

# Individuation in the Main Characters of J.K. Rowling's *HARRY POTTER* Series

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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the individuation of Potter and Voldemort in Harry Potter series. To be a holistic individual, a person needs to be individuated by managing their three main archetypes. The three main archetypes are persona, shadow, and anima or animus. Potter and Voldemort have to manage their archetypes their journey as human beings. Each of them has to know his persona including his appearance, behavior and role; confront his shadow; and balance his anima. In the end, Potter manages himself to be a individuated person who can lead a good life, while Voldemort fails to be an individuated person and, as a result, he died.

Keywords: individuation, archetypes, persona, shadow, anima, individuated.

The genre of fiction-adventure-fantasy was not heard in the 2000s until the publication of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. Harry Potter has distinct characteristics since J.K. Rowling explored fiction-adventure-fantasy using young adults as the main characters. J.K. Rowling was travelling from London to Manchester when she was imagining the boy with his lightning scar on his forehead. With this idea, she created *Harry Potter* series that consist of seven books. In this paper, I used all seven books of *Harry Potter* series to know the journey of Voldemort and Potter as individuals.

Potter and Voldemort act as the role models that can be analyzed through their archetypes. As Knox (2003) said, "Archetypes are by definition factors and motifs that arrange the psychic elements into certain images, characterized as archetypal, but in such a way that they can be recognized only by the effects they produce." (p.25). Potter is a hero since he saves many of his friends countless time. He can find his role in society. While Voldemort cannot find his role and follows his egoism and obsession resulting in his death. I will use the archetypal analysis to unfold the archetypes of Voldemort and Potter. In this paper, I am interested in analyzing the psychological archetypes of Potter and Voldemort in Harry Potter as parts of individuation. In the end, I wish to show the dynamics of psychological archetypes of Potter and Voldemort to reveal their individuation.

## ARCHETYPES

To be able to find whether Potter and Voldemort is individuated or not, I will use the archetypal theory and individuation theory by Carl Gustav Jung. I will use only three main archetypes here. First one is persona or the mask which will involve the appearance, behavior and the role of the individual. Second archetype is the shadow. Shadow is the inner dark side of one person. Shadow needs to be confronted so that one individual knows his dark side and control it. The last archetype is the anima or animus, since this paper talks about men, I will use anima only. Anima is the archetype that balances the aggression of men's traits. It can come from external and internal.

## INDIVIDUATION

Jung stated that, "...becoming an "in-dividual," and, in so far as "individuality" embraces our innermost, last, and incomparable uniqueness, it also implies becoming one's own self. We could therefore translate individuation as "coming to selfhood," or "self-realization." (Mehrtens). To be individuated, one individual needs to know his true self. The way to know the true self or to be individuated is by managing those three main archetypes. The one who can manage his

archetypes is the one who knows his persona, he can confront his shadow and balance his anima and aggression. Jung described, "an individuated person is ordinary, therefore almost invisible. . . . His feelings, thoughts, etc., are just anybody's feelings, thoughts. [Individuated person] quite ordinary, as a matter of fact, and not interesting at all. . . . He will have no need to be exaggerated, hypocritical, neurotic, or any other nuisance. He will be "in modest harmony with nature." . . . No matter whether people think they are individuated or not, they are just what they are" (as cited in Pettifor, 1995). Individuated person is someone who is balanced inside and out of himself.

### **POTTER'S ARCHETYPES AND INDIVIDUATION**

Potter's persona consist of his appearance, his behavior and roles. Potter's appearance can be described as ordinary.

"Harry had always been small and skinny for his age. . . . Harry had a thin face, knobby knees, black hair, and bright green eyes. The only thing Harry liked about his own appearance was a very thin scar on his forehead that was shaped like a bolt of lightning." (Rowling, 1998 p. 20)

From here, Potter is described as ordinary boy, a common teenager, small, skinny, thin, and having a black hair. He has his scar on his forehead. This appearance of Potter does not change, he consistently shows his ordinary appearance in which I can see that Potter is not a fake person who hides in his own physical appearance.

Bravery is one of Potter's behavior. It is showed by Dobby's testimony about Potter himself.

"Harry Potter is valiant and bold! He has braved so many dangers already! [said Dobby]" (Rowling, 1999 p. 16)

From here, I can see that Potter values his own persona. It is showed by his brave behavior to save people countless times.

Caring is Potter's behavior. He cares for his friend, Hermione even though he does not know her well.

"As they jostled their way through a crowd of confused Hufflepuffs, Harry suddenly grabbed Ron's arm. "I've just thought — Hermione."

"What about her?"

"She doesn't know about the troll."

Ron bit his lip." (Rowling, 1998 p.173)

Potter notices that Hermione does not know anything about the troll. Instead going back to dormitory to save himself, he wants to help Hermione who does not know about the troll. This is the proof that Potter is a caring person.

Potter's role is simply as a hero. He chooses to sacrifice himself to kill Voldemort. People started to believe in him and called him, the Chosen One. However, not only Potter is chosen, he also choose his path to sacrifice himself, so that Voldemort's reign will end.

"These thoughts pattered against the hard surface of the incontrovertible truth, which was that he must die. I must die. It must end." (Rowling, 2010 p. 759)

It is his choice that he is the hero. As a hero, Potter accepts his role and acts like one. He will do whatever it takes to be the person who can save other people. Even though he has to die at the end, it is fine with him as long as other people can live.

Potter's role as hero who refines his action to embrace death, proves that Potter fully understands his role as the hero of the story. Potter starts to know his persona by knowing his appearance that does not change, his good behavior towards others, his role as the one who must die to end evil power and at the end he values his persona and by doing so he is ready to be individuated person.

As a human, Potter feels his own shadow inside him. He has the self doubt of his deceased Headmaster, Dumbeldore. Potter does not know the plan about what to do to end Voldemort. He started to angry and blame Dumbledore.

"I don't know who he [Dumbledore] loved, Hermione but it was never me. It isn't love, the mess he's left me in. He shared a damn sight more of what he was really thinking with Gilderwald than he ever shared with me." (Rowling, 2010 p. 401)

Potter is angry and confused toward the plan that Dumbledore had left. His confusion and anger towards Dumbledore has made Potter dissatisfied and he started to compare him with Dumbledore's trusted friend, Grindewald. However, Potter manages to confront his shadow and started to follow Dumbledore's plan again which is finding the horcruxes (the seven sacred things that hold and guard the seven split souls of Voldemort) not the hallows (sacred things consist of the wand, the cloak and the stone to defeat death itself).

Anima is the archetypes that a man need to manage to be balance inside and out. Using the feminine traits that comes from inside of himself, Potter has the modesty that a man should never showed.

"I've got loads to learn. . . . I bet," he [Potter] added, voicing for the first time something that had been worrying him a lot lately, "I bet I'm the worst in the class." (Rowling, 1998 p. 100)

Being modest and not self proud make Potter able to balance his ego as a young man. He admits that he might be the worst in class, since he does not know anything about magic. He could have been following his ego as a boy to prove that he is capable of being the best, instead he says that he believes that he might be the worst in the class.

Potter also has the feminine influence that he gets from outside. One of it comes from his bestfriend, Hermione Granger. Hermione acts as his best girlfriend, and he feels Hermione more like his sister.

"She's [Hermione] like my sister, he went on. I love her like a sister and I reckon she feels the same way about me." (Rowling, 2010 p. 418)

After all the years they spend together, Potter believes that his friendship with Hermione has grown, from only friends then transforms to brother and sister relationship. Hermione that acts as a sister, gives Potter someone to rely on in difficult times.

Eventually, Potter becomes the individuated person. He can manage the archetypes from the first place. He knows his persona in the first place. He does not change his ordinary appearance, he also cares for his friend and the most important is that he embraces his role as savior who must sacrifice himself to death so that Voldemort's reign is ended. Potter's self doubt is his shadow, he eventually goes back to Dumbledore's plan and he can confront the shadow and gain his way to be individuated person. The last archetype is the anima which Potter has from inside which is his modesty and from the outside is his bestfriend, Hermione Granger.

To sum up, Potter's persona, his mundanity that cooperate well with confronted shadow resulting his originality of a being. It means that he valued his role as a savior and using it to confront his shadow. Moreover, he has balanced his anima and his masculinity. Potter achieves the condition of individuation when he can manage those three archetypes. At the end, Potter leads a normal and ordinary life just like many other people and living a good life with his wife and children.

## **VOLDEMORT'S ARCHETYPES AND INDIVIDUATION**

Voldemort's persona consists of his appearance, his behavior and Voldemort's role. Voldemort has two appearances. First one before he splits his soul into seven when he was 16 years old which is known as Tom Riddle and after he splits his soul after he is resurrected by Potter's blood which is known as Lord Voldemort.

"A boy of about sixteen entered, taking off his pointed hat. A silver prefect's badge was glinting on his chest. He was much taller than Harry, but he, too, had jet-black hair. (Rowling, 1999 p. 243)

Riddle was a normal teenager in his appearance, having a black hair, and he can be assumed a diligent and clever boy too since he was wearing a prefect's badge. I will discuss how Riddle changed into Voldemort that affects his appearance as well.

"Whiter than a skull, with wide, livid scarlet eyes and a nose that was flat as a snake's with slits for nostrils . . . Lord Voldemort had risen again." (Rowling, 2000 p. 643)

Here, Riddle's appearance was changed. He was no longer having black hair and unlike a normal man, he has dehumanized his appearance more into snake.

Voldemort's behavior can be described as conceited. As a kid, Voldemort believes that his name should be more special than just "Tom"

“You dislike the name ‘Tom’?” [ask Dumbledore]

“There are a lot of Toms,” muttered Riddle.” (Rowling, 2003 p. 274)

The dialogue above shows how young Riddle disliked his name, Tom. He showed on how he can find many other boys named Tom too, thus he did not like the name. He feels that “Tom” is too ordinary. He wanted to be special in his name too. Though he is an orphan, he wanted to prove that he is special, so he concluded that the name “Tom” did not qualified enough to prove how special he is. The changing of his appearance and his behavior shows how Voldemort does not value his own persona.

Voldemort’s role is the most significant part in the persona. Here, Voldemort is actually a promising wizard, but his desire of proving that he is special has made him a bad guy. He wants to impress people, to prove that even though he is an orphan, he can present himself as a greater individual. He acts as a superior individual who needs a higher place from any other beings which is the most powerful wizard in the world.

Knowing that he is a special being, Voldemort acts as one. He needs special tool too to kill his enemy. He needs a special wand.

“I have performed my usual magic. I am extraordinary, but this wand has not revealed the wonders it has promised.”(Rowling, 2010 p. 716)

Voldemort believes that he is extraordinary with his brilliance and his power, he never quenches enough to have ordinary magic with the wand. From his own testimonial about himself, he believes that he is extraordinary and a great being like him needs extraordinary wand also.

To sum up, Voldemort’s persona is discovered already, however he does not value it. The proof are, his changing appearance, his real behavior and his role as the powerful wizard has made him lose control of his own persona, resulting a difficult condition for him to be individuated.

After knowing Voldemort’s persona significantly his role who wants to be the most powerful wizard, here I discuss on how he achieves his role. Unfortunately, Voldemort’s way in achieving his role is his own shadow. At the beginning, Voldemort was labeled as the promising wizard, but he wanted to prove that he is special. Voldemort’s shadow is his fear of death. He wanted to be immortal and he deserts his persona by splitting his soul into seven so that he cannot be killed. When he was sixteen years old, he did his first splitting into his own diary.

“I decided to leave behind a diary, preserving my sixteen-year-old self in its pages, so that one day, with luck, I would be able to lead another in my footsteps, and finish [Salazar Slytherin]’s noble work” (Rowling, 199 p. 312)

The monologue above is when the spirit of Voldemort was still in his sixteen. He confessed that he preserved himself into a diary. Preserved in here means he split his soul for the first time. He indirectly killed a student using a basilisk [a large snake that can kill a person by seeing its yellow eyes or killing with his poisoned fang], named Mrytle. This first killing has made him gained his immortality for the first time.

Anima is the feminine part of a man. However, Voldemort does not have any anima that comes from internal and external. The absence of women’s roles in his life including, friends whom he did not have any, his mother who should be giving her unconditional love to her only son, have not been experienced by Voldemort. This situation causes his great male ego, resulting his great aggression and no mercy for other beings.

Voldemort who is supposedly to balance his anima by using his internal feminine traits, fail to do so since he himself does not grow any feeling toward other beings. His egoistic nature that wants to reach his only dream, which is immortality, has neglected his anima from inside himself. As a result he has no anima or feminine traits inside him.

From the beginning of the story, Voldemort’s mother is left by her husband, after giving birth to Voldemort, Merope Gaunt, Voldemort’s mother died precisely after giving a name to his only son. Then he grew up in the orphanage. The only person who should have given him the unconditional love just died after giving him birth is the reason he started to lose his feminine traits from external. As the result, Voldemort does not have any female influence in his life

In the end, Voldemort is categorized as non-individuated person. He does not discover and value his persona as he left his label as promising wizard at the beginning. In addition he also changes his persona through his own appearance. From his teenage life, he is a normal young man. However, after he splits his soul, he changes and experiences dehumanization in which he is more

similar to snake. His behavior is also eerie in the way that he was a little boy, yet he showed conceit behavior.

Voldemort is also overshadowed by his fear of death. What he does to prevent his own death is by immortality, splitting his soul into seven. No longer concerned of what is right or wrong, he wanted to achieve his immortality by killing people easily and without any pity. Meanwhile immortality is impossible, Voldemort cannot confront his shadow and he started to be dominated with his own shadow. Here, Voldemort has abandoned his good nature and eaten away by the shadow and forgot his persona.

As a man, Voldemort's anima is not balanced. Voldemort fails in balancing his masculinity and femininity, resulting in his own failure to be individuated. At last, ironically, Voldemort died in pursuing his own desire which is to be immortal. Due to his imbalanced archetypes, Voldemort is the non-individuated person resulting in his own death.

## CONCLUSION

Potter's persona can be seen through his appearance that can be summarized as an ordinary boy. Second thing of the persona is that, Potter's behavior which is his bravery in which Potter saves his friends countless times. Potter's caring behavior is also seen when he wants to save his new friend, Hermione.

Potter's role as the most significant part in persona, is simply as a hero. He is believed as the Chosen One who can defeat Voldemort. His bravery in facing death proves him as the hero of the story. He valued his persona and he realized that he is the only one who can end Voldemort by sacrificing himself to be killed so that by his death he can bring peace to the world. Potter knows and understands fully his persona and being all conscious to know his role in society.

Every individual has a shadow and as the second archetype, Potter's shadow here acts as his self-doubt toward his headmaster, Dumbledore. He is bewildered by the late Dumbledore's plan. Potter temporarily feels no love and care from Dumbledore who supposed to protect him. However, at the end he figures out Dumbledore's plan and started to manage his way to find the horcruxes, not the hallows.

The last archetype of Potter is his balanced anima and his male ego. Potter as a male has the tendency to be aggressive, do justice without concerning others, and feel no mercy. However, his internal feminine traits allow him to balance his masculinity. From the external, Potter has Hermione that acts as his best friend. These traits and influence make him more balanced in both his masculinity and anima. After balancing the anima and masculinity, Potter gains his step to be an individuated person.

By knowing and valuing his persona, confronting his shadow and Potter's attempt to balance his anima from internal and external has made Potter an individuated person. These three archetypes are managed by Potter, resulting in his individuation. The individuated person is someone who has the ordinary life. His thought is just as common as any other persons. Potter, at the end leads a good life with his wife. He has family and leads a normal life.

Voldemort's persona which includes his appearance, behavior and role. I divide Voldemort's appearance into two. Firstly when he was sixteen years old, before he split his soul and he has normal appearance as a teenage boy. Secondly, after he splits his soul into seven, he undergoes dehumanization, he is no longer recognized as a human being. His face changes into snake-like. The changing of appearance from normality and his snake-like face represent his changing personality as well. It proves on how fake Voldemort can be.

Voldemort's behavior from his early teenage years is conceited. Voldemort's role is the most powerful wizard. He believes that he is special, even though he is an orphan he can be a powerful wizard. At the end, his inconsistent persona, his real behavior and his role to be the powerful wizard has made Voldemort leave his good nature and focus more into his role to be the most powerful wizard.

The shadow of Voldemort is his fear of death. It gives the proof that Voldemort wants to be powerful eternally. Being overshadowed by his own fear has made him lack of knowing what is good and bad anymore. He focuses more on his shadow and destroy his surroundings. Voldemort cannot see what is good and bad anymore to reach his goal, as long as his desire is completed, no matter he has to kill people, he will do it.

The last archetype, is the feminine traits in Voldemort or his anima. Here, Voldemort has no anima both internally and externally. From internal, he has no feeling of compassion toward others. From external, there is no woman figures from Voldemort's life. His deceased mother, no friends and lover by his side has made Voldemort into cruel human being with great aggression. There is no balance between Voldemort's anima and masculinity resulting his failure to be individuated person.

Voldemort eventually cannot manage his persona, his shadow and his anima, resulting him as non-individuated person. Non-individuated person cannot balance his innermost and as the aftermath he cannot differentiate what is good and bad anymore. As the extended and climactic effect, Voldemort has to face death.

Non-individuated person, Voldemort at the end faces death, his own fear. However, the individuated person finally can balance his innermost and lead a good life. Being as ordinary as before Potter lives happily ever after with his family.

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