his office room, he called his lawyer, Carnes, and confessed everything he did, including the culprit behind Allen’s murder. Bateman’s lawyer thought he was joking and hung up the phone.

The next day at Allen’s apartment. It was cleaned up and colored in white. Bateman got into the apartment, wondering what happened to Allen’s apartment. As Allen wondered what happened to the apartment, an old lady stepped in and asked Bateman to leave immediately—never to come back. He then stepped outside and went to a payphone. Bateman called Jean and told her that he was not going to make it to the office that

afternoon—he said so as he cried and got affected by a drug. In short, he hung up the phone.

At a restaurant, Bateman with his friend were having a meal. Bateman saw Carnes from afar and approached him. Bateman tried to clarify all he said through the telephone the other night. Carnes thought he was fooling around, but Bateman assured him he was not. The conversation ended with confusion that Carnes was mistaken for Bateman for Davis and said that Carnes had had dinner with Paul Allen 10 days ago.

The scene moved to Bateman's office room. Jean sneaked into Bateman's room, opening Bateman private's book. It contained vulgar-brutal images drawn with a pen.

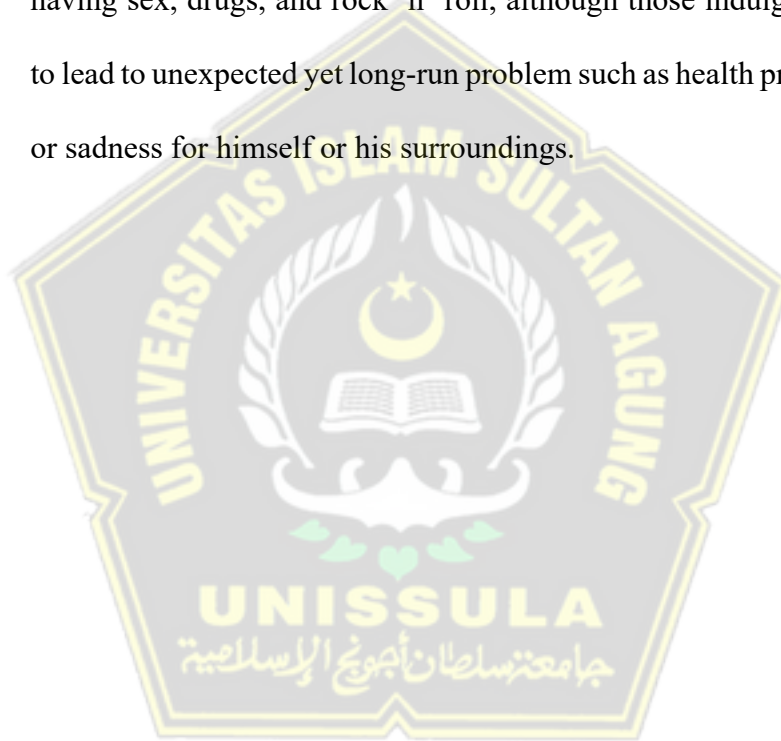
Back to the restaurant, where Bateman with his friend were having a meal. He slowly walked to the table, stunned by what had just happened. As the scene kept going, Bateman's voice went on, the camera highlighted Bateman's eyes, and the movie faded out.

B. Related Literature

The second chapter of this paper consists of two subchapters: the first subchapter discusses a synopsis of the movie, and the second subchapter discusses the literature that relates to this paper. The subchapter of related literature alone will discuss types of hedonism.

B.1. Folk Hedonism

Weijers starts the discussion of types of hedonism by stating folk hedonism in the first place. According to Weijers, Folk hedonism is a combination of motivational and egoistic hedonism (17). A folk hedonist tends to involve himself with pleasure-related things on daily basis, such as having sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, although those indulgences are likely to lead to unexpected yet long-run problem such as health problems, regrets, or sadness for himself or his surroundings.



B.2. Value Hedonism and Prudential Hedonism

As stated in Moore and Crisp's paper, these two-but-similar hedonism focus on the intrinsic value of pleasure, while all displeasure is considered to be dis-valuable (599). Specifically, anything can be considered a pleasure if the thing contains the intrinsic value; although the value itself will not lead the enjoyer to any other benefit, as long as the intrinsic value provides a good experience, it is still considered to be value hedonism (Weijers 17). An excellent example of value hedonism is money. Money is a medium to conduct a transaction; hence, it has value. Even though the one who owns it does not use it, it still has intrinsic value.

On the other hand, prudential hedonism, best referred to as a theory about well-being, is much more specific than value hedonism. If value hedonism only focuses on the intrinsic value, a pleasure has, prudential hedonism holds that all the pleasure along with intrinsic value makes people's lives better because of its value, whereas displeasure intrinsically makes their lives worse because of the value it provides (Weijers 18). In a simpler words, prudential hedonism mainly focuses on what the value is for.

B.3. Motivational Hedonism

Motivational hedonism, often referred to as psychological hedonism, in accordance with Weijers, is the theory that refers to a willingness to meet pleasure and negate all kinds of pain both ways unconsciously and consciously (19). Philosophers, as stated in Weijers' paper, mentioned that strong accounts of motivational hedonism are dictated by the willingness to meet pleasure and negate pain, and a mere this willingness. It means that the leading daily priority of this hedonist is just pleasure and only pleasure. Using drugs on a daily basis for purpose of negating all kinds of displeasure is a good example of motivational hedonism.

B.4. Normative Hedonism

According to Weijers, normative hedonism explains how pleasure should be pursued, the pain should be avoided, and which actions are morally permissible or impermissible and why (21). Normative hedonism is divided into two types: hedonistic egoism (the most offensive type of normative hedonism) and hedonistic utilitarianism.

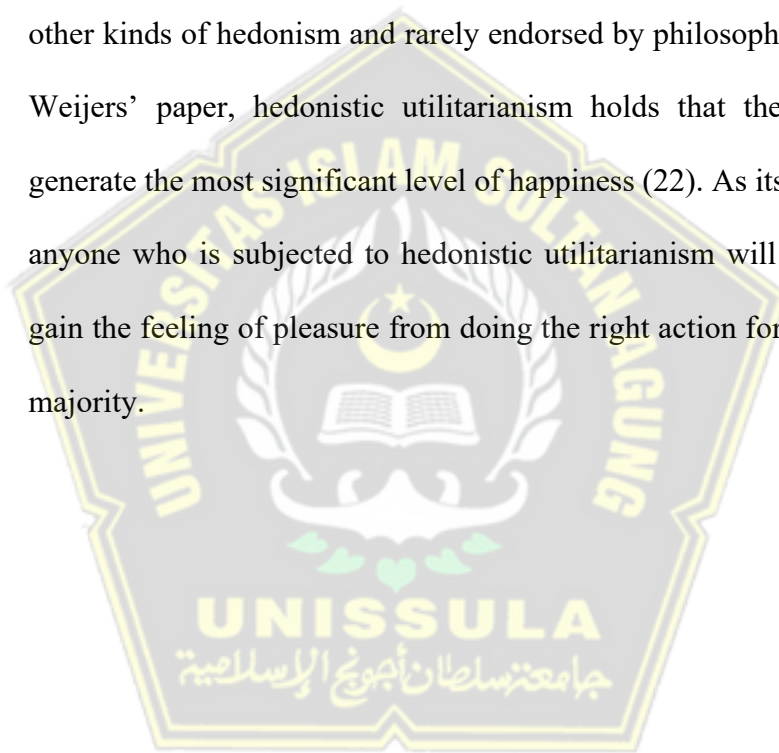
B.5. Hedonistic Egoism

The most offensive, the most potent version of hedonism—hedonistic egoism. Hedonistic egoism, according to Weijers, is the theory that we have to do whatever it takes to gain the most, the highest level of pleasure. This theory also believes that the thing we desire the most will bring us the

ultimate happiness (21). Hence the one who is considered to be a hedonistic egoist will do everything, by hook or by crook, to achieve his/her will. Even though it will cost the life of the innocent one.

B.6. Hedonistic Utilitarianism

Hedonistic utilitarianism is a kind of hedonism that is opposite to all the other kinds of hedonism and rarely endorsed by philosophers. As stated in Weijers' paper, hedonistic utilitarianism holds that the good act will generate the most significant level of happiness (22). As its name suggests, anyone who is subjected to hedonistic utilitarianism will feel better, and gain the feeling of pleasure from doing the right action for the good of the majority.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

The third chapter of this paper was used to answer the research problem. This study is divided into three subchapters: types of research, data organizing, and analyzing the data.

A. Types of Research

The data shown in this research used a qualitative method. This method was usually used to help others understand the social and cultural contexts and non-numerical data. The qualitative method mainly focuses on the explanation, point of view, and impressions. In other words, in accordance with Strause and Corbin, this kind of research has no reliance on quantitative measurement or statistical analysis (qtd. in Hamilton & Finley 3). Since the qualitative method is the proper method for non-numerical data, hence the writer uses this method to analyze the movie entitled *American Psycho* by Mary Harron.

B.1. Data Collecting Method

B.11 Watching the Movie

The first step was watching the movie thoroughly. At this step, *American Psycho* movie was played several times in order to gain rich and detailed information.

B.1.2 Reading the Movie Script

The second step was to gain better information by reading the original movie script. By reading the original movie script, the writer could have a better comprehension of what happened, what the characters in the movie do, and many more.

B.1.3 Identifying the Data

The third step is to gain better information by identifying the data contained in American Psycho movie. This step is dedicated to answering all the two problem formulations in the form of monologues, dialogues, or prologues. Once the data is ready, all the data is then underlined and matched with the related references.

B.1.4 Classifying the Data

After identifying the data, to make well-structured data—classifying the data is the next step. After gaining some essential data, to make it much more structured is by making it a table, which is divided into six columns such as the number of tables, quotes, minutes/page, the form of the data, references, and the last part was comments which meant to relate the quotations with the references. This six-columned table named Appendix.

B.1.5 Reducing the Data

Finally, after going through some steps, the last step that needs to be executed is reducing the data. This reducing-data step is aimed at reducing some unnecessary information, so the reader can easily comprehend the data provided in this paper.

B.2. Types of the Data

This paper contained several types of data which could be divided into two types; primary and secondary data, they were:

1. The main data was the first-priority data which taken from American Psycho movie script by Mary Harron. The movie duration times were 102 minutes and released in 2000.
2. The second priority data (secondary data) was taken from e-books, e-journals, journal, and sites correlated to the research of this paper.

B.3. Analyzing the Data

The final step of all these steps was analyzing the data. This study consisted of an analysis and report based on the movie. Then the following step of analyzing the data is the final project, which focuses on the data collected from the movie and the supporting references related to this study.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The fourth chapter of this paper contains findings and discussion. It mainly focuses on the types of hedonism shown in Bateman's behavior and how hedonism affects Bateman's behavior toward his surroundings.

A. Types of Hedonism Shown in Bateman's Behavior

A.1. Folk Hedonism

This part is about to discuss folk hedonism. According to Weijers, folk hedonism is a theory that holds that someone who tends to seek pleasure and avoid displeasure events daily either unconsciously or consciously and at the same time, without thinking about the consequences of the actions he/she does (16-17). Folk hedonism showed several times in the behavior of American Psycho movie characters. This act is shown in the movie's early part, where Bateman and his fiancé, Evelyn, had a conversation in a car: "I'm trying to listen to the new George Michael tape but Evelyn – my supposed fiancé – keeps buzzing in my ear.". What Bateman like to do, listening to music—especially when other people talk to him, indeed can harm Bateman's relationship. Hence, this action can be considered folk hedonism because Bateman did it multiple times in the movie. Another example of listening to music as folk hedonism is when Bateman listened to music while at work, "...the latest copy of Sports Illustrated in front of

him and his Walkman playing Kenny G. We hear the music until Jean enters and he takes the Walkman off." (Ellis 59). This evidence clearly shows that Bateman does listen to music while at work, which is not appropriate, even if that action may harm his career. Therefore, this action can be considered folk hedonism.

In one part of the movie, they went to a restaurant, intoxicating Paul Allen. Right before killing Allen, Bateman did drugs; the narrator explicitly explains it in the movie script "Bateman walks to his bathroom, taking a large ax out of the shower. He takes two Valium." (Ellis 56). Valium is a drug that can make the enjoyer feel calm whenever the enjoyer enjoys a pill of Valium. As we know, once someone is addicted to a drug, it is difficult for him to stop doing it, which may harm the drug enjoyer's health. In another scene, Bateman also showed the same act—doing drugs in a stall inside a nightclub with his co-worker, "Bateman dips his AMEX in the envelope and snorts" this narration even gets more elaboration in the form of dialogue "It's definitely weak but I have a feeling if we do enough of it we'll be okay." (Ellis 8). Aside from being addicted to Valium, Bateman is also addicted to Ecstasy; it is explicitly stated in the narration of the movie, "The kitchen: Bateman is grinding up tabs of Ecstasy and putting them in a bottle of wine." (Ellis 90).

Aside from listening to music in ungodly times and being addicted to drugs, Bateman also likes to have intercourse with a stranger woman. It is shown in the movie several times. In one scene, Bateman was having intercourse with two stranger women, it clearly depicted in the movie, "Bateman starts to undress." (Ellis 48). He even videotapes what he does, "Sek montage cut to 'Sussudio', we see this in wide shot, or through lens of the video camera." (Ellis 49). That evidence shows that Bateman was in the middle of having intercourse and videotaped what he did. Bateman even did this several times. This kind of action can be considered folk hedonism because this may bring him HIV/AIDS, but sadly, Bateman does not care about the consequences.

As elaborated above, a folk hedonist tends to be egoistic and do hedonistic things unconsciously or consciously daily. Bateman stated that he often does that, "I'm into, well, murders, and executions mostly" (Ellis 76). Hence, a folk hedonist never misses an opportunity to indulge in the pleasures of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, even if those pleasures will lead him/her to problems (Weijers 16-17).

A.2 Value Hedonism and Prudential Hedonism

Value hedonism is sometimes referred to hedonism as a theory about the value that holds that pleasure is intrinsically valuable and all displeasures contain no value. This means that all intrinsically valuable things, as long as they provide a pleasurable experience, are valuable hedonistic. Many things shown in the movie can be considered valuable hedonism at the beginning, where Bateman had a meal with his friend at a fancy restaurant, with a bill of \$470 for just one meal. The narration itself clarifies what happened in the scene, "The others murmur agreement. Four platinum AMEX cards slap down on the table." (Ellis 5). This piece of evidence depicts what money (intrinsically valuable thing) can buy. Although this does not benefit the enjoyer, that event is still good to experience (Weijers 17).

Besides a fancy meal—Bateman possesses a fancy suit, Valentino Couture. This is clearly stated when Carruthers complemented Bateman's suit. This even elaborated by Bateman himself:

Owen has mistaken me for this dickhead Marcus Halberstam. It seems logical because Marcus also works at P&P and in fact does the same exact thing I do, and he also has a penchant for Valentino suits and Oliver Peoples glasses (Ellis 30).

This explains what Bateman wears, not only his suit but also his expensive eyewear. Besides expensive eyeglasses and suits, Bateman also owns expensive bed sheets exclusively from Santa Fe, "Two-two, I can only get these sheets in Santa Fe. These are very expensive sheets and I really need them clean." (Ellis 20). Fancy stuff, as stated above, can be said to be value hedonism because that is what money can buy, which contains an intrinsically colossal value, even though it provides no benefit.

Another excellent example of value hedonism is when Bateman was in his limo and looked for a hooker: In short, he met Christie and conducted a bargain, as clearly stated in the narration, "Bateman is holding out a hundred dollar bill, which Christie now notices, then takes." (Ellis 44). Lending a hooker is an example of what money can buy, and once again, as Weijers stated—although it brings no benefit, it is still good to experience.

If value hedonism merely holds that all pleasure is supposed to possess intrinsic value, prudential hedonism is focused on how the value is used. According to Weijers, prudential hedonism or theory about well-being holds that all pleasure makes people's lives go better for them, while displeasure does the opposite (17). At the beginning of the movie, where Bateman was being introduced through a scene, he also revealed his morning routine:

I believe in taking care of myself, in a balanced diet, in a rigorous exercise routine. In the morning, if my face is a little puffy, I'll put on an ice pack while doing my stomach crunches. I can do a thousand now (Ellis 10).

This kind of routine indeed may improve his physical health. The better his physical health, the better life he will get. This is said to be one of the prudential hedonistic things because Bateman's daily routine may bring him a better life.

A.3 Egoistic Hedonism

Egoistic hedonism is the strongest version of hedonism. An egoistic hedonist will literally do everything to gain what he/she desires the most. Although his/her action will harm others, it is still morally acceptable as long as the pleasure he/she wanted is achieved (Weijers 21). Another thing to emphasize is that the one who holds egoistic hedonism tends to have less or even no empathy towards others; hence he/she will literally do everything in an unusual way (Weijers 22). One egoistic hedonism act is when Bateman heads to his apartment and meets a homeless person on a sidewalk. That homeless person was starving and begging for help from Bateman; what the homeless person did piss Bateman off because that was considered inappropriate—just like taking something out of a wealthy

person, according to Bateman. This is clearly shown through a dialogue between Bateman and the homeless person on a sidewalk, "Listen, do you think it's fair to take money from people who do have jobs? From people who do work?" (Ellis 35). That is the situation where Bateman started to dislike the homeless person. Beyond that, Bateman even mocked the homeless man before drawing a knife from a briefcase and stabbed him, "Get a goddamn hob, AL. You've got a negative attitude. That's what's stopping you. You've got to get your act together. I'll help you." (Ellis 36). This mocking got worst, "You reek. You reek of...shit. Do you know that?" (Ellis 36). Right after that mockery, Bateman killed the man by stabbing him to death in the stomach. This is considered egoistic hedonism because the first indication that needs to be underlined is that Bateman got pissed off when the homeless man asked him for help. By killing the homeless man, Bateman can eliminate an unpleasant sight from him. This can be considered egoistic hedonism because instead of giving him help, Bateman killed the man to get rid of him out of Bateman's sight.

Another excellent example of egoistic hedonism is when Bateman gets mad when Paul Owen shows that he can make a reservation at Dorsia while Bateman cannot. In order to end this displeasure, Bateman has a desire to kill his co-worker, Paul Owen. This hatred can be seen when Bateman chops Owen with an ax in the face, "(raising the ax and screaming) Try

getting a reservation at Dorsia now you fucking stupid bastard!" (Ellis 58). After killing his friend, Bateman did not even feel grief. This clearly indicated what he did right after killing his friend, "He sits back on the white sofa and surveys the scene. He checks his Rolex and lights a cigar" (Ellis 58). From the narration above, Bateman calmly sits in front of Owen's dead body and lit a cigar. He even screamed maniacally as chopping Owen's face with an ax. At the end of the movie, Bateman clearly states what he felt when he killed his co-worker, "Now Carnes, listen to me. Listen very, very carefully. I killed Paul Owen, and I liked it. I can't make myself any clearer." (Ellis 112). This is an egoistic hedonistic act because Bateman did this to end his displeasure (Owen can make a reservation at Dorsia while Bateman cannot), and most importantly, he felt no grief feeling or empathy after killing his friend.

B. Bateman's behavior toward his surroundings after being subjected to hedonism.

According to Susanto, a hedonist tends to seek pleasures of life in the form of spending money on goods that are not necessary and tends to be the center of attention (qt. in Sholeh 605). Armstrong also explains that the same thing which a hedonist does tends to aim to seek attention from the surroundings in order to become the center of attention (qt. in Ridho and

Ningsih 250). These explanations are in-line with the behavior shown by Bateman. The moment when Bateman lied that he managed to make a reservation at Dorsia is a perfect example. This deception can be seen when Courtney wonders whether or not she is at Dorsia. Instead of saying that they were at Barcadia, Bateman lied to his girlfriend that they were at Dorsia, "(examining a menu that says 'Barcadia' in large script) Yes dear." (Ellis 7). Carruthers mistakenly understood that moment that Bateman and Courtney were at Dorsia, an insanely expensive and hard-to-make reservation restaurant. We can see it through this dialogue, "Patrick, thanks so much for looking after Courtney. Dorsia, how impressive! How on earth did you get a reservation there?" (Ellis 29). From the dialogues above, we see that Bateman lied that he finally managed to make a reservation at Dorsia, which made him receive a compliment from his co-worker, Carruthers.

Besides the deception, which ended up with a compliment from Bateman's co-worker, what he wore, an expensive suit, also made him receive a compliment from his friend "That's a wonderful jacket. Let me guess, Valentino Couture?" (Ellis 30). After saying that, Carruthers then touched Bateman's suit. This is an example of an action (wearing an expensive suit) to become the center of attention.

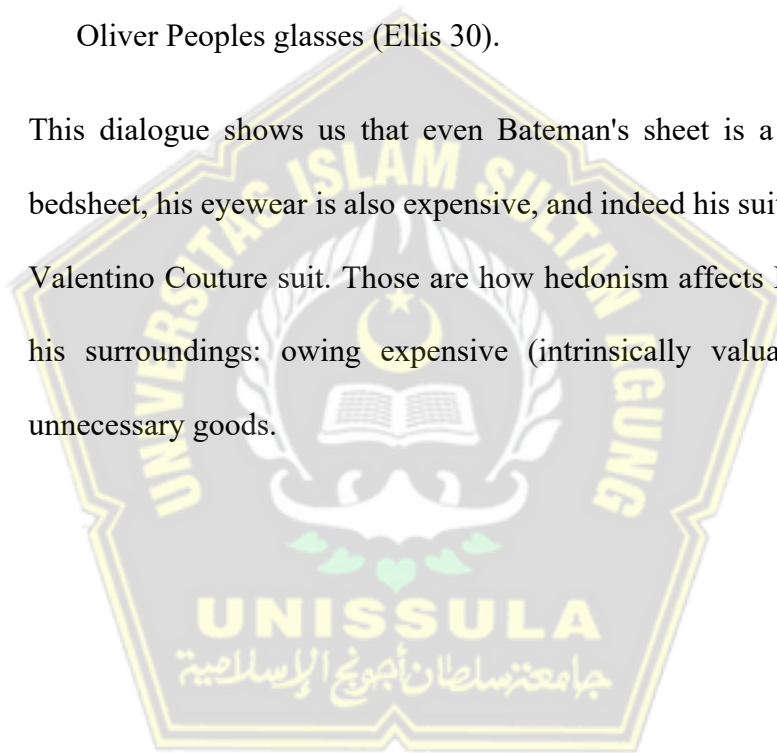
Another good example similar to that piece of the evidence above is when one of his co-workers, Paul Owen, showed off that he also managed to make a reservation at Dorsia, "No can do. Got a res at 8:30 at Dorsia. Great sea urchin ceviche" (Ellis 31). Bateman received that information hostilely; this depiction is clearly depicted through a narration afterward, "CLOSE on Bateman's face, cold with hatred." (Ellis 31). Shortly after that, Bateman followed Owen's show-off with a name card show off to attract compliments, "Bateman takes out his wallet and pulls out a card." (Ellis 32). Then, that narration followed with a dialogue, "New card. What do you think?" (Ellis 32). Shortly after that show-off, some of Bateman's co-workers complemented his card. These proofs clearly show that Bateman tends to do something to get compliments from his surroundings.

Aside from making Bateman do something for the sake of complement, hedonism makes him, in accordance with Susanto, tend to buy expensive yet unnecessary goods (qt. in Sholeh 605). This is in line with the theory explained by Weijers about the value and prudential hedonism (precisely value hedonism), which holds that all pleasure contains an intrinsic value and provides a good experience (although it provides no benefit) (16). One example is when Bateman explicitly says that his bed sheets are exclusive and expensive "Two-two, I can only get these sheets in Santa Fe. These are very expensive sheets and I really need them clean." (Ellis 20). Another

example of how a hedonistic lifestyle affects Bateman's behavior towards his surroundings is shown through this dialogue:

Owen has mistaken me for this dickhead Marcus Halberstam. It seems logical because Marcus also works at P&P and in fact does the same exact thing I do, and he also has a penchant for Valentino suits and Oliver Peoples glasses (Ellis 30).

This dialogue shows us that even Bateman's sheet is a very expensive bedsheet, his eyewear is also expensive, and indeed his suit is an expensive Valentino Couture suit. Those are how hedonism affects Bateman toward his surroundings: owing expensive (intrinsically valuable things) yet unnecessary goods.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Chapter five of this paper consists of conclusions and suggestions. The results are based on the analysis in chapter four, followed by suggestions.

A. Conclusion

The conclusion of this paper is based on the analysis results in chapter four. The study of American Psycho movie mainly focuses on types of hedonism shown in Bateman's behavior and Bateman's behavior towards his surroundings after being subjected to hedonism. Bateman's (main character) behavior shows three types of hedonism. (1) Folk hedonism; (2) Value and prudential hedonism; (3) Egoistic hedonism.

Folk hedonism is shown in this movie by the main character himself. Bateman shows this particular behavior through the tendency to do something without emphasizing the consequences, either unconsciously or consciously. Many examples are shown in the movie, such as: listening to music while Bateman's girlfriend was talking. Bateman does like listening to music, but when he listened to it while his girlfriend was talking, this may harm the relationship. Doing drugs is another excellent example of folk hedonistic action. Bateman shows his addiction to drugs. He even did this

several times. Doing drugs, as we know, is harmful; hence this kind of action is considered folk hedonism.

Aside from the action of folk hedonism, value and prudential hedonism are so starkly shown by Bateman in the movie. This particular type of hedonism consists of two sub-types of hedonism: hedonism as a theory about value (value hedonism) and hedonism as a theory about well-being (prudential hedonism). Value hedonism holds that pleasure is intrinsically valuable while displeasure is the only thing with no intrinsic value. This, in other words, is a good representation of pleasure produced from intrinsically valuable things such as money or expensive possessions we can get from using money. Although it provides no benefits, its good experience can be experienced. Having hundreds of dollars on a one-meal bill is an excellent example of value hedonism. This is what money can buy, and it is good to experience. Owing an expensive Valentino Couture suit is also an excellent example of value hedonism. This indeed provides no benefit to the enjoyer, but it is still good to experience.

The last type of hedonism shown in this movie, practiced by Bateman, is egoistic hedonism. This type of hedonism, egoistic hedonism, is the theory that holds that it is morally acceptable to do anything to get what an egoistic hedonist desires the most. An egoistic hedonist tends to have no empathy. Hence, he/she will be willing to do whatever it takes to achieve

the most desirable thing. Bateman's behavior in terminating his competition in a cruel way is an excellent example of egoistic hedonism. To put it in detail, Bateman was murdering his friend, Paul Owen, because he really managed to make a reservation at Dorsia, and Bateman did not like that. To stop the situation from getting further, Bateman stopped it by killing his friend.

Another thing that needs to be noticed is what he did after that scene: Bateman felt no grief. He even admitted that he liked it. This action is an example of egoistic hedonism because of the cruel way Bateman took to gain what he wanted, removing the one Bateman did not like, dominating the competition, and/or simply cruelty for having fun.

As Bateman continuously did hedonistic actions, his behavior indeed has been subjected to hedonistic action, which undoubtedly changes his behavior toward his surroundings. Many examples are shown in the movie, which indirectly says that Bateman's behavior has been affected by a hedonistic lifestyle. One example of a hedonistic lifestyle shown by Bateman is from expensive stuff he possesses, ranging from a really expensive-yet exclusive bedsheet, suit, and eyeglasses. This movie's tendency to seek attention to become the center of attention is so stark, especially in his working environment. This can be seen when Bateman initiated the name card show-off. The expensive name card he showed off

indeed directed some attention to it. Bateman even got compliments for that action.

B. Suggestions

From this study, in the end, there are several suggestions that the readers can learn. Firstly, as explained above, a hedonistic lifestyle is undoubtedly a growing problem in this society because the one who has been exposed to this kind of lifestyle tends to seek attention to become the center of attention. This surely can lead someone to possess one or even more types of hedonism in his/her traits. Once someone is subjected to this, he or she might be either consciously or unconsciously doing hedonistic action daily. Secondly: as a counter to that behavior, the best way to prevent this exhausting behavior is by simply accepting what you possess, who you are right now, or in other words: being grateful for everything you have. The last suggestion to the researcher who intended to analyze American Psycho is: that there are still many aspects to look at in this movie. Keep on thinking of it.

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