

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CHARLES FRAZIER'S
*NIGHTWOODS***

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK
IBRAHIM MALANG
2021**

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*NIGHTWOODS***

THESIS

Presented to

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*
(S.S.)

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2021**

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I declare that this thesis entitled "**Domestic Violence in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods***" is my original work. I do not involve several prior materials written or published by someone else, except those mentioned in this work cited for the quotation and registered in the references. By this means, if there is disapproval and claim, I am ready to be responsible for it.

Malang, December 2021



Viola Nur Alfianita

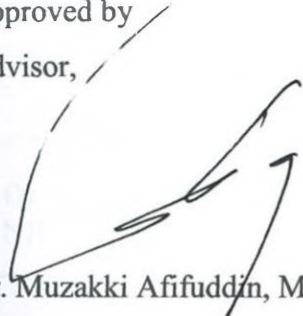
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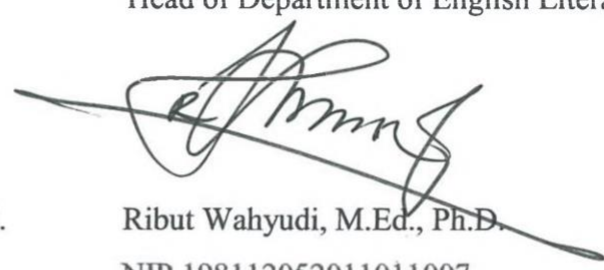
This is to certify that Viola Nur Alfianita's thesis entitled "**Domestic Violence in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods***" has been certified for thesis examination at the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S, S.)*.

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MOTTO

"The ability to be in the present moment is a major component of mental wellness."

(Abraham Maslow)

DEDICATION

This thesis shouts out to my family, including my father, Samidi, mother Sulini, and Bayu and Wildan as brothers. They have become a lovely family and the real forever one supporter for ups and downs in my life. Also, thanks to myself for the invaluable support that always encouraged and fought to finish my thesis. Last but not least, billion thank me who never stops trying and learning from mistakes.

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I consider that my thesis, titled "Domestic Violence in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*," will not be complete if I do not receive support from myself and other people. Hence, I am pleased to express my gratitude to the following individuals for their contribution to completing this thesis.

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6. To myself, owl.

I cherish that this undergraduate thesis can give mini contributions and is valuable to the readers. I am optimistic there is constructive criticism and suggestions to improve this thesis and make it better.

Malang, December 2021

Viola Nur Alfianita

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ABSTRACT

Alfianita, Viola Nur. (2021). Domestic Violence on Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Dr. Muzakki Afifuddin, M. Pd.

Keywords: Violence, Domestic Violence, Women.

Domestic violence inflicts physical injury by one family or household member on another. Charles Frazier wrote this novel titled *Nightwoods*, which portrays domestic violence in North Carolina. This study is conducted with the theory of domestic violence by Zastrow (2010). The study aims to discover domestic violence in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* (2011) and show how the characters attempt to deal with the effect of domestic violence.

This study is categorized into literary criticism due to its focus on analyzing literary works. The data source of this study is a novel by Charles Frazier titled *Nightwoods*, which Random House USA published in 2011. The researcher found the collected data by reading, re-reading, and highlighting the data related to domestic violence. The data are analyzed by using the theory of domestic violence.

The result of the study describes the portrayal of domestic violence that happened against women and children. As the main character, Luce attempts to protect herself from the trauma of being raped. The children are victims and witnesses of their mother's death, who their stepfather killed, bringing their trauma. Domestic violence evidence is shown through the abuse done towards women and children. The kinds of domestic violence in the novel are physical and psychological violence. Moreover, there are two attempts to protect themselves: live in the safest place with the supportive person and become more defensive by using a razor while staying on high alert where the abuser is coming.

ABSTRAK

Alfianita, Viola Nur. (2021). Domestic Violence on Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Dr. Muzakki Afifuddin, M. Pd.

Kata Kunci : Kekerasan, Kekerasan dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT), Perempuan.

Definisi Kekerasan dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) yaitu melakukan kekerasan yang menimbulkan cedera fisik oleh salah satu keluarga atau anggota rumah tangga yang lain. Oleh karena itu, pemilihan novel ini sebagai objek yang ditulis oleh Charles Frazier yang berjudul "*Nightwoods*" dimana novel tersebut menceritakan bagaimana peristiwa kekerasan dalam rumah tangga di Carolina Utara. Analisis data menggunakan teori kekerasan dalam rumah tangga oleh Zastrow (2010). Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan kejadian kekerasan dalam rumah tangga yang terjadi dan bagaimana karakter utama dan beberapa tokoh sebagai penyintas menyikapi efek dari kekerasan rumah tangga itu sendiri pada novel *Nightwoods* oleh Charles Frazier.

Studi ini merupakan kritik sastra yang berfokus pada analisa karya sastra. Sumber data pada penelitian ini yaitu pada novel Charles Frazier yang berjudul "*Nightwoods*" yang dipublikasikan oleh Random House USA pada tahun 2011. Penulis mendapatkan data tersebut dengan cara membaca, membaca ulang and mengklasifikasikan data tersebut yang berkaitan dengan kekerasan dalam rumah tangga. Analisis data menggunakan teori kekerasan dalam rumah tangga.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan pada penggambaran kekerasan dalam rumah tangga terhadap istri dan anak-anak. Luce sebagai tokoh utama harus mengalami trauma karena pelecehan seksual. Anak-anak sebagai korban sekaligus saksi kematian ibunya yang dibunuh oleh ayah tirinya sehingga hal tersebut membuat mereka trauma. Bukti kekerasan ditunjukkan terhadap perempuan dan anak dalam bentuk kekerasan fisik dan psikologis. Selain itu, tokoh di dalam novel menanganai traumanya dengan upaya hidup di lingkungan yang aman serta supportif. Selain itu, para karakter menggunakan senjata tajam sebagai perlawanan saat pelaku kejahatan datang.

مستخلص البحث

فيؤولا نور الفيانتا. (2021). العنف المنزلي في نايتوودز لتشارلز فرايزر. بحث الجامعي. قسم أدب الإنجليزية كلية الإنسانية جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج.

المشرف : مزكي عفيف الدين، الماجستير

الكلمات المفتاحية : العنف ، العنف الأسري ، النساء

تعريف العنف المنزلي (KDRT) هو ارتكاب العنف الذي يتسبب في إصابة جسدية من قبل أسرة واحدة أو أفراد الأسرة الآخرين. لذلك اختيار هذه الرواية كشيء كتبه تشارلز فرايزر بعنوان "Nightwoods" حيث تحكي الرواية كيف أحداث العنف الأسري في نورث كارولينا. يستخدم تحليل البيانات نظرية العنف المنزلي بواسطة Zastrow (2010). تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى وصف حوادث العنف المنزلي التي تحدث وتستجيب الشخصية الرئيسية والشخصيات الناجية لتأثيرات العنف المنزلي نفسه في رواية "Nightwoods" للكاتب تشارلز فرايزر.

هذه الدراسة نقد أدبي يركز على تحليل الأعمال الأدبية. مصدر البيانات في هذا البحث هو رواية تشارلز فرايزر بعنوان "Nightwoods" التي نشرتها Random House USA في عام 2011. حصل المؤلف على البيانات من خلال قراءة وإعادة قراءة وتصنيف البيانات المتعلقة بالعنف الأسري. تحليل البيانات باستخدام نظرية العنف الأسري.

نتائج هذه الدراسة إلى تصوير العنف الأسري ضد الزوجات والأطفال. يجب أن تكون الشخصية الرئيسية لوسي مصدومة من التحرش الجنسي. الأطفال كضحايا وكذلك شهود على وفاة والدتهم التي قتلها زوج أمهم حتى صدمتهم. تظهر أدلة على العنف ضد النساء والأطفال في شكل عنف جسدي ونفسي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، تتعامل الشخصيات في الرواية مع صدماتهم من خلال محاولة العيش في بيئة آمنة وداعمة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، تستخدم الشخصيات أسلحة حادة كمقاومة عندما يأتي الأشرار.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the overview of the background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, previous study, and the method of the study that consist of the design of the study, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

A. Background of the Study

The issue of domestic violence has become one of the significant concerns in social life. Several data have been particularly exposed to this issue. The report of the BBC News explains that domestic violence has increased globally during the quarantine between April 2020 and February 2021 (Kelly, 2021). The National Coalition against Domestic Violence also presents the data regarding the abuse experiences between couples in the United States that nearly reach 20 people in a minute. UK Research and Innovation's rapid response to Covid-19 also exhibits the data regarding the increasing numbers of domestic violence on family members during the lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic in Greater London, around 8,1 % (Ivandic, Kirchmaier & Linton, 2020). Overall, these data indicate that violence could be happened among people who are close to each other, especially when they must experience lockdown due to Covid-19.

In understanding domestic violence, Jackson (2007) mainly explains that domestic violence is violence perpetrated in a family to maintain power and control. Domestic violence could happen between husband and wife, girlfriend

and boyfriend, and gay or lesbian partners. Thus, it could occur to an intimate partner in all relationships and gender, whether it is heterosexual or same-sex (Krug, 2002). Domestic violence could also happen towards parents and children, adults and children, or children with siblings (Huss, 2009). This violence could exist in the form of physical or psychological. It may also have a connection with the factors of socio-economic and ethnic groups, with learning-disabled people having a higher prevalence. This explanation exhibits that domestic violence could happen to all social strata regardless of gender and social class (Rakovec, 2014).

About Islamic values, domestic violence is also prohibited because it is not by the values written in Quran and Hadith. The concept of Islam that encourages the value of humanity and justice (Aziz, 2017) is undoubtedly out of tune with domestic violence since Islam teaches us to focus on the social ideal and be free from oppression, tyranny, outrage, and violence (Quran 16:90). In addition, Islam has meant that describing peace whereas this religion is anti-violence whether on violence against the state, society or violence in the household. The marital in Islam tells of partnership whereas both partners are equal to achieve the goal of marriage (Islamic Society of North America, 2009). Hence, the behavior or the action that occurs in domestic violence could be categorized as the action against the law because Islam teaches us the morals and ethics between men and women to have mutual kindness and mercy in the marital home (Quran 30:21; 9:71).

After comprehending the definition and the data rate of domestic violence worldwide, the novel *Nightwoods* (2011) by Charles Frazier is chosen in this study to critically examine the portrayal of domestic violence against women and children in the book. This novel has suspense and love, set in North Carolina. The theme of domestic violence against women and children is apparent in this novel. The story tells about Luce, who is leading an isolated life after the incident of rape that happened to her younger self. Luce spends her time as the caretaker of an old abandoned lodge. Luce's father, Lit, is the deputy in that area, yet she barely sees him. Luce is in minimal contact with other people except her sister named Lily, whom she writes letters to quite often.

The isolated life of Luce begins when she receives the news that her sister, Lily, has been murdered by her husband. Lily has twin children from her previous marriage, and Luce agreed to take care of them after that event. The twin children named Frank and Dolores developed a severe trauma from seeing their mother get killed at the hands of their stepfather. They act rather cold and distant to Luce. However, Luce tries her best to take care of the children because she empathizes with them for being both victims and witnesses of violence in their families.

Lily's husband, Bud, finds a cunning lawyer who helps him escape the murder charge. He soon trailed towards the children and Luce to see Lily's money hidden away from him before she died. Bud also thinks the children might out him if they remember witnessing the murder scene. Bud has an ill intention towards the children and Luce and even murders Lit. Luce and the children with

the young Stubblefield attempt to lead a peaceful life and build a safer environment for the children, but Bud comes for them again. It forced Luce to keep the children away from Bud in her defensive state. She gets Bud injured using the razor that her father gifted her for her birthday when Bud tries to attack her and the children. Then, it is successfully drawn Bud away until Luce and the children, along with Stubblefield, live everyday life, although they are still afraid of having Bud coming for them again.

The researcher aims to analyze *Nightwoods* by Charles Frazier using Zastrow's theory of domestic violence. Domestic violence defines as abusive behavior involving physical, financial, violence, and sexual assault, also psychological intimidation. According to (Zastrow 2010), domestic violence consists of several phases; the battering, honeymoon phase, minor abuse due to building tension, and another battering. These cycles would be repeated if no confrontation from others or people guided the victim. However, the intensity of violence within the family is heavily directed to women and children. It concluded from numerous studies that women suffer the most significant physical damage while men are considered the perpetrators of the violence itself as they are physically stronger than women (Zastrow, 2010). Hence, in this study, the researcher will analyze domestic violence against women and children and how they deal with the effect of domestic violence.

B. Problems of the study

Based on the background of the study above, this study formulates two problems of the study as the following.

1. What is domestic violence portrayed in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*?
2. How do the characters deal with the effect of domestic violence and abuse in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*?

C. Objectives of study

Based on the problems of the study mentioned above, this study aims to reach the study's objectives as follows.

1. This study aims to discover domestic violence in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*.
2. This study aims to explain how the characters in the novel deal with the effect of violence and abuse in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*.

D. Significance of the Study

This research is significant to improving literary studies, especially literature research. The researcher intends to develop the theoretical based on literature studies on domestic violence in *Nightwoods* (2011). The researcher expects this research to be insightful and could give the information to the reader, especially to the readers who consume and enjoy the *Nightwoods* (2011) novel from seeing Zastrow's theory about domestic violence.

E. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is to discuss how domestic violence happens and brings trauma to the victims. To avoid broader analysis, the limitation of this study is only focusing on kind of domestic violence and how the main characters deal with the trauma in the novel *Nightwoods* by Charles Frazier.

F. Definition of Key Terms

There are technical terms in this study. The terms are used in the following definitional context.

1. Domestic violence: the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another, and it is a repeated habitual pattern of such behavior (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).
2. Abuse: is using harsh, insulting language or involving physical violence or emotional cruelty (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).
3. Psychological: means affecting or arising the mind related to a person's mental and emotional state (Oxford Dictionary).

G. Previous Studies

A study needs some relevant research to support further implementation research. Some data can be obtained from the relevant study's previous research. In writing this thesis, the researcher collected information from previous research regarding the disadvantages or advantages. The researcher also digs up

information from journals and thesis to obtain pre-existing information about theories and topics related to the title.

The *Nightwoods* is the object of this study, published in 2011, so this novel has never been used as an object of literary criticism research in the form of a journal or thesis. The researcher found one journal article published on Research Gate, which contained a review of the novel *Nightwoods* by Charles Frazier. The following are some previous researchers that conducted research related to domestic violence.

Vernon (2016), in a journal article with the title *Toward of Post-Appalachian Sense of Place*, analyzes post-southern theory development in exploring Appalachian culture and literature. In this section, the researcher is using three novels that consist of *The Cove* (2012), *A Short Time to Stay Here* (2012), and *Nightwoods* (2011) as a case of his studies in presenting rural, agricultural, and in the end perhaps be the fantasies of Appalachia's agrarian. Moreover, the researcher wants to criticize these novels that lack parodic, intertextual qualities that quietly happened in post-modern and post-southern. The researcher examines *Nightwoods* (2011) as more agrarian fantasy than two other novels. It represents how the main character Luce engages the Lytle numerous behavior and Agrarian that living on the lodge, growing cash crops, limited in using cash, all of which portray how lives in the ancient period.

Khalbina Fitrah, Novia Juita and Muhammad Ismail Naustion (2014) with title *Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Dalam Novel Perempuan Berkalung Sorban Karya Abidah El Khalieqy: Sociological Approach* discusses

the domestic violence in novel *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban*. The purpose is the study to describe the violence in the main character. Annisa, as the main character, gets physical abuse by her husband, Samsudin. Her husband is selfish and does not care about Annisa's condition because he always harms his wife. As a result, the kinds of violence that happened to the victim are physical, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse because Samsudin uses Annisa as his sexual object.

Apriani and Hayati (2020), with the title *Representation of Domestic Violence (KDRT) in La Barka: A Sociology of Literature*, discuss domestic violence using a sociological approach. This study analyzes women as victims of domestic violence in *La Barka's* novel. As a result, the researcher found domestic violence data against women, namely, physical, psychological, sexual abuse. They also provide the cause and impact of domestic violence against women.

Ayu Nilasari & Thoyibi (2020), with the title *Domestic Violence on Paula Hawkins' Novel The Girl On The Train using Sociological Approach*, discuss the main character as the victim. The researchers identify the causes of domestic violence, describe how domestic violence is portrayed in the novel, and express the author's reasons for choosing domestic violence in writing the story. The researchers are interested in the domestic violence phenomenon and want to increase the awareness of the abusive behavior that frequently happens in daily life. As a result, the researchers found the causes of domestic violence such as economic problems, man's lousy habit violence, jealousy of woman or man, and

disloyalty woman or man that represented to plot, characters, setting, and style of *The Girl on The Train* novel.

Anggraeni (2014), *with the title Criticism against violence for solving problems reflected in William Somerset Maugham's Liza of Lambeth novel, aims to find domestic violence* in the household. In this research, the researcher finally found that domestic violence against women. The story comes from the urban area at the end of the nineteenth century in the Victorian era. Furthermore, the researcher identifies the characters in the novel Harry and Sally with domestic violence. Harry is against her wife Sally by doing physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, and verbal abuse. Harry, as the abuser, committed domestic violence towards his wife because he felt that what he did could solve the problem. They come from the lower class, which lacks domestic violence information and does not know domestic violence. Understanding the definition and the sign of domestic violence could prevent and reduce the violence. Thus, the way to stop domestic violence is to know the character, educate and establish effective programs about domestic violence, then end the cycle of an abusive relationship. Understanding the definition and the sign of domestic violence could prevent and reduce the violence (Colucci and Hassan, 2014).

After seeing the research results above, the previous research similarity talks about domestic violence using a Sociological approach with the various objects. In this study, the researcher will analyze what types of domestic violence against women and children. In addition, the researcher also complemented the research by analyzing how the characters in the novel deal with the trauma.

H. The method of the study

1. The design of the study

This study is a literary criticism to analyze the data from literary works. The researcher will analyze and discover domestic violence also how women and children deal with trauma in the novel *Nightwoods* by Charles Frazier. In this study, the researcher will analyze what types of domestic violence against women and children. In addition, the researcher also complemented the research by analyzing the causes of domestic violence and how the woman and children resolved their trauma. Domestic violence has a relationship with sociological aspects. Therefore, the researcher will use violence theory to examine domestic violence.

2. Data

The researcher uses the data from *Nightwoods* novel is written by Charles Frazier. This novel is his second novel and became the best-seller novel in *New York Times*. Random House USA published it in 2011. This novel contains 383 pages.

3. Data Collection

The researcher uses some steps to collect the data. First, the researcher reads the novel *Nightwoods* carefully and understands the novel's story. Second, the researcher highlights the sentences and phrases related to the research

question. Third, the researcher collects the data on domestic violence experienced by women and children based on types of domestic violence. Fourth, the researcher collects the data causes and how women and children faced domestic violence.

4. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the researcher then analyzed the data through several steps. First, the researcher categorized the data related to domestic violence that exist in the novel. After that, the researcher explained how the characters in the book dealt with violence and abuse experienced. Last, the researcher concluded in line with the problem of the study and formulated relevant suggestions.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the relevant theories that are being used in the analysis. The literature review explains domestic violence, types of domestic violence, and the literary elements related to discovering domestic violence in the novel.

A. Sociological Approach in Literary Criticism

Sociological is an approach applicable in various aspects of life, especially in viewing the phenomenon or problem between individuals in society. Sociology defines as the study that focuses on human social behavior with the origins of organizations, institutions, and the development of human society (Zastrow, 2010). In other words, sociology concerns the relationship between individuals heavily influenced by the regulation within the particular community. It helps individuals develop ideas and beliefs relating to their perspective in life. The further explanation about the sociological approach is appropriate to be applied in fields concerning people's social wellness (Zastrow, 2010). Thus, sociology includes people's relationships and health, which involves numerous cases that appear from the ties, and society itself can be further investigated using a sociological approach.

The sociological approach requires viewing the phenomenon between individuals within society entirely objectively. The sociological perspective

involves learning, observing, and evaluating society detached (Rousseau, 2014). This is to maintain analysis and answers to the specific problem without personal beliefs, making the observation result biased. Moreover, the system of sociological investigations varies from the smaller to more significant scale. Rousseau (2014) further added that the micro-level investigation includes observing person-to-person relationships while the macro-level investigation involves observing the issues in certain institutions. An example of micro-level investigation is the sociological approach is the observation of individuals' psychological states that affect the relationship between one another. The conflicts and struggles caused by the dynamic are then further examined by evaluating the relationship and the tendencies of each individual involved. The macro-level investigation within a sociological perspective concerns the effect families receive from one or more changes of an institution. For instance, the sociological approach determines how the divorce rate increases during an unstable economic period.

Literature is one medium that reflects the issues from the actual relationship between individuals and society. Thus, the phenomenon found within a literary work can also be approached using a sociological approach. Forster and Kenneford (1973) explained that as literature is one of the forms of human activities, it is no reason not to contain sociology. This means that literature often carries phenomena or problems which are still considered in sociological matters as it involves the relationship between individuals or institutions. This makes the

sociological approach often applied in scientific studies, focusing on literary criticism and analysis.

As this study focuses on the domestic violence issue represented through the novel *Nightwoods* (2011) by Charles Frazier, the sociological approach guides the interpretation from literary work. Lawson (2012) explained that the sociological approach to domestic or intimate partners' violence viewed the problem not through the individuals but rather from the function of social structures. This means that the sociological approach leads the investigation by relating how social affects the individuals, leading them to violence. Lawson (2012) further added that the sociological approach explains how social structures and relationships cause frustrations and problems that lead people to react by violence. In other words, the specific issues of domestic violence, if seen through a sociological approach, are triggered by society's expectations, norms, and stereotypes that later formed an individual's perspective and actions where violence becomes one of their ways of dealing with such expectations.

B. Zastrow's Theory on Domestic Violence

Zastrow (2010) explained violence in families in which the victims of the violence can be the husbands, wives, and children. This denied the stereotyped idea that domestic violence only happens to the women in the family as, in some cases, male partners are also the victim of domestic violence. However, the intensity of violence within the family is heavily directed to women and children. It concluded from numerous studies that women suffer the most significant

physical damage while men are considered the perpetrators of the violence itself as they are physically stronger than women. The factors that cause domestic violence where women and children are the frequent victims are caused by various aspects such as financial issues, unemployment, social and gender expectations, and so forth. The problems triggered from the mentioned aspects then developed into the need of the abuser to act violently towards the targets to maintain domination or get their ideal dynamic within the family (Zastrow, 2010).

There are two dominant causes of domestic violence involving the spouse partners. Zastrow (2010) proposed that in some cases, the victims precipitated the violence to happen as they are the ones who started with the physical or verbal abuse. However, this is less likely to happen as the common cases of domestic violence involve the perspective of the abuser to 'educate' or to 'get their wives in line,' which promotes male dominance and female submission. This unhealthy idea single-handedly puts females into the easy target of violence within the family. The male partners often dictated what they should and should not do to their wives. This triggers conflicts and stereotypes against women throughout the years while continuously putting women into a forced submission under men.

The effects of domestic violence on the victims vary. It explains that women suffer severe injuries and death due to their partners' violence (Zastrow, 2010). This is happened as women commonly stay under the dominance of their partners and endure the abuse, which often leads to divorce or fatal injury. Meanwhile, the violence against children affects them until they are older

regarding perspective in life and behavior (Zastrow, 2010). Trauma caused by the violence they experienced as a child is also unconsciously damaging their wellness if left untreated. Therefore, further guidance and medication on children victimized by abuse are necessary to prevent their growth.

According to Zastrow (2010), domestic violence between married partners often runs within a cycle that consists of several phases; the battering, honeymoon phase, minor abuse due to building tension, and another battering. These cycles keep going if there is no confrontation from other parties to guide the victim or the abuser to come out of the cycle itself. The victim's confrontation or breaking cycle action is considered the only way to stop the cycles from reoccurring. The first battering phase happens when the tension builds from one thing to another, and the victim sustains an injury (Zastrow, 2010). The battered women endure the injury of invisible bruises that people can witness. The noticeable marks of violence on women become signs that 'marked' them as victims. The battering is then followed by the 'honeymoon phase, where the abusive partner tries to apologize to the abused partner by treating them better so the victim will not go away or flee from the house (Zastrow, 2010). The 'honeymoon' phase involves how the male partner, as the abuser, gradually treats the victims better, which means the battering does not occur for a moment and creates a temporary impression that the abuse will not happen again. However, this phase does not necessarily last long or become the end of the battering but instead causes minor abuse to relieve the tension built between the intimate partners in the meantime where the battering does not occur. Zastrow (2010)

explained that minor abuse happened because of the tension between the abuser and the victim built during the period where battering did not occur. The abuser tends to hold onto anger and displease the victims, later breaking into another abuse that is not as serious as the battering phase. Moreover, Zastrow (2010) further explained minor abuse leads to another battering that often involves an even more severe injury. This phase marks how the abuser and victims go back into the first phase, where the victim endures abuse from the abuser.

Based on their perspectives, some experts have attempted to define domestic violence. Domestic violence is defined by one of the world organizations as aggressive behavior directed at another family member by one of the family members (Human Rights Watch, 1995). This organization describes the behavior involving violence, whether physical, sexual, economic, or emotional abuse. An intimate partner and the abuser could do used one of them or a combination of them to build and maintain power over their partner. Therefore, according to the definition, domestic violence is a type of aggression that includes physical, sexual, economic, and emotional abuse. As a result, of recognizing the sign of behavior, domestic violence can be classified into several categories (Human Rights Watch, 1995).

Furthermore, domestic violence is defined as violence directed at an intimate partner in which one partner attempts to exert control over the other by instilling fear (Mission Australia Organization, 2018). The abuser's behavior towards the victim includes limiting their financial access, preventing them from contacting their family and friends, humiliating and threatening their family and

friends, humiliating and threatening them or their children with injury, and engaging in physical violence that could kill them. Furthermore, domestic violence does not discriminate based on gender, so both men and women can be victims (Mission Australia Organization, 2018). However, gendered patterns in violence lead to perpetration and victimization. In contrast, the reality is that women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence from an intimate partner, resulting in death and hospitalization. Thus, domestic violence is not only physical but can also take away people's freedom, affecting both men and women in causing various consequences (Mission Australia Organization, 2018).

The Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice examines that domestic violence has become a serious crime, no private family problem anymore since 1970. It defines domestic violence as abusive to their intimate partner, whether physical, sexual, or psychological (Hanna, 2002). The abusive here refers to the number of criminal behaviors like assault and battery, sexual assault, harassment, stalking, murder, and other insults that frequently happen in domestic violence incidents such as robbery, intentional burning, and malicious destruction of property endangering for the children. Therefore, no one agrees to the breach of peace and battery, leading to severe injury and death. In addition, most states cancel the marital rape that frequently happened in households that husbands could do to their wives. Hence, there are no legal distinctions between crimes between abusive to against an intimate partner and towards strangers.

Furthermore, the *Health Psychology Research* defines domestic violence as the pattern of doing abusive behaviors involving the range of physical, sexual,

and psychology to gain power and maintain the misuse of power and authority. In contrast, abuse could lead to injury, psychological harm, or even death (Rakovec, 2014). In addition, Huss domestic violence includes between the husband and wife, girlfriend and boyfriend, gay or lesbian partners, parents and children, and siblings (Huss, cited in Rakovec, 2014). Therefore, domestic violence could happen to all relationships, whether heterosexual or same-sex. It frequently happens to an intimate partner in the household. Most abusers and perpetrators are men, and women are the victims. Thus, it is becoming a problem in public health terms because of the frequency and severity. Hence, domestic violence could happen in any relationship and to anyone, whether heterosexual or not, leading to a severe result (Rakovec, 2014).

The book *Domestic Violence* explains that domestic violence or intimate partner violence is the public domain and could happen in any social class, gender, and culture (Keeling and Mason, 2008). Domestic violence is defined as abusive behavior involving physical, financial, violence, and sexual assault, also psychological intimidation. In general, doing that abusive behavior above could devastate the lives of survivors or the victim, even on their families. The survivor or the victim that lives in a violent relationship for years, their life would be full of fear and pain. In addition, people who experience abuse can impact their psychological and physical development. Thus, domestic violence is not a private family problem, and it is becoming the public domain that brings several impacts to the victim or the survivor.

Therefore, domestic violence in this thesis is dominating against women. Stark (2013) explained that domestic violence often includes severe abuse towards women such as beating, choking, burning, rape, torture, use of weapons, permanent disfigurement, and even death. The violence with men as the perpetrators and women as the victims implied the concept of male domination and women as their sub-ordination. This concept of belief has led men to the attitude that harms women. Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) explained that the men who abuse their wives often feel insecure or jealous, lashing out and isolating their partners to gain back a sense of control. It makes men think that they own women, their bodies, and their lives. This reduced women's quality and freedom as human beings. McMillan (as cited in Lombard & McMillan, 2013) explained that violence against women could affect women in any stage of their life in many forms, including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse. This explains the many forms of violence affecting women within an intimate relationship with a man in marriage. Thus, the violence affects them physically and psychologically as they are forced into silence and isolation to submit to their male abusers.

Nightwoods (2011) explicitly describes the violence with men as the perpetrators and women as the victims implied to the concept of male domination and women as their sub-ordination. This concept of belief has led men to the attitude that harms women. It makes men think that they own women, their bodies, and their lives. This reduced women's quality and freedom as human beings. In addition, Jackson (2007) proposed that severe abuse knows no borders.

This explained how the male violence directed towards women often leads to women's death and other severe injuries as the intensity worsens through the cycle. It automatically places women as the vulnerable and dependent ones as the abuser gained power over the other, then claiming the superior status through the abuse. The victims of domestic violence will have trauma and hypervigilance in running their life. Javier & Herron (2018) explained that hypervigilance is one of the effects that the victims feel after experiencing a period of violence or abuse. In addition, the victim will bring the lifetime mental wound, fear, and anger towards the abuser. In contrast, this implied hypervigilance and worries are not without reason as they are still in the place where the abuser might come back again. The victims who bear with violence are left with physical and psychological wounds, leading to recalling the accident they experienced and isolating themselves.

Therefore, it happened to Luce's character while she got raped when she was young. She feels hypervigilance and decides to isolate herself. It relates to Javier & Herron (2018) explained that the trauma that the victims have to bear affects their capacity to process information, such as the difficulties in perceiving the motivation and intention of others. Hypervigilance is one of the effects that the victim feels after experiencing violence and abuse. The victims will have problems recognizing people's intentions, behavior, and social problems.

Moreover, Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) proposed that offering support and encouraging the victims of domestic violence is needed to recover from their weakened body and mind eventually. Jackson (2007) further explained that children who witness violence occurring between their parents, the ones they

most love and rely on, caused significant trauma. The memories and images of such violence will stay and harm the children throughout their lives. It makes the victims have significant trauma while seeing their abuser. The victims are terrified of meeting the abuser because it makes them recall the violence experienced. In addition, Jackson (2007) proposed that the children witnesses and victims of domestic violence will have difficulties overcoming psychological and social barriers and conflicts as they grow up. The children that have trauma will not give their trust easily to people. They are susceptible to people's intentions towards him. The characters in this novel prove that Luce is challenging to approach the children because they always avoid and assume that Luce has poor intentions. Jackson (2007) proposed that children with unattended distress from witnessing domestic violence caused to have difficulties managing a stable bond and trust to others. Thus, it can be concluded that domestic violence against children is as dangerous as the one occurring to adults for the abuser to know no borders.

Thus, *Nightwoods* (2011) represents how Stubblefield helps the victims gain their strength and seek a safe living place. The primary emotional and psychological scar is represented through Luce and the children, who attempt to be defensive and seek safety. Hence, Javier & Herron (2018) explained that this particular condition where the victims carry a vivid memory of the traumatic event is addressed as an injury that, once injured, will never fully heal.

C. Types of Domestic Violence

After comprehending the definition of domestic violence in various perspectives above, several forms of abusive behaviors could be classified based on the cases. The range of abuses in domestic violence can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological, and economic abuse (Bollen, Artz, Vetten, and Louw, 1999). Those categories that have already been mentioned above have devastating consequences.

1. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is the violence that frequently happens in domestic violence, which means the abuser can do non-random physical violence. Physical abuse involves the inflicting of body injury, whether light or severe. It includes physical assault, making the victim fear their physical well-being. In addition, forcing someone out by their residence is a kind of physical abuse. Meanwhile, physical abuse includes behavior such as shoving, slapping, pushing, hitting, biting, kicking, using weapons, and other actions that influence the result, injury, and death (Bollen, 1999). The physical abuse above is the typical pattern that happens in domestic violence cases, which physical abuse as the severity of violence increases in domestic relationships (Bollen, 1999).

Based on *AMEND Workbook for Ending Violent Behavior*, physical abuse defines as physically aggressive behavior, indirectly doing harmful physical behavior or threatening physical abuse. Physical abuse includes abusing, injuring,

shaking, shooting, drowning, choking, being trapped in the room, the abuser throwing something in anger, and holding the victim hostage during the argument. Thus, this workbook's physical abuse explanation is not just for humans but also pets (Lindsey, 1993).

2. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse means there is no consent sexual encounter within the family whereas someone is pressured or forced to do sexual activity. Someone underage between 16 and 18 years, whether on the child, stepchild, grandchild, nephew or niece, and other people, they are considered cannot give the consent. If sexual activity happens under any circumstances, it constitutes sexual abuse. Moreover, sexual abuse involves the behaviors such as anal or vaginal penetration, fondling, and fellatio. Sexual abuse refers to marital rape, whereas the male speculates that he has the right to do sex whenever he wants without women's permission (Wiehe, 1998).

Therefore, Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) explained further that sexual harassment always involves unequal power and coercion. However, there are specific sexual forms, whereas sexual assault is not accompanied by physical assault. Still, it is rather seen as a primary form of coercion by which the partner is being the victim. In many cases, the coercion is based on the perpetrator's right to have sex to their spouse on their terms. It is crucial to remember the consent to have sex. Hence, if there is no active consent, the sexual activity could be criminal.

Therefore, sexual assault and sexual abuse are defined as unspoken words in silence (Laird, 2001). It mostly happens to women, whereas they are in the position of guilt, fear, and shame to talk. Thus, most sexual abuse cases do not meet the legal definition of rape. Still, it is a problem in a marital relationship because the laws commonly include the exceptions for all but mainly in a physically violent incident (Vincent and Juriles, 2002).

3. Emotional and Psychological Abuse

Emotional abuse is defined as a verbal statement or physical act that can destroy the victim's self-esteem. This abuse manifests in calling names, ridiculing, threatening, and using other types of verbal violence to degrade the victim (Domestic Violence, p. 116, 1998). Moreover, the abusive partner uses this category to control and power over the victim until they lose self-esteem and feel insecure. Still, at the same time, the victim is afraid of being abandoned, or the victim feels that they deserve to get abused by their partner (Walker, 1984). As a result, the emotional abuse impacts the victim, who always depends on self-worthlessness. The victim feels insecure and could lose their identity because they do not have self-respect. The victim considers their partner precious, but the victim does not. Thus, the men who abuse their wives often feel insecure or jealous, resulting in lashing out and isolating their partners to gain back a sense of control (Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman, 2007).

Meanwhile, on The Center for Family Justice page, emotional and psychological abuse is the partner's behavior to control and damage the victim's

emotional well-being. The behavior could be verbal and non-verbal, whereas all of those behavior includes name-calling, mocking, intimidation, yelling in partner's face, manipulate, interrupting, cheating, saying negative things about the victim's friend and family, avoiding from friend and family, stalking the victim phone calls, message, social media, computer, and transportation, also not listening and twisting the words. Thus, emotional and psychological abuse could happen in verbal and non-verbal behavior. This category can reduce self-esteem more frequently than physical abuse (Bollen, 1999).

Therefore, the psychological abuse is related to the relationship in the past, whereas the victim was experiencing the violence. In this case, emotional, psychological abuse could take the repeated threats that lead to intense anxiety and fear because it could trigger the memory in the past. This is called psychological battering because the victim mainly gets terror, uncertainty, and trepidation. As a result, whereas the victim who has anxiety cannot predict where the violence can occur towards them, they will feel like he got the violence even they do not because the feeling of threats and anxiety for the survivors are excruciating for themselves.

4. Economic and Financial Abuse

Economic and financial abuse is similar to isolation, but in this category, the abuser is using the money to control the victim. Money provides the chance and independence (Walker, 1979). Thus, withholding access to finance gives the abuser more chance to control the victim. Once again, the type of control can

remove the ability of the victim to control their own life. Moreover, since money and finance is the source of tension in the household, it could be the potential of the abuser to commit violence. For instance, when the abuser is handling the finances in the household, the victim is becoming the position to ask for the money to run the household. It reinforces the lack of independence and can cause the abuser to oppress through violence. Moreover, some abusers would take control by denying their partner access to bank account and forbidding them to seek employment to improve their financial status (Pyles, 2006). Hence, in this category, the abuser uses the money to control the victim and simultaneously lowers the victim's position.

Therefore, The Center for Family Justice page <https://centerforfamilyjustice.org/faq/domestic-violence/> gives the perspective according to the economic or financial abusive behavior. Economic or financial could happen whereas the abuser makes the victim financially dependent on the abuser, having no power in the relationship. Economic abuse behavior includes avoiding the victim to work or attend school, denying access to use transportation and bank accounts, sabotaging educational opportunities by destroying the assignment, and using the name's victim to have debt. Thus, the finance category is limited the victim's access by using money, and they do not have the power to go against the abuser because it makes them rely on it.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter answers the problem of the study divided into two sections. It consists of the analysis regarding the evidence of domestic violence and how the characters deal with the effects of abuse and violence throughout the story represented in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods*. The narratives that describe how violence is performed towards the women and children characters within the story are analyzed by the perception of domestic violence theory to investigate the issue further. Moreover, the actions are taken, and the mental state of the victims and witnesses of domestic violence are also analyzed in this chapter.

A. Domestic Violence reflected in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* (2011)

The issue of domestic violence is often taken into the primary concern of various scientific studies throughout the years. The representations of domestic violence found in the literature also become the object of investigating how the issue is presented to the readers and audience. As this study investigates the representation of domestic violence in *Nightwoods* (2011) by Charles Frazier, this section provides evidence of domestic violence reflected through the narration in the form of sentences and phrases taken from the novel. Thus, the following sections consist of the domestic violence against women and children captured through the story in *Nightwoods* (2011).

1. Domestic Violence against Women in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* (2011)

This section mainly analyzes the domestic abuse directed towards Johnny Johnson against her wife Lily, in physical and psychological abuse portrayed in *Nightwoods* (2011). Therefore, domestic violence can happen because Johnny Johnson feels insecure about Lily. After all, she is a beautician and more successful than him. It proves how Johnny Johnson kills his wife by using a meat knife in the kitchen after fighting because Lily is upset and knows that Bud is secretly abusing the children when they are alone with him to alleviate his frustration.

The first description of male violence against women is included through the narrative,

"Sometimes reproduction did not even factor into the narrative. The man stuffed the girl out because he could not own her, a killing offense if the girl's opinion ran counter to his urges" (Frazier, 2011, p. 18).

This explained how women are not only abused physically and sexually as it is described with the first line from the quoted narration, 'Sometimes reproduction did not even the factor into the narrative' which implies that women are often sexually assaulted by men and also abused for having an opinion that does not please the men's ego. It can be concluded that the abuse that women endured is physical and involves how their voices are oppressed.

The following narration described the relationship between men and women that is tightly related to the issue of murder and possession, which is fabricated through the name of love,

"In the ballads, love and murder and possession fit tight against one another as an outgrown wedding band on a swollen finger" (Frazier, 2011, p. 18).

Lily loves and is always playing this song, and it represents how Lily's life begins after her wedding. Lily gets abused by her husband because he wants Lily as a proper wife that should stay at home. In addition, Lily was so in love with Johnny Johnson or Bud, her husband, who ended up murdering her in front of her children. The words 'love' refers to what draws Lily to Bud, the man that she is genuinely attracted to. Meanwhile, 'possession' refers to how Bud 'owns' Lily after their marriage, tying her with the so-called destiny as his wife to always listen to his words and forgetting her opinions and rights as an individual. Moreover, the word 'murder' directly describes the end of what the relationship brings to Lily as a woman. She ended up with an ill destiny for pursuing her desire to be with the man she wanted.

This condition truly captures how women are often blinded with the illusion of what men can bring to them in terms of happiness. The marriage becomes suffocating as it gets more violent day by day. The victim is none other than the woman. This is reflected through the song lyrics that Luce recalled, which perfectly described her sister's life that has to suffer as Bud becomes violent to maintain control and possession over her. Shaw & Lee (as cited in

Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman, 2007) explained that the males who abused their partners often adhere to the idea of masculine gender-role stereotypes in which displaying feelings or sensitivity is considered as weakness. Therefore, Bud tries to show his domination through the violence and possession towards Lily is more likely to be rooted in his insecurity expressed falsely. Lily is a working woman and does not stay at home like Bud wanted her to be.

Another narration described Luce, who is staying awake while remembering her sister. The text gives a peek at what Luce thinks of the relationship between her sister and her husband that is described to be 'rushed,'

"Now Luce Lay awake in the dark, knowing Maddie's murder ballads addressed exactly that situation, and taught that the flame of urgent coupling burned hottest against the woman, no matter how romantic and high heartsick the anguish of the man might be pitched in retrospect" (Frazier, 2011, p. 19).

The particular sentence 'the flame of urgent coupling burned hottest against the woman' is used to describe Lily's desire towards Bud, her husband. Lily was so absorbed in the feeling of love she has, and she failed to see the danger that the man brings. It implies that it is dangerous to trust a man without truly knowing his character before being tied in a marriage with him. This exact interpretation is concluded from what happened to Lily that endured domestic violence that even involved her children before being killed in her own husband's hand. Moreover, it also implies that women are the one who is more vulnerable to be the victim of abuse as men often end up using violence to their spouse. This is described through the phrase 'burned hottest against the women.'

The text taken from the narration of the novel tries to capture the condition of women who are tied onto the men in a marriage where they are most likely to be the victim of abuse by their husbands. This, of course, is not always the case, but there are so many and even countless cases that involved domestic violence with women as the victims. Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) proposed that men are generally more significant, thus, producing greater force if violence is involved. This explains how women are becoming the common victims of domestic violence as men have physically more enormous power and aim to control the other. In this sense, women are automatically positioned on the weaker and vulnerable side.

Another narration implies how unsafe the world is for women,

"Some far day when she had become a better person and could feel something besides stinging anger that her beautiful, and gentle sister had not protected herself more carefully against a world of threat" (Frazier, 2011, p. 20).

This particular text also describes the sadness of Luce, who lost her sister murdered by her husband, the man she chose herself. Luce wishes that Lily protected herself more from threats that even come from the closest man in her life. It is implied that the world is full of threats for women as they are most likely to be victims of male violence. The numerous domestic violence cases or the male violence against women are easy to find everywhere. This phenomenon is caused by the idea that men are supposed to have higher status and have more power than women.

The belief that men are superior and women are inferior leads to the inequality of roles that both genders perform in society. Still, it also leads to prejudice and violence against women. This concept has been carried through and sustained until now. Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) further explained that domestic violence includes the male abuser feeling the need to maintain dominance in society and keep women under their control. This particular concept triggers conflicts and insecurities in men, leading to male violence and oppression against women. Moreover, the environment that still adopts this idea created an unsafe space for women who are constantly targeting them.

As Lily and Bud's marriage becomes cold and suffocating, Bud starts to think of the things that make him uncomfortable. One of them is how Lily is the owner of their house, not him. The house is handed to her from her first husband that is already died. Lily also has a promising career as a beautician in which allows her to gain her own money,

"It chapped Bud's ass to live in another man's house, even a dead one's. Troublesome too that Lily had her own money" (Frazier, 2011, pp. 26-27).

Through the text, it can be concluded that Bud has this male pride that includes the idea that he needs to be the one who is in control and dominating in the house, not the other way around. Lily, who owns the house and is working well with her job, makes Bud feel uncomfortable because he is not as controlling and capable of Lily's life like he prefers to be.

Bud's particular feeling makes him feel insecure as his position as a 'man' is threatened by how independent and capable Lily is. This is rooted in the expectation that Bud has towards Lily for her to be helpless and doing domestic work like how it is supposed to be according to the patriarchal thinking, "It can also be very stressful for some men to have wives with higher-status occupations because the men have learned that they are supposed to be superior to their wives" (Sapiro, 1999, p. 191). In this sense, Bud feels insecure for having Lily have more money than him and owning the property he lives in. His pride as a man is threatened and causes him to stress further how to keep Lily controlled under him.

Bud is persistent about his perception of how women are supposed to let the man be more in charge of everything, including owning the property. He reasoned out that Lily needs to hand over the house ownership to him and that she needs to quit her job because he is the 'man' and Lily is the 'woman,'

"Bud's strongest argument rested on the fact that he was the man, and therefore, Lily should out the house in his name and quit her job" (Frazier, 2011, p. 27).

The text clearly described that Bud wanted Lily to become more inferior than him, so he does not feel more petite. This perception cornered women into inferiority, and when they proved it otherwise, men started to be in their defense. This leads to violence involving physical abuse and other aspects such as oppression and isolation against women. They are forced to be fully submitted to men and cannot participate in the broader setting of careers and social roles. This is what the text is taken from the narration above represented.

The particular perception and stereotypes held against women limited their freedom in society. They tied them into the presence of men who were considered fully responsible for their lives. Women cannot even define their bodies, and worth as human beings is reduced to becoming only the subordinate or homemaker. This explains what Bud feels upon seeing Lily having a promising career and owning the house in which, according to him, needs to be handed over to become his property. Bud is jealous of Lily's life that having a proper job, having her own money, which is this perception leads Bud to think that he needs to keep Lily at home and make her quite her job to become a 'proper' wife to him.

The further representation of how Bud, as a man, shows the disliking seeing Lily having her schedule to work and building her career,

"Still, it irked him when Lily headed out mornings into the wide world looking pretty in her tight white beautician outfit and white crepe-sole shoes like she was in the medical profession" (Frazier, 2011, p. 27).

This shows that Bud started to feel insecure seeing Lily be in charge of her own life, making money and getting dressed for her job. This explains the rising insecurity as Bud feels threatened and even intimidated from seeing a woman doing well with her job inside the house. This certain thinking leads Bud to do anything that will make him gain more money than Lily, thus, claiming his pride back as a man.

As the text explained, 'it irked' Bud to see Lily thriving and getting things under control in the family. Bud feels the need to compete and place Lily back to the position supposed to be lower than Bud, who is a man. Stark (2013)

described that domestic violence involves physical violence directed at the women and includes non-violent tactics that limit women's freedom and basic necessities such as being cut off from the outside world and being ruled on how they should dress, cook, or clean. This explained Bud's perception of seeing Lily dressing neatly for her job. It irks him because he has the idea of women staying at home and serving their husbands, not going out to the world and having the chance to build a career.

Bud is gone for a couple of days and comes home to Lily, asking where he went. Bud, driven by the feeling that he needs to reclaim his pride as a man supposed to own more than 'his' woman, went to break into a house that his friend Billy told him about. He robbed a lot of money that Lily hid out of sight when Bud was sober. Bud, of course, seeks for the money,

"When she was out of the house, he frantically looked in every stupid place she might think was clever, with no success. Then they fought. Which was what they started calling it when Bud gave her a beating" (Frazier, 2011, p. 31).

As the narration describes, Lily refuses to tell where the money is to Bud. Lily knew that Bud could not gain that much money in just a few days. This upset Bud, which leads him to abuse Lily physically. The text explained that when Bud and Lily fight, it involves violence directed towards Lily.

The violence involved in the couple's arguments is unhealthy and might lead to more severe and harmful violence towards Lily as a woman. Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) explained that building up stress and tension is considered

the first phase of the battering cycle consisting of minor abusive incidents. This described what happened to Lily as the tension between her and her husband rising based on Bud's stress caused by Lily, who hid the money away. This triggers Bud's stress from seeing Lily gaining more money and owning the property instead of him. Violence, then, started to get involved every time they argued.

The following narration further explained how Lily continuously received abuse from her husband,

“The first time, Lily was out of work for three days before makeup would cover the bruises. And the fights continued, sometimes just mild and out of habit, and sometimes for blood” (Frazier, 2011, p. 31).

The text above describes that Lily is all bruised upon the place that people can see. The fights between the two keep going, and violence keeps getting involved as described with ‘And the fights continued, sometimes just mild and out of habit, and sometimes for blood.’ It implies that the husband and wife relationship between the two has completely turned into the toxic and abusive type where Lily keeps being the victim out of it as a woman.

The issue of domestic violence is represented through the text describing the cycle where once violence is involved, it will keep happening. Bud and Lily's triggering problem is rooted in Lily, who does not fulfill the typical woman that stays at home and remains inferior to her husband. This leads Bud towards impulsive actions and violence he directed to his wife. Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) explained that the cycle of domestic violence includes building tension,

battering, and making up, which keeps going and often leads to a more severe injury to the victims. This described the cycle through the narration in which Bud abused Lily during their fights, sometimes mildly, and the other day would be worse. Thus, the cycle is almost non-ending as there is no bridging discussion between the two, and Bud, as the man in the family, tries to keep Lily submissive under his control.

As the fight keeps reoccurring from the mild to the bad ones, Lily decided that she will put Bud's name along with her name to the ownership of the house to keep things settled between the two,

“One bad night, Lily conceded partway. The next morning, they went to a lawyer and added Bud's name to hers on the deed to the house, and the lawyer did a fine job of pretending not to notice how her mouth looked, and her left ear, and the way she carried her right arm” (Frazier, 2011, p. 31).

The text described that Lily is not in good shape from all her endured beating. The violence left marks and wounds on her body, yet the lawyer, who is also a man, remains unbothered. This represented how society often repressed the issue of male violence against women by staying silent so it would not come to the surface or by blaming the victims that are primarily women instead of making the perpetrators take the responsibilities.

Domestic violence or any male violence against women, in general, keeps happening because the concept of male superiority and women inferiority is still implemented in the minds of the individuals, which are reflected through structures established in the society. Sapiro (1999) explained that gender-based

violence or male violence against women is still widely considered normal, acceptable, and justifiable. This explains how Lily shows up with bruises all over her. Yet, the lawyer pretended not to notice it when Lily needed assistance to escape the cycle of being a battered woman. The lawyer's silence regarding domestic violence is considered justifiable and even expected to occur within marriage. This idea is false as women are continuously abused without proper help and assistance from other parties.

Despite adding Bud's name into the house ownership, Lily is persistent about not letting Bud know where the money is. The issue settles down but is not wholly gone until there are days when Lily has to leave the children alone with Bud. Bud is secretly abusing the children when they are alone with him to alleviate his frustration with them. One day, Lily comes home early only to witness Bud abusing her children. Lily is fiery to see the scene and starts screaming at Bud.

All of a sudden, she was shouting,

"I'll fucking kill you if it's the last fucking thing I do. And those would be her final words on that subject or any other since she died in the fight that followed. Blood almost black against the white kitchen linoleum, and Bud gripping a black-handled butcher knife whetted keen to the point of invisibility along the curved edge of the blade." (Frazier, 2011, p.32)

After their fight, the text describes how Lily is killed in her husband's hand. Lily is angered because Bud abuses her physically, but their children are also becoming his victims. The narration explicitly captures the situation when Bud took Lily's life in front of the children watching by the door. This explained

how violence would lead to fatal damage to the victim. In this case, Lily has to meet her death in her husband's hand. Stark (2013) explained that domestic violence often includes severe abuse towards women such as beating, choking, burning, rape, torture, use of weapons, permanent disfigurement, and even death. In this sense, the text described exactly what is defined to happen during domestic violence. Bud used a butcher knife to abuse Lily which eventually leads to Lily's death. This results from the re-occurring domestic violence left without any guidance and assistance from the other parties, such as police or other family members. Lily remained weak and vulnerable under the violence she endured from her husband.

2. Domestic Violence against Children in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* (2011)

Children's abuse and trauma caused by violence within their families are also included in the domestic violence spectrum. Jackson (2007) explained that child abuse falls within domestic violence abuse were visible bruises and scars were the main concern over the last third of the twentieth century. Meanwhile, in recent times, psychological abuse is also considered the damaging counterpart. The representation of children's condition that went through abusive and traumatic events within their family is shown in Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* (2011).

The first encounter of Luce and the children are not usual. The children have the expression that gives Luce an impression that they do not want her to touch them, yet they also stare at her as if they want to mess with her,

“The man said, One doctor thought they might be feeble-minded. Another one said it’s just that they saw what they saw, and they’ve been yanked out of their lives and put in the Methodist Home for the time it took to sort things out. The father’s legal matters” (Frazier, 2011, p. 12).

This implies that the children appear defensive after witnessing their mother killed before their eyes. This affects the children with a heavy mental burden to witness such traumatic events. The narrative described the current condition of children who are victims of domestic violence between their parents in which their mothers live is taken away as a result.

The word ‘feeble-minded’ is used to describe the condition of the children, according to the doctor that misinterpreted the trauma that the children have. The children need the assistance of the grown-ups to recover from the shock. However, as the text described, it is implied that the children barely receive any proper medication for their mental state that is wounded by the domestic violence that occurred within their family. Jackson (2007) further explained that children who witness violence occurring between their parents, the ones they most love and rely on, caused significant trauma. The memories and images of such violence will stay and harm the children throughout their lives. This explains the children's unusual attitude as they still carry the traumatic burden from witnessing their mother get beaten up and killed in front of them. Further assistance and a

reassuring environment are needed to get the children slowly to heal from the trauma.

The last narration described the horror of the murder scene as well as how the children become the witness of their own mother's death,

“A siren wailing faintly in the distance due to a neighbor's phone call out of weariness from the frequent racket. The two children are standing in the doorway to the dining room, looking dead-eyed at the scene.” (Frazier, 2011, p. 32).

The text gives an image of the children who watched through the murder of their mother. This indeed gives them shock and an unbearable mental trauma. The mental burden that the children have to carry is caused by the fact that they are also victims of domestic violence, but they also have to witness the horror of the murder committed by their step-father.

The core problem of what happened to Lily and her children is the domestic violence that keeps reoccurring and maintained within the family. This implies that Lily as a woman and a wife, does not have the power actually to stop it. It even resulted in her death and the lifetime trauma that her children had to bear. Jackson (2007) proposed that the children witnesses and victims of domestic violence will have difficulties overcoming psychological and social barriers and conflicts as they grow up. Thus, it can be concluded that domestic violence against children is as dangerous as the one occurring to adults for the abuser to know no borders.

B. The Character's Attempt to Protect themselves on Domestic Violence in Charles Frazier *Nightwoods* (2011)

This section focuses on analyzing how Luce and the children live their life after the murder of Lily that explained from their attempts to deal with the effects caused by the domestic violence. There are two attempts to protect themselves from the abuser: living in a safe environment with the closest person and defending by having razors when the abuser is coming. Javier & Herron (2018) explained that the trauma that the victims have to bear affects their capacity to process information, such as the difficulties in perceiving the motivation and intention of others. This particular condition is caused by how trauma puts the individuals on high alert to protect themselves. Therefore, the actions and traits represented by Luce and the children in the forms of isolation and defensive or highly alerted behavior are further analyzed to investigate how they deal with the fears and traumas after getting involved in domestic violence as the victims.

The first data analysis is shown when Luce's father, Lit, once gifted Luce a razor on her birthday to protect herself if needed. Luce started to look for the razor again stored away in a box after the incident with Lily and now that she is responsible for the children. The narration described what she used to feel about getting a razor as her birthday gift,

"Teenage Luce had thought the gift of a straight razor stupid beyond belief, and her father an idiot. She hadn't taken his message to heart, the dangers congregating all around" (Frazier, 2011, p. 286).

This text explains how Luce did not take the message that her father tried to remind her about the world. The particular line, '*She hadn't taken his message to heart, the dangers congregating all around,*' implies the threatening dangers that women have to face from simply being women, which Luce's father tried to remind her about. Luce did not believe in what her father said until she experienced rape herself. The text is represented alone, emphasizing how Luce is unaware of the dangerous world for women until she becomes its victim. It affected her to become an isolated and defensive person rather than a trusting person.

So, towards the assault accident that she ever experienced, she tries to protect herself by living in Stubblefield assistance and protection. This is related to Luce's condition that she is utterly powerless against the rapist, which is emphasized by Luce's thought while searching for the razor that her father gifted her. Luce's thought reflected how she wishes she could fight against the rapist and save herself, although, in most situations, the victims are powerless under the confrontation. This further implied that Luce's initial fear and powerlessness led her into becoming a defensive individual who armed herself with a tool to protect herself from the abuser's attack. This is shown by how she begins to seek her razor as a means of protection when she finally meets the abuser again.

The following narration explains Luce's thoughts if she gets to use the razor to the man who raped her,

“But if she had taken her father’s gift as it was intended and carried it on her person at all times, Luce could have cut Mr. Stewart’s throat” (Frazier, 2011, p. 287).

When the assault happens to Luce, and she fails to protect herself from the rapist, she becomes a defensive person and has a high alert towards the abuser. Therefore, by avoiding the rape, Luce is helped by Stubblefield in building a safe environment and initiating to bring the razor given by her father to protect herself. The line, ‘*Luce could have cut Mr. Stewart’s throat*’ implied Luce’s idea of fighting against the rapist. This also implied Luce’s current mindset of protecting herself by carrying things that can be used as a weapon. Luce is fully aware that she is weaker than the attacker that is a man as a woman. Thus, Luce wishes she had brought a weapon to protect herself when she is under attack. Luce's thoughts regarding her past sexual assault and how she related her past into the present implied that her mind and behavior are affected by her trauma.

Javier & Herron (2018) explained that the victims who bear violence or sexual assault are left with physical and psychological wounds that cause them to have flashbacks and recall specific events with the feelings they experienced that day, such as incompetency and hopelessness terrified, and so forth. This described what Luce feels like the victim of rape, as represented by the above line. Luce’s feelings and trauma from her past as a victim of assault made her bear wound both in physical and psychological aspects as she has grown to be a more isolated and defensive individual, as represented from the line.

Moreover, as the children are now under Luce's care, they started to continue their life along with Stubblefield, who genuinely helps them through it. However, Bud's terror keeps going, followed by Luce's father's disappearance. This makes Luce, Stubblefield, and the children to be in high alert,

"That night, they all slept together in the main room. The children on their bed near the fire. Stubblefield's good hand in her hair" (Frazier, 2011, pp. 288-289).

This text shows that Stubblefield is giving Luce and the children the assistance and protection to deal with the fear and terror of Bud. This specific assistance and support that is given from Stubblefield towards Luce and the children are necessarily needed. The line *'That night, they all slept together in the main room'* represented how Stubblefield, Luce, and the children huddled together in the hope of staying safe from the danger that was threatening to happen. The high alert in their behavior is affected by the trauma they experienced in the past. By sticking together and the assistance from Stubblefield, both Luce, and the children feel the reassurance they need.

Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007) proposed that offering support and encouraging the victims of domestic violence is needed to recover from their weakened body and mind eventually. This explains how Stubblefield assists Luce and the children while they are trying to deal with the condition of escaping violence and avoiding the abuser to keep safe by offering shelter for both the children and Luce. Stubblefield's presence becomes the only aspect that keeps Luce and the children together as they seek strength and safety from each other.

Stubblefield offered the support and encouragement that the victims seek from people as the victims of abuse. The support and encouragement for the victims are necessarily needed as the victims often feel threatened even when there is no possible danger to happen.

The way that the victims stay on high alert of dangers is further described through the following narration,

“The fire burning low and the radio low too, so they could hear sounds from outside. Pistol within reach and the doors locked” (Frazier, 2011, p. 289).

This explains the state where the victims of domestic violence seek protection and becomes defensive. In this case, Luce even armed herself with the razor his father gave him and the pistol that Stubblefield owns just in case they need to fight against Bud, who is still tailing after him. This is also represented by how they stick together inside the locked door to prevent anyone from breaking in. All of the actions of holding weapons and being locked in together closely with the people that radiate safety imply how abuse victims often seek security while staying on high alert to sense danger.

In this sense, Luce and the children, with the help of Stubblefield, keep on high alert as they know that Bud, the abuser, is still out there and might come onto them whenever. This implied hypervigilance and worries are not without reason as they are still in the place where the abuser might come back again. Therefore, Luce and the children attempt to keep safe and away from the abuser

with the assistance of Stubblefield in the ordinary and apparent results done by the victims of abuse which is implied through the narration above.

The next step that Luce take to protect the children, all the while still trying to manage proper care for them, she initiated to bring the children to Maddie's place,

"We can't live indoors forever, Luce says. And since you're going to be here while dropping us off at Maddie's and go to town. Get the rest of your things. We'll all be back before dark" (Frazier, 2011, p. 297).

This describes how Lucy attempts to avoid endless isolation to avoid Bud that might come to them anytime. Despite having a battle of her own as a rape victim, Luce still thinks of the best for the children as she is now responsible for them. The line *'We can't live indoors forever'* uttered by Luce implies that she is willing to move on from the fear and confront the danger for the sake of the children's wellness. Luce's particular behavior is considered to provide safety and reassurance for the children, as staying inside for a long time will only add to the intensity of fear that the children have towards the abuser.

Jackson (2007) explained that providing a safe and reassuring environment for children victims and witnesses is essential. Referring to this, the action is taken by Luce in giving the children freedom to go outside and make sure it is a safe place. Sometimes, Luce asks the children to go outside because it is necessary to create a more comfortable situation. This implied that Luce is trying to assist the children and not make them feel the unbearable pressure they might feel like the victim of abuse. Luce's action shown through the narrative

reflected her intention to keep the children grow well and safe despite their status as a victim of abuse.

When Luce, Stubblefield, and the children drive off, Bud comes and sneaks into the house to find the money that Lily hides. He looked everywhere and failed to find it until he fell asleep and gets awakened up with a few noises that the children made. It turns out that the children have returned home with Luce nowhere in sight. They are about to set something on fire when their gazes meet Bud's,

Dolores stands, pulling Frank with her. They begin backing slowly into dimmer light. Looking at Bud dead-eyed. No screaming or crying. They get to the door frame to the dining room, and Dolores, natural flat, repeats her mother's words. I'll fucking kill you if it's the last fucking thing I'd do. Frank echoed a second behind her. (Frazier, 2011, p. 301)

This describes the children's reaction upon seeing Bud again. Bud abused her and their mother, as well as causing their mother's death. This triggers their trauma and memories for that particular day when Bud killed Lily. It is described that the children still remember the last words that their mother said to Bud when she saw Bud abuse them, *'I'll fucking kill you if it's the last fucking thing I'd do.'* This emphasizes that the children absorbed what happened that day and remember every detail. The text implies the mental state of the children who are the victims and witnesses of domestic violence where the memories of the traumatic event haunt them for a long time.

Javier & Herron (2018) explained that this condition where the victims carry vivid memories of the traumatic event is addressed as an injury that will

never fully heal once injured. This explains how the children automatically recall their mother's last words and quickly avoid Bud as they know Bud will harm them. The vivid memories of the traumatic event where the children witnessed their mother murdered before their eyes stay in their minds and keep replaying due to trauma formed from witnessing fatal abuse within the domestic environment.

The following narration describes how Frank, one of the twins, shows a particular gesture that implies his longing for his mother just right before the twins decide to leave the house to stay safe from Bud,

“Frank buries his face in one of the flat foxes from the stole and takes a long in-breath of Lily’s scent, and then put it back in the box” (Frazier, 2011, p. 304).

The particular gesture of Frank of inhaling his mother's scent implies that as a child, he still needs a sense of protection despite appearing very defensive to others. This is related to how the children are barely treated well for their mental condition, where their emotion is still not yet explored. Jackson (2007) explained that cruelty between the loved ones or the children supposedly trusts caused them a significant emotional and psychological scar. Thus, the children are trying to find strength by remembering their dead mother implies that they have not entirely gotten over the sense of loss and fear. This implies that they still seek safety from their mother that Bud already kills, while the abuser now targets them. The primary emotional and psychological scar is represented through the

children's attempt to be defensive and appear strong. However, they still secretly find their mother's support through the things that remind them of her.

After the twins prepared what they think they need to bring with them before escaping the house, they are thinking where to go without even considering the assistance of the adults,

“They know to stay away from roads exposed to the world. Woods is the place for escapes” (Frazier, 2011, p. 304).

This implies that the children fail to process which sides they can trust to rely on each other. This particular thinking of having no one but each other who has gone through the same experience results from the trauma they have upon experiencing domestic violence. The line *‘They know to stay away from roads exposed to the world’* represented the children's fear of people as they possibly get caught by the abuser. This also implied the mistrust and the need to isolate themselves from the world due to the rooted trauma from witnessing violence.

Jackson (2007) proposed that children with unattended distress from witnessing domestic violence caused to have difficulties managing a stable bond and trust to others. In this sense, the twins who decided to leave the house to keep safe are the evidence of how children who witness domestic violence lose trust in the adults or anyone they are not familiar with and fail to learn the good intentions of others. They have difficulties trusting anyone and making risky choices by themselves as they do not find it comfortable to rely on the adults they are not

familiar with. The violence they witnessed is the root of their untrusting attitude towards the adults.

The following narration explains what the twins think to keep safe. They aim to go as far as it takes for them to be not seen by anyone,

“Their only idea about where to go is farther away from people, deeper into the mountains, up to the highest peak” (Frazier, 2011, p. 305).

The particular sentence, ‘their only idea about where to go is farther away from people,’ means that they already have the mindset that people are dangerous and can cause them harm. It also implies that they can keep safe from Bud, who is now after them, by staying away. This thinking is rooted in their experiences and the fear of the abuser, which drives them to develop the need to run away while thinking that nobody can help them but themselves.

Jackson (2007) further explains that the children victims and witnesses of domestic violence tend to have problems in their developments of behavioral, physical, emotional, and social problems. This related to the actions taken by the children who decided to go on their own rather than asking for the adults’ assistance. It implies their poor recognition of the safe space that Luce tried to provide in which they fail to trust. The children’s behavior reflected how the trauma interrupted their growth, affecting how they judge their environment. The children do not want to stay under the adults’ supervision and feel uncomfortable around social settings, thinking they are better off alone.

After noticing their disappearance, Luce, going after the children, has finally entered the forest to find them. Luce spotted Bud first, who happened to trail after the children. From this, the motherly instinct of Luce is triggered, and the first response she has is to whip out her razor. She becomes defensive and tries to hurt Bud as he shows the sign to attack her,

“Luce pulls her birthday razor from the pocket of her coat and flips the hook at the end of the handle. Holds the razor angled, like a barber ready to shave a face” (Frazier, 2011, p. 370).

This emphasizes that Luce, to protect the children from Bud, initiated to fight against Bud physically. She armed herself with the razor that her father gifted her. This implies that Luce knows how violent Bud is. Thus, she tries to take him down before the otherwise happens to her and the children.

Jackson (2007) proposed four standard requirements of self-defense: the defendants believe that they are in danger, which will cause them bodily harm. This is related to Luce, who is fully aware that Bud is dangerous and will not hesitate to hurt her anytime. Thus, she tries to protect herself and the children by using the razor she armed herself with. This implied that Luce was attacking the attacker by using her razor. This action is reflected as aggression that is purposed under self-defense, knowing that she is facing Bud, her sister's killer. Luce's attack is considered self-defense as she only uses it when she senses danger from Bud.

The following narration describes how Luce tries to take Bud down by aiming to hurt him by slitting the area near his throat using the razor,

“The Adam’s apple makes a good round target, a knot of gristle under the skin to mark exactly where the windpipe runs. Luce moves at him and swings hard, wanting to go deep” (Frazier, 2011, p. 370).

This clearly explains that Luce aimed to injure Bud badly for him to have not the strength to attack her and the children back. Luce shows this stage of violence is part of her defensive state reacting to Bud's danger. When the victim is holding a knife while the abuser is unarmed, this particular condition is explained as the victim only tries to harm the abuser when there is no imminent threat.

Jackson (2007) further explained that the victims or the battered women harm their abuser while unarmed. This obviously will keep the victim in a safer condition where the abuser has the chance to appear less weak than them. Therefore, Luce's action that involves her using the razor to hurt Bud, who is unarmed, is related to how the victim of abuse finally stands for their safety. The victim's violence to the abuser requires a situation where the victim feels confident enough to take down the abuser. This is reflected through how Luce is the only one armed with a razor while Bud is bare-handed. This condition implied that Luce, the victim, can finally feel safe enough to defend herself, knowing that the abuser is in a weaker state for not being armed with weapons.

Following the first strike of her razor, Luce observes whether she succeed in hurting Bud or not,

“Luce squares up in case she needs to make another go, but then the blood comes” (Frazier, 2011, pp. 370-371).

This explains that Luce did not hurt Bud out of rage, but she effectively stopped Bud from attacking her and the children. This once again emphasizes the action taken by the person who is in the place of being defensive towards the abuser. Luce observed the attacker determine whether she had effectively wounded the attacker so he could not threaten her and the children. It is concluded that Luce's aggression is based on self-defense, which does not involve raging anger but instead is done effectively to stop the abuser.

Jackson (2007) explained that the person defending oneself responds to the threat with a reasonable amount of force. This is reflected in how Luce only attacks Bud to stop chasing the children, not intending to kill him out of rage. This means that Luce only hurt the attacker in reasonable force that is enough to prevent Bud, the attacker, from going for her and the children. This also explains that Luce controls her emotion well as she does not fiercely attack Bud but pure out of her defensive attempts. Luce, the situation where the victim attacks the abuser out of a defensive state, finally overcame her fear and decided to go against the abuser instead of enduring it while risking the children getting hurt.

However, as Bud is still not leaving Luce and the children alone, she stays in her defensive stance with the razor. The children are witnessing what happened before their eyes without the power even to move,

“And there stands Luce with the razor, ready to come at him again. He turns and looks at the kids. They stand pale-faced across the hole, in the shadows under vaulted boughs of hemlock. Watching him with no expressions at all” (Frazier, 2011, p. 371).

This describes how the children are witnessing violence again, although Luce is trying to protect them. The phrase ‘pale-faced’ describes how the children are scared from seeing the scene, yet they are too powerless to save themselves from that condition.

Carlson (2000) explained that younger children, have fewer coping mechanisms, and are continuously exposed to witnessing violence have more distress and long-term problems than children who do not meet the mentioned criteria. This explains Frank and Dolores' condition, who have witnessed violence several times. The text-only emphasizes the fear and terror that the children might bear from witnessing re-occurring violence between their parents and now between their caretaker and the abuser, through the children's reaction to the violence that involves them staying in place without trying to avoid means that they do not know what they are supposed to do. Instead, they willingly stayed as the violence unfolded before their eyes. This once again implied children's fewer coping mechanisms and distress that are represented from their reaction that does not differ from the first time they witness violence in their house.

After Bud finally runs away and leaves Luce and the children alone, Luce does not approach them until they are seemingly calm. They walk side by side, leaving the forest,

“When the trail becomes wide enough, she walks alongside Sally. Tells the children, I was so worried. It must have been...she starts to say terrifying but settles on a different word. Cold, she says” (Frazier, 2011, p. 375).

This describes Luce's attempts to reassure the children by expressing her concern despite not doing it more warmly. Luce is trying to become the shelter for the children by keeping them safe and reassuring them in her way. This particular safety and reassurance coming from the caregiver are essential for children. The line, *'I was so worried'* is interpreted as Luce's way to let the children know that she cares for them and is willing to protect her from possible danger.

Jackson (2007) explained that creating a safe environment and becoming a reassuring caregiver is needed to establish trust with children who experienced or witnessed violence. This implied how Luce treats the children by being careful not to pry on their feelings too straightforwardly. This is considered a behavior is shown to the children as Luce attempted to let them know that they can lean on her as an adult they can trust. However, as the children are supposedly still in a shocking state after seeing the violence, Luce's reassurance comes subtly despite wanting to deliver her protection of the children.

The last narration shows how Luce, Stubblefield, and the children live after the last confrontations they have with Bud,

"Doors locked, weapons close. But every day that passes, Bud's presence fades. Nothing but a feeling. No telling for sure whether he is still going or long gone. Fled into the distance or absorbed into the landscape, which does not punish but cleanses all bones equally" (Frazier, 2011, p. 383).

This described that as the victims of abuse, they still keep on guard even after time passes. It emphasizes the fear and trauma they have after the experiences of being attacked and violated by the perpetrator even after a long

time passed after the actual event. The line, *'Doors locked, weapon close'* implied that Luce and the children still live on high alert. They still live carefully and keep weapons within their reach as they will be ready if another attack from the abuser comes again. This behavior is developed from the trauma of violence that makes them defensive even when there is no sign of the abuser returning. The phrase *'nothing but a feeling'* explains the worries and fear that they still have even without the presence of the abuser. This described the traumas in which Luce lived with the children, fearing that Bud might come for them again.

Javier & Herron (2018) explained that the victims of domestic violence are left with the traumas that make them be in the constant feeling of danger and high alert even when they are not in danger anymore. Relating to this, Luce and the children's constant state of alert and hyper-awareness of danger result from the traumas they have from the violence they experienced in the past. It is implied that Luce and the children, as the victims of violence, continue their lives without moving on from the violence that occurred in the past. They still reflected the state of high alert and the constant worry of the same abuse happening again.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter summarizes the result of the analysis by the preceding chapter. In this chapter, the researcher wants to add the suggestion for the next researcher to investigate further studies.

A. Conclusion

Several results were found after analyzing the data taken in the novel Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* (2011). The narration in phrases and sentences described how domestic violence within a family was the head of the family abuse between the wife and the children. Bud, as the husband, abused his wife, Lily. He does it repeatedly until it peaked when Lily witnessed that Bud also beat her children. Thus, Lily dies in Bud's hand while the children are taken under Luce's responsibility as Lily's sister. Domestic violence evidence has been shown through the abuse done towards women and children. The kinds of domestic violence found within the novel are physical and psychological violence. The physical abuse is beating and slapping with bruises left on Lily and the children. Meanwhile, the psychological abuse is in oppression, which Lily experiences.

Moreover, the other results show how the characters in the novel deal with the effects of domestic violence. As the main character here, Luce deals with the trauma of being raped through living in a safe environment with a supportive person, Stubblefield, and using a razor to protect themselves when the abuser is

coming. In addition, the children who are both victims and witnesses of domestic violence develop their trauma, affecting their perception of people and social settings. They have difficulties in recognizing other people's intentions. Hence, all that happened to the children is distant and has zero trust in people because their memories of violence keep haunting them.

B. Suggestion

Several studies have discussed the topic of domestic violence. However, the topic in the portrayal of domestic violence and the characters attempting to deal with domestic violence is not conducted yet. Hence, after comprehending and investigating the story related to domestic violence in *Nightwoods'* novel, the researcher proposes to future researchers in similar novel *Nightwoods* in multiple perspectives. First, the next researcher can investigate the classification of domestic violence and the tiny part of each element more profoundly using the similar object but other theories. Thus, the study can be done well using the domestic violence theory.

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