

**VIOLENCE SUFFERED BY FEMALE CHARACTERS IN  
GABRIELA GARCIA'S *OF WOMEN AND SALT***

**THESIS**

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG  
2024**

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**THESIS**

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

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2024**

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I state that the thesis entitled "**Violence Suffered by Female Characters in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt***" is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

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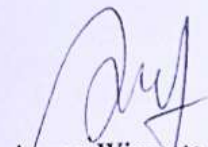
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This is to certify that Inge Firdiani's thesis entitled **Violence Suffered by Female Characters in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt*** has been approved for thesis examination at Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, as one of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S.).

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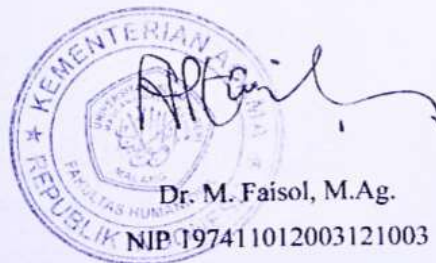


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## MOTTO

إِذِ الْفَتَىٰ حَسَبَ اِعْتِقَادِهِ رُفِعَ \* وَ كُلُّ مَنْ لَمْ يَعْتَقِدْ لَمْ يَنْتَفِعْ

*"Because the degree of a young man is measured by his faith. For anyone who does not have faith, then he will not be able to benefit."*

(Syeikh Syarafuddin Yahya al-Imrithi)

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated with pride to:

My beloved mother Ibu Khalila and My Father Bapak Edi who always pray for the best and provide all forms of support. alm. Bapak Widodo and also Ibu Ismawati.

My uncle and aunt Bapak Imam Hanafi Ibu Hartatik, and my cousin Dela.

The best sisters Hikma, Auliya', and my comrades in arms Lovenia, Nina, and Faizah.

My dearest family Aulia, Nanda, and Mia.

Ust. Fatma and Ust. Lucky

And all family, friends, and colleagues who have not been written here.

Thank you for everything you do for me so that my journey becomes easier. I would not have been able to reach this achievement without all of you.

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Finally, I acknowledge my shortcomings in this thesis. Therefore, I welcome suggestions and criticisms to help me get better. I hope this research is useful for the readers and inspires future researchers.

Malang, June 04<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The researcher

Inge Firdiani



## ABSTRACT

**Firdiani, Inge.** (2024). *Violence Suffered by Female Characters in Gabriela Garcia's "Of Women and Salt"*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A.

Keywords: Violence, direct violence, structural violence, cultural violence

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Violence against women is an issue that still often occurs today in everyday life. Literary works as a representation of social life often represent social issues including violence against women in them. This research presents a discussion of female characters who experience violence in a novel entitled *Of Women and Salt* by Gabriela Garcia. This research presents an analysis of violence that focuses on the characters Maria Isabel, Dolores, and Gloria in the novel. The novel shows the violence that happened to the three characters from the social environment around them. The analysis in this study is divided into two parts. The first part discusses the types of violence experienced by the female characters in *Of Women and Salt* and the second discusses the responses given by the female characters to the violence they experienced. Furthermore, the research uses literary criticism as a research design and the object focuses on violence that occurs to female characters. The analysis process is done by reading the novel, classifying, and categorizing the forms of violence. The results of this study show that the violence experienced by Maria Isabel is a type of direct and cultural violence in the work environment as well as structural and cultural violence in the colonialism system. Then Dolores experienced violence from her husband which is included in the type of direct violence such as physical harm and cultural violence that grows from the belief in male dominance over women. Furthermore, the violence experienced by Gloria in her migration experience is manifested in the type of structural violence created in the system or policies related to undocumented immigrants, as well as cultural violence that creates a stigma attached to her as an undocumented immigrant. Finally, the results of this study show Maria Isabel's response to the violence she experienced in the form of an acceptance response, and the same response was also shown by Gloria, while Dolores responded to violence with self-protection and revenge.

## ABSTRAK (Bahasa Indonesia)

**Firdiani, Inge.** (2024). *Kekerasan Yang Dialami oleh Tokoh-tokoh Perempuan Dalam Novel "Of Women and Salt" Karya Gabriela Garcia*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A.

Kata kunci: Kekerasan, kekerasan langsung, kekerasan struktural, kekerasan kultural

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Kekerasan terhadap perempuan merupakan isu yang masih sering terjadi hingga kini dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Karya sastra sebagai representasi dari kehidupan sosial seringkali merepresentasikan isu-isu sosial termasuk kekerasan terhadap perempuan di dalamnya. Penelitian ini menyajikan pembahasan tentang tokoh-tokoh perempuan yang mengalami kekerasan dalam novel yang berjudul *Of Women and Salt* karya Gabriela Garcia. Penelitian ini menampilkan analisis kekerasan yang berfokus pada tokoh Maria Isabel, Dolores, dan Gloria dalam novel tersebut. Novel tersebut menampilkan kekerasan yang terjadi pada ketiga tokoh tersebut dari lingkungan sosial di sekitar mereka. Analisis dalam penelitian ini terbagi menjadi dua bagian. Bagian pertama membahas tentang jenis-jenis kekerasan yang dialami oleh para tokoh wanita dalam novel *Of Women and Salt* dan yang kedua membahas tentang respon yang diberikan para tokoh wanita terhadap kekerasan yang mereka alami. Selanjutnya penelitian menggunakan kritik sastra sebagai desain penelitian dan objek yang berfokus pada kekerasan yang terjadi pada tokoh-tokoh perempuan. Proses analisis dilakukan dengan membaca novel, pengklasifikasian, dan pengkategorian bentuk-bentuk kekerasan. Hasil dari penelitian ini menampilkan kekerasan yang dialami yang dialami Maria Isabel merupakan jenis kekerasan langsung dan kultural dalam lingkungan kerja serta kekerasan struktural dan kultural dalam sistem kolonialisme. Kemudian Dolores mengalami kekerasan dari suaminya yang termasuk ke dalam jenis kekerasan langsung seperti melukai fisik serta kekerasan kultural yang tumbuh dari keyakinan dominasi laki-laki atas perempuan. Selanjutnya yaitu kekerasan yang dialami Gloria dalam pengalaman migrasinya termanifestasikan dalam jenis kekerasan struktural yang tercipta dalam sistem atau kebijakan terkait imigran yang tidak berdokumen, serta kekerasan kultural yang menciptakan stigma yang disandarkan padanya sebagai imigran tanpa dokumen. Terakhir, hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan respon Maria Isabel atas kekerasan yang dialaminya dalam bentuk respon penerimaan, dan respon yang sama ditunjukkan pula oleh Gloria, sedangkan Dolores merespon kekerasan dengan perlindungan diri serta pembalasan dendam.

## مستخلص البحث

فرديانى، إنجي (2024). العنف الذي تتعرض له الشخصيات النسائية في رواية "عن النساء والملح" للكاتبة غابرييلا غارسيا. أطروحة. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرف: أغونغ ويراناتا كوسوما، ماجستير.

الكلمات المفتاحية: العنف، العنف المباشر، العنف الهيكلي، العنف الثقافي، العنف الثقافي

العنف ضد المرأة مشكلة لا تزال تحدث في كثير من الأحيان في الحياة اليومية. وغالباً ما تمثل الأعمال الأدبية باعتبارها تمثيلاً للحياة الاجتماعية قضايا اجتماعية بما في ذلك العنف ضد المرأة فيها. يقدم هذا البحث مناقشة للشخصيات النسائية التي تتعرض للعنف في رواية "عن النساء والملح" للكاتبة غابرييلا غارسيا. يقدم هذا البحث تحليلاً للعنف يركز على شخصيات ماريا إيزابيل ودولوريس وغلوريا في الرواية. تُظهر الرواية العنف الذي حدث للشخصيات الثلاث من البيئة الاجتماعية المحيطة بهن. ينقسم التحليل في هذه الدراسة إلى قسمين. يناقش الجزء الأول أنواع العنف الذي تعرضت له الشخصيات النسائية في رواية "عن النساء والملح"، ويناقش الجزء الثاني ردود أفعال الشخصيات النسائية على العنف الذي تعرضن له. وعلاوة على ذلك، يستخدم البحث النقد الأدبي كتصميم للبحث، ويركز الموضوع على العنف الذي تتعرض له الشخصيات النسائية. وأجريت عملية التحليل من خلال قراءة الرواية وتصنيفها وتصنيف أشكال العنف. وتظهر نتائج هذه الدراسة أن العنف الذي تعرضت له ماريا إيزابيل هو نوع من العنف المباشر والثقافي في بيئة العمل وكذلك العنف الهيكلي والثقافي في نظام الاستعمار. ثم تعرضت دولوريس للعنف من زوجها الذي يندرج ضمن نوع العنف المباشر مثل الأذى الجسدي والعنف الثقافي الذي ينمو من الاعتقاد بهيمنة الرجل على المرأة. علاوة على ذلك، يتجلى العنف الذي تعرضت له غلوريا في تجربتها في الهجرة في نوع العنف الهيكلي الذي ينشأ في النظام أو السياسات المتعلقة بالمهاجرين غير الموثقين، وكذلك العنف الثقافي الذي يخلق وصمة عار تلحق بها كمهاجرة غير موثقة. أخيراً، تُظهر نتائج هذه الدراسة استجابة ماريا إيزابيل للعنف الذي تعرضت له في شكل استجابة التقبل، ونفس الاستجابة أظهرتها غلوريا أيضاً، بينما استجابت دولوريس للعنف بالحماية الذاتية والانتقام.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This section presents the researcher's explanation of several important aspects. This includes information about the background of the research, the problem being studied, the significance of the research, the scope of the research and its limitations, and finally the definitions of some key terms related to the topic.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Violence against women remains a problematic issue in diverse societies around the world. About one-third (29%) of women worldwide have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives (Li et al., 2023). This shocking statistic clearly illustrates the level of violence against women is still rampant in many countries. It not only harms the individual experiencing victimization but also impedes the broader consequences on households, communities, and healthcare systems globally covering aspects of physical, mental, emotional, and economic health (Giammarioli et al., 2023). Therefore, it is imperative to foster an understanding of the adverse forms and consequences of violence against women, regardless of whether it manifests in physical or psychological manifestations so that the high number of violence targeting women can be reduced.

Violence against women as a familiar phenomenon in society is often represented through literary works. The relationship between literature and

society can be explained as literature being an institution of the social or society, which uses language as its medium (Wellek, R., & Warren, A., 1948). In this context, literary works not only reflect social reality but also produce artistic expression through the exploration of complex social phenomena, such as violence against women. Authors of literary works often choose to highlight the issue of violence against women in their works to convey messages. Through the portrayal of characters, the development of narratives, and the establishment of settings, literary works become a means to represent the experiences of women facing violence, thus allowing the readers to gain a more thorough understanding of the consequences or effects of the phenomenon (Yasmin et al., 2022). In addition, literary works can highlight the gender inequalities and power dynamics that underlie violence against women (Mosha, 2013). Literary works not only create compelling narratives but also serve as a means to evoke feelings of empathy and concern for victims. Literary works thus play an important role in shaping social awareness and promoting change to address the occurrence of violence directed at women in society.

The representation of violence against women in literary work can be found in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021). This novel won the Best Literary Fiction - She Reads Best of 2021 Awards. Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021) follows the lives of several characters, including Maria Isabel, Dolores, Carmen, and Jeanette who lived in different times but are connected through lineage in five generations of Cuban family, from 1866 to 2019, and their relation with Salvadorian immigrant, Gloria and her daughter, Ana. Each

character has a narrative that exposes the different faces of violence that they face. The novel depicts the social, political, and cultural contexts of Cuban society during the colonial era through to the subsequent periods when the characters relocate. Artistically narrated, these circumstances influence the violence experienced by Garcia's women. It is about the broken family relationships caused by violence and the struggle of Garcia's women to survive war, poverty, brutal partners, and separation.

The researcher chose to analyze violence against women in the novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia because the violence that occurs is not only limited to the domestic context as experienced by the character Dolores but also extends to the scope of work as experienced by the character Maria Isabel when working in a cigar factory and the immigrant experience of Gloria and Ana. In the novel, violence against the female characters is not limited to physical or emotional forms within the scope of the marital relationship but also includes unfair treatment in the workplace and the challenges faced by female immigrants, making it interesting to study. By using this novel as the center point of the research, the researcher intended to investigate the different types of violence experienced by women from various backgrounds and life situations and to illustrate the complexity of the reality of violence involving different facets of women's existence within society.

Another reason for choosing the topic of violence against women in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021) is to open up insights for readers about the importance of awareness of the violence problem that often occurs to



women. By analyzing the topic of violence, readers are expected to understand the far-reaching impact of violence against women, not only in the domestic context but also in the workplace and the immigration experience. More than simply presenting narratives of suffering, this analysis highlights the need for collective action in eradicating violence against women. By expanding the understanding of women's vulnerability to violence, it is hoped that there will be an impetus to fight for gender justice and create safer and more inclusive environments for all individuals. Through this novel, readers are invited to delve deeper into the intricacies surrounding the problem of violence targeting women and how victims can play a role in overcoming such violence.

In an attempt to analyze the novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) written by Gabriela Garcia, the researcher focused on the theory of violence proposed by Johan Galtung. The primary goal of this analysis is to examine the expressions of different types of violence directed at women as depicted in the novel's narrative, with a particular focus on the violence faced by each character. Galtung provides a conceptual structure to describe violence through cultural aspects, which give legitimacy to violence in both its direct and structural manifestations. Briefly, he characterizes direct violence as an incident, structural violence as an ongoing process, and cultural violence as something that persists (Galtung, 1990). Therefore, this investigation identifies and examines the physical, structural, and cultural dimensions of violence depicted in the stories of Maria Isabel, Dolores, and Gloria. The selection of this theory is expected to open up a deeper understanding of the complex layers of violence experienced by the characters, as

well as an understanding of the underlying causes behind such acts of violence. Thus, through an analytical approach centered on Galtung's theory of violence, the researcher sought to investigate the deep meanings in the narratives of each character in the novel, provide a critical perspective on the diverse types of violence experienced by female characters, and enhance our understanding of their influence and vulnerability in the narratives summarized in this literary work.

The reason the researcher only focuses on these three characters is because the researcher saw more complex violence experienced by them and the violence experienced by other characters such as Carmen, Jeanette, and Ana are also centered or influenced by the violence experienced by Maria Isabel, Dolores, and Gloria. In short, the violence experienced by the three of them is the center of the violence experienced by other characters.

The researcher has identified several relevant previous studies that use Johan Galtung's theory of violence in analyzing violence against women as a source for this research. The first one is "*Sarah Baartman's experience of violence in Suzan Lori Park's Venus*" (2023) by A'yuni Sabila Khusna which analyzes violence in the workplace. This research found that Baartman experienced direct cultural, structural, and cultural violence and also found efforts made to overcome the violence experienced. The next is "*Women's Struggles Against Violence in Okky Madasari's Bound*" by Adiva (2020) which analyzes violence in the workplace and household, "*Kya's Struggle Against Violence in Delia Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing*" by Marwah Lailatussyifa in (2021) that analyzes violence perpetrated by father and boyfriend, and "*Women's Struggle Against*

*Violence in Alice Walker's The Color Purple* " by Muhammad Jamil in (2023) that analyzes violence in the household. These three studies not only use Johan Galtung's concept of violence to examine the direct, structural, and cultural violence experienced by the selected characters in the novels but also use feminist theory, especially radical feminism, to discover the efforts made by the characters to overcome the violence that happened to them. There are also, "*The violence suffered by Beth in Angela Morrison's Sing Me to Sleep*" (2021) by Ibnul Husna that analyzes violence in the school environment, "*Violence suffered by Cora and Ajarry in Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad*" (2022) by Lussy Yoka Indriyani that analyzes violence experienced by black American slaves. Both only focus on direct, structural, and cultural violence that occurs in the novel. Furthermore, the research entitled "*Violence Suffered by The Black Main Female Character in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah*" (2023) by Aula Aprilia Nur Choirin focuses on the direct, structural, and cultural violence experienced by black women in America and their efforts to overcome violence using Johan Galtung's theory of peace.

In addition, the research with the title "*Violence Suffered by Religious People Portrayed in Dan Brown's Origin*" by Mohammad Danial Shafran (2020) focuses on direct, structural, and cultural violence experienced by the religious groups, "*Violence against Indian Dalit Women under Narendra Modi Government*" (2023) by Santria and Karina focuses on the cultural violence that Dalit women experience from an unjust government. The last previous study is "*Violence Represented in William Golding's Lord of The Flies*" by Bagus Amantu

Billa (2023) which centers on the main character who commits the violence. These three studies also apply Johan Galtung's theory of violence in their analysis.

The previous studies above have shown that analyzing violence against women in literature is interesting and important, given the widespread reality of the problem of violence against women. As such, the researcher believed that research on this topic is still relevant. Therefore, the researcher intended to conduct a study on violence experienced by female characters in the novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia using Johan Galtung's theory of violence as the previous studies above with a different focus, namely on the violence experienced by the characters who are not only housewives, but also workers, and El Salvadorian immigrants who are influenced by the social circumstances at the time of each character in the novel.

## **B. Problem of the Study**

Drawing from the aforementioned study background, the researcher developed the subsequent research questions:

1. What are the forms of violence suffered by female characters in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)?
2. How do the female characters respond to the violence they experienced in *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia?

## **C. Significance of the Study**

This research seeks to contribute both theoretically and practically regarding violence against women as depicted in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and*

*Salt* (2021). In theoretical significance, this research is expected to contribute to the development of knowledge about violence against women. Practically, this research is expected to develop the study of violence in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021) from the sociological approach. In addition, The expected outcomes of this study are twofold: first, it is hoped that the results of this study can be a valuable source of reference for future researchers who are interested in investigating the issue of violence against women and participating in deepening the understanding of violence against women in the context of literary narratives while shedding light on strategies to choose the right response as a consideration to address the violence; and second, to encourage efforts to prevent and overcome violence against women, as well as expand understanding of the complexity of the issue of violence in society.

#### **D. Scope and Limitation**

This research specifically examines the aspects of violence felt by the female characters especially Maria Isabel, Dolores, and Gloria in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021). By utilizing Johan Galtung's theory of violence, this research also explored their responses to the violence they experienced.

#### **E. Definition of Key Term**

##### 1. Violence

Violence is any type of behavior or circumstance that causes harm or destruction to oneself and others (Galtung, 1971). Violence takes many forms, such as physical, emotional, verbal, institutional, structural, and

spiritual. These forms of violence can paralyze, control, or even harm the morale and well-being of individuals and communities.

## 2. Direct Violence

Galtung (1996) explains that direct violence is an act of violence committed directly by individuals. According to Galtung (1990), direct violence involves various physical actions such as hitting, slapping, hair-pulling, throwing, and even attempted rape. In this context, both perpetrators and victims are actively engaged in physical actions that can cause varying degrees of injury, ranging from mild to severe (Carlson et al., 2000). However, not only that, hurtful and demeaning words are also considered a form of direct violence (Galtung & Höivik, 1971).

## 3. Structural Violence

Structural violence is described by Galtung (1996) as a form of violence not directly perpetrated by individuals but embedded in social structures. Structural violence refers to systemic barriers and inequalities that prevent certain groups (underclass) from accessing opportunities and resources, ultimately leading to exploitation and limited mobility (Galtung, 1996).

## 4. Cultural Violence

Cultural violence is the violence that arises from beliefs that are instilled from an early age and reflected in daily activities in social life (Galtung, 1971). Therefore, this violence creates legitimacy for direct or structural violence (Galtung, 1990).

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section explores the literature pertinent to the subject matter under investigation in this study. It centers on the discussion surrounding diverse references concerning the notion of violence as advocated by Johan Galtung.

#### **A. Sociological Approach in Literary Criticism**

Sociology can be understood as a scientific field that studies social life, changes in social dynamics, and the causes that affect these changes, in addition to the impact or consequences of human behavior. Sociology, in essence, examines and explains social behavior and also includes attempts to understand the behavior exhibited by one or more individuals (Ringel, 2018). It includes behaviors, mental processes, and emotions that manifest externally from the individual (Durkheim, 2009). Furthermore, sociology is generally recognized as a scientific study that explores social relations, social institutions, and society with diversity in objectives, uses, styles, and methods that characterize it (Larasati & Irmawati, 2022).

Literature carries a broad meaning, going beyond its form as a mere written work, to include a comprehensive understanding of the idea of literature itself. In addition, literature serves as a reflection of the complex and diverse manifestations of human expression. Literature is not only described by what is written, but also by what is captured by hearing, expressive manifestations, and what is created in any manifestation (Marcus & Sollors, 2009). Therefore,

literature becomes a tool that encompasses a variety of ways to represent human experience, whether through writing, speaking, or other forms of expression, thus providing a more comprehensive view of the diversity of human expression.

Literature has a significant role in shaping and representing society. Literature serves as a reflection that allows individuals to cultivate new concepts and ways of contemplating the world (Manjunatha, 2022). Through the study of literature, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of the nature of society and how individuals operate within the fabric of society. Literature can elicit diverse emotions and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals (Dubey, 2013). In addition, literature facilitates the acquisition of stylistic and artistic conventions for effective communication and writing (Hoggart, 1966). Moreover, literature is influenced by society and vice versa, as the two entities are inseparable. Literature cannot exist in isolation from society, and society is often reflected in literary works. Therefore, literature has a great impact on society.

Wellek and Warren (1948) explained the deep correlation between literature and society as a reflection of actual social circumstances by utilizing language as a medium for expression. Literature explores the intricacies of social circumstances and dynamics in society regardless of the nature of literary works that are imaginative or fabricate narratives similar to actuality. Therefore, literature can be seen as a portal that reveals various aspects of social life using language as a channel to transmit authorial messages to readers regarding literary work. A branch of science that studies the interaction between literary works and individuals in the context of society, along with the social processes that involve



them can be known as the sociology of literature (Faruk, 1994). Endraswara (2003) also describes the sociology of literature as a field of study that focuses on human issues, including the process of finding the direction of human life, which is based on imagination, feelings, and intuition. Furthermore, it also studies the sociological aspects of literary works including facts, history, social behavior, and events, as well as other aspects such as residence, work, customs, and romance (Becker, 2022).

The sociological approach in literary analysis, according to Wiyatmi (2006), is a development of the mimetic approach that treats literary works as something related to the real world and social aspects of society. Based on the mimetic approach which is one of the types of literary criticism as the design of this research consists of mimetic criticism, pragmatic criticism, expressive criticism, and objective criticism. Mimetic criticism in literature considers literary works as a mirror, image, or representation of the real world and human life (Fard, 2016). This approach emphasizes the ability of a work to portray truth and adequacy in representing the subject at hand, or what should be the focus of attention. In this context, the main objective is to see to what extent a literary work can reflect its reality accurately and adequately, so as to provide a deep understanding of the issues raised in the work.

The sociological approach was chosen because it seeks to improve people's understanding of literary works that have important social impacts. In addition, this approach helps explain the relationship between the story in the novel and the surrounding reality, especially since literary works are often

fictional. Moreover, literature encompasses not only individual experiences but also social phenomena influenced by the conventions and social norms prevailing in society (Wellek & Warren, 2016). With this approach, we can delve deeper into how literary works influence and are reflected in society, and how they enrich our understanding of the world around us.

A sociological approach emerges as the most appropriate strategy to use in this research as it aims to show that *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia is not only a piece of imaginative literature but also serves as a depiction of reality. This literary work reveals manifestations of violence against women that can be encountered every day in real life.

## **B. Violence**

According to Galtung (Galtung, 1971), violence can be understood as any type of behavior or circumstance that causes harm or destruction to oneself and others. Violence includes physical force, psychological harm, deprivation, and maldevelopment (Mikołajczuk, 2020). Also cited in Bufacchi (2009), Honderich (2002) provides a definition of violence as the utilization of physical force that results in damage, destruction, violation, or loss to individuals or their belongings. The definition of violence is a complex and elusive concept, with variations across cultures and disciplines. With its complex concept, violence involves various elements and aspects, while the way to understand it is influenced by different cultural backgrounds and fields of study. Violence can be categorized into self-inflicted, interpersonal, and collective forms. This category includes violence involving individuals, interpersonal relationships, and groups, often occurring in

the context of war and conflict. Nonetheless, there is no definitive agreement among scholars on the exact definition of violence (Heitmeyer, 2003). This disagreement arises from the diverse perspectives and knowledge of experts in the field. Some definitions focus on criminal violence and the use of force prohibited by law, while others encourage a broader understanding, including disruption to women's lives in the context of armed conflict. As such, definitions of violence are multifaceted and highly context-dependent, encompassing multiple forms and interpretations.

Furthermore, Galtung (1969) introduced the idea of violence, which consists of direct violence, cultural violence, and structural violence. These three elements are interconnected and have the potential to influence each other. Direct violence can take many forms, including physical acts such as murder, torture, rape, and sexual abuse. On the other hand, structural violence does not originate from an individual but is part of a system or organization. Galtung explains that cultural violence involves beliefs and attitudes related to power and violence, which are acquired and understood by individuals from a young age in their social environment (Galtung, 1990). Cultural and structural violence can serve as causes for direct violence, which in turn, can perpetuate and reinforce cultural and structural violence. In essence, Galtung's conceptualization of violence expands the scope of potential negative consequences while emphasizing the complex nature of the relationships among its diverse manifestations.

## **1. Direct Violence**

Direct violence demonstrates a distinct relation between the perpetrator (actor) and the victim (recipient), as it manifests as a tangible action. This type of violence can be described as a form of violence when there is an actor who personally or directly commits an act of violence, and the roots that form the initiative of the act can be identified in a specific individual or group of people (Galtung, 1969). Direct violence is characterized by intentional action directed towards a particular individual or group and includes actions that can lead to harm or even death. Included in direct violence is verbal violence, such as the use of harsh words (Galtung & Fischer, 2013). Specific instances of direct violence encompass physical actions like physically assaulting someone, as well as verbal aggression such as employing derogatory language. Rape and sexual violence also fall under the category of direct violence. In other words, direct violence involves actions that inflict direct harm on or adversely affect a specific individual or group. Galtung categorized direct violence into three types: physical violence, psychological violence, and finally sexual violence.

### **a. Physical Violence**

According to Galtung (1990), direct violence involves various physical actions such as hitting, slapping, hair-pulling, throwing, and even attempted rape. Physical violence is a form of violence that can be felt directly through visual observation. In this context, both perpetrators and victims are actively engaged in physical actions that can cause varying degrees of injury, ranging from mild to severe (Carlson et al., 2000). These

acts involve direct physical contact that often leaves a tangible and visible impact on the victim's body, thus presenting a clear depiction of the immediate nature of the violent act. Thus, acts such as punches, slaps, or other forms of physical violence fall under the category of direct violence, which can be clearly observed and seen.

#### **b. Psychological Violence**

Psychological violence is violence that does not cause bodily harm but rather targets the victim's mental health. This type of violence includes a variety of detrimental actions, such as humiliation, insults, and even threats (Galtung, 1990). Manifestations of psychological violence are diverse and include actions that degrading the victim, exercising authority over their actions and choices, limiting their access to information, and deliberately taking actions that create feelings of humiliation and isolation from loved ones. Emotional abuse, a subset of psychological abuse, involves verbal actions such as entrapping, name-calling, blaming, shaming, cornering, issuing threats, threatening with physical harm, and exhibiting controlling behavior. While this type of violence may not leave visible physical scars, psychological and emotional abuse can significantly affect the mental and emotional health of the victims.

#### **c. Sexual violence**

Sexual violence, as described in the *World Report on Violence and Health*, includes any attempt to obtain sexual favors or acts committed for the purpose of sexual gratification through acts of coercion, harassment, or

seduction. These acts are not limited to a specific category of individuals, as they can be perpetrated by anyone, irrespective of their association with the victim. Moreover, it can occur with no limitation by the home or work environment (Dartnall & Jewkes, 2013). In that context, sexual violence involves acts of a destructive nature, encompassing cases where individuals are forced or manipulated to participate in unwanted sexual activities or subjected to sexual trafficking without their consent.

## **2. Structural Violence**

Structural violence, also known as indirect violence, systemic violence, and sometimes institutionalized violence, differs from personal or direct violence, and refers to the threat or avoidable harm to individuals (and even objects) where there is no clear perpetrator of the violent act, or where it is difficult to identify the perpetrator. This kind of violence arises from inequalities in the distribution of power and resources or can be said to occur hidden within the larger or narrower structures of society (Woehrle, 2022). A Structure of violence not only physically impacts individuals, but also leaves visible marks on their mental and spiritual states. Galtung (2013) explained that the next four terms can be interpreted as components of exploitation, or as factors that reinforce these structures. These components significantly impede the formation of personal awareness and mobilization, both of which are vital aspects in the struggle against exploitation. The act of penetration, which involves the transfer of ideology from a superior group to an underdog group, along with the process of segmentation, which limits the underdog's perception of reality, can inhibit the formation of consciousness.

Similarly, the process of fragmentation, which distances underdogs from each other through marginalization, creates circumstances that perpetuate their separation, thus hindering the process of mobilization. All four function in the context of gender, although there is no consistent correlation between female gender and increased mortality and despair. Moreover, women might live longer than men, provided they can evade instances of abortion driven by sex discrimination, infanticide, and susceptibility to child mortality (Galtung, 1996).

Structural violence involves barriers that prevent individuals from meeting their basic human needs, which include the ability to obtain an education, the right to life, and opportunities for livelihood (Campbell & Tan, 2023). These multiple and persistent difficulties arise from existing social, political, and economic frameworks and create disparities and disadvantages for marginalized parties such as low-income individuals and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Hidden structural violence stems from diverse systems that include political, economic, legal, cultural, religious, and social structures. These structures have the potential to perpetuate unequal access to resources, consequently leading to disparities in health, society, and social chaos. Structural violence takes a passive role by allowing oppressed groups to self-destruct without receiving assistance. As such, the continuation of structural violence leads to persistent inequalities and can have profound long-term implications for human well-being as well as basic rights.

### **3. Cultural Violence**

Galtung explains cultural violence as a manifestation of attitudes and beliefs that are instilled during infancy and pervades our daily existence, particularly about notions of power and the necessity of violence. This includes the legacy of principles that often exalt historical narratives that emphasize stories of war and military victory while ignoring narratives of non-violent resistance or achievement through connection and collaboration. It is critical to realize that almost all societies agree that the act of killing someone constitutes murder, yet when engaged in declared conflict, the act of extinguishing the lives of tens, hundreds, or thousands is often referred to as "War" (Galtung, 1971).

Galtung (1990) explains that cultural violence includes cultural elements, such as beliefs, symbols, and expressions of our lives represented by ideology, religion, language, art, empirical knowledge, and formal knowledge, which can be used to normalize or legitimize violence, either directly or structurally. Cultural violence serves to rationalize, legitimize, conceal, and naturalize explicit attacks on the attacked party, as well as systems of inequality and oppression (Chrobak, 2022). Cultural violence creates the perception that direct and structural violence is morally justified, or at least not morally wrong. Cultural violence operates by changing the ethical connotations of an action, transforming it from morally reprehensible ("red/wrong") to morally permissible ("yellow/allowed") or even morally right ("green/right"). An illustration of this is the notion that "killing sanctioned by the state is justifiable while killing for personal reasons is condemned." Another mechanism is to obscure reality, making us unable to



understand the act or fact of violence, or at the very least, invisible as an act of violence (Galtung, 2013). This violence also causes damage to people's thinking about patriarchal structures. For example, in a patriarchal society, many women become victims of violence triggered by the patriarchal system, due to the inherent understanding of patriarchy that is very harmful.

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter employs a research methodology comprising four primary elements: research design, sources of data, data collection, and ultimately, data analysis.

#### A. Research Design

The design employed in this study is literary criticism, encompassing the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of literary works (Fard, 2016). Analysis involves explaining the components that make up a literary work and connecting the relationships between them (Herawati, 2021). Interpretation is an attempt to clarify the meaning of the language used in a work through analysis, word changes, and the addition of commentary by interpreting the meaning of the work based on elements such as type, genre, impact, and historical and social context (Fitriani & Muassomah, 2021). Evaluation, on the other hand, is evaluating the value of a literary work based on the analysis and interpretation that has been done. Literary criticism involves utilizing the language and content of literary works as data, which are then can be analyzed through the lens of literary theory (Zulfahnur, 2014). The literary theory used in this research is Johan Galtung's theory of violence. This theoretical framework guides the research focus to explore the various forms of violence that occur to female characters in a literary work entitled *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia and look at their efforts in facing and overcoming the violence.

## **B. Data Source**

The data source is the main and most important part of this research because it is the object that be processed and analyzed so that the results of this research can be obtained. The data source for this study is derived from a novel titled *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia which is used in the form of a soft file. This novel consists of 12 chapters and 207 pages and was published by Flatiron Books in 2021. The researcher analyzed the main data, which includes the characters' monologues, dialogues, and expressions, as well as the author's writing style, which is conveyed through words, phrases, or sentences in the novel.

## **C. Data Collection**

The data used in this research is taken from the novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia, which explores the phenomenon of violence against women. Thus, the data collection procedure applied in this research involves the following stages:

1. Reading the novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) carefully to understand the essence of its content and identify the main data pertinent to the research questions, expressed through various words and phrases found in the novel.
2. Furthermore, data showing instances of violence against female characters and their responses against violence in the novel were highlighted and annotated for data organization.
3. The data were then categorized based on cases of violence against women.
4. Finally, the data were categorized according to the forms of violence encountered by the female characters in the novels.

#### **D. Data Analysis**

After data collection, the data is then analyzed using a series of steps:

1. Listing various manifestations of violence in Gabriela Garcia's literary work *Of Women and Salt* (2021) and came up with a systematic classification of the data into different categories: namely, different forms of violence (consisting of direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence) and how each character responds to the violence.
2. Analyzing the violence suffered by the female characters in the novel using Johan Galtung's conceptual framework on violence as an analytical lens.
3. Identifying the similarities between the incidents of violence experienced by the female characters in the novel and Johan Galtung's violence theory.
4. Concluding and then reassessing the adequacy of these conclusions in effectively addressing and resolving the problem.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the analysis of data obtained from the novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia using the concept of violence proposed by Johan Galtung. Based on the research objectives, this chapter will be divided into two parts. The first section will describe the types of violence, such as direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence, depicted in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021). Meanwhile, the second part will discuss the female character's responses to the violence they face in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021).

#### **A. Forms of Violence Suffered by Female Characters in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Violence is defined by Johan Galtung (1971) as any type of behavior or circumstance that causes harm or destruction to oneself and others. Galtung (1969) also introduced the forms of violence, which consist of direct violence, cultural violence, and structural violence. These three elements are interconnected and have the potential to influence each other. Direct violence can take many forms, including physical acts such as murder, torture, rape, and sexual abuse. On the other hand, structural violence does not originate from an individual but is part of a system or organization. Galtung explains that cultural violence involves beliefs and attitudes related to power and violence, which are acquired and understood by individuals from a young age in their social environment (Galtung, 1990).

More specifically, direct violence involves physical or verbal acts that cause injury or direct threat to individuals or groups, structural violence results from inequalities in social structures that cause injustice and deprivation in the fulfillment of basic needs, and cultural violence occurs when cultural values are used to legitimize or justify acts of violence, both direct and structural (Galtung & Fischer, 2013). Four classes of basic needs differentiate between direct and structural violence, including survival needs with death and mortality as its negation, well-being needs negating by suffering and morbidity, identity and meaning needs negating by alienation, and freedom needs by repression (Galtung, 1990).

### **1. Forms of Violence Suffered by Maria Isabel in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Maria Isabel is the oldest character in Garcia's generation of women. Her life is told in the novel set in 1866 in Camagüey, Cuba, in the midst of a tense political situation where many Cubans were increasingly eager for independence from Spain, and Spain's repression of the revolutionary movement was increasing. María was the only female worker in a small cigar factory and often encountered violence while working as a cigar roller.

Based on the novel *Of Women and Salt* by Gabriela Garcia, researcher found forms of violence as conceptualized by Galtung experienced by Maria Isabel.

**a. Direct Violence Suffered by Maria Isabel in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Direct violence takes various forms involving physical violence, such as murder, torture, beatings, and even acts of sexual assault or rape. However, not only that, hurtful and demeaning words are also considered a form of direct violence (Galtung & Höivik, 1971). For example, insulting, manipulating, or judging others. Simply put, direct violence is a type of violence that directly hits the victim and can cause injury to the body or mental state of a person.

Maria Isabel was the only female worker in the cigar factory who often experienced violence or unfair treatment. She was one of the Cuban women in the pre-revolutionary period when women in Cuba generally faced great challenges in gaining their rights as citizens. They were often subjected to discrimination and considered weak and less valuable (Firdaus, 2016).

*His anger was of the untamable sort, unpredictable, without reason. He'd threatened her many times, once grabbing her by the back of the neck when she became distracted by a reading and slowed her rolls. He left finger-shaped bruises that lasted weeks. No man had defended her, not even Antonio. (p.17)*

The above statement shows how Maria Isabel became the object of physical violence perpetrated by Don Gerónimo, a foreman in the place where she worked. Maria Isabel was the only female worker in the cigarette factory and this led to the weakening of Maria Isabel's position. The foreman's emotional nature easily peaked until he grabbed Maria Isabel just because Maria Isabel's work was slowing down without caring about Maria

Isabel's unhealthy condition at that time, leaving scars. And when the violence happened, no one helped her, not even Antonio, her lover.

According to Galtung (1990), direct violence involves various physical actions such as hitting, slapping, hair-pulling, throwing, and even attempted rape. Physical violence is a form of violence that can be felt directly through visual observation. In this context, both perpetrators and victims are actively engaged in physical actions that can cause varying degrees of injury, ranging from mild to severe (Carlson et al., 2000). These acts involve direct physical contact that often leaves a tangible and visible impact on the victim's body, thus presenting a clear depiction of the immediate nature of the violent act.

The evidence above shows the direct violence that happened to Maria Isabel. The foreman where she worked made her an object of violence. Maria Isabel was grabbed and this constituted direct physical violence experienced by Maria Isabel because it involved direct contact between the perpetrator and the victim and left injuries such as bruises on her which are tangible and visible injuries following the type of consequences of direct physical violence.

**b. Structural Violence Suffered by Maria Isabel in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Structural violence is described by Galtung (1996) as a form of violence not directly perpetrated by individuals but embedded in social structures. Galtung (2013) explains that the concept of structural violence involves a structure or system that creates injustice and inequality among its



members and includes exploitation as its central point of the structure. The concept of inequality occurs when groups that are stronger or at the top (topdogs) get more benefits than groups that are weaker or at the bottom (underdogs) or even cannot at all, causing harm to weaker groups. In this context, there are two types of exploitation known as Exploitation A and Exploitation B. Exploitation A refers to conditions where the underdogs are severely disadvantaged to the point of death, for example, due to starvation or avoidable diseases. Exploitation B refers to a condition where the underdogs are still alive but under undesirable circumstances and full of suffering.

The novel *Of Women and Salt* provides an overview of structural violence that addresses issues of social structure in society. Maria Isabel as an ordinary Cuban during the Spanish colonization reflects her position as the lower class or underdog in the social structure.

*María Isabel had worried her milk sparse since regular meals had become an increasingly rare luxury. She fought anxiety over what solid food she could provide when the moment came. (p.30)*

The statement portrays the situation of Maria Isabel who has had difficulties in fulfilling her needs since she was a child which required her to work even when she was married to Antonio and had a baby. She often felt worried about not being able to fulfill her baby's needs. This situation is caused by the moment when Antonio, Maria Isabel's husband, who works as a lector at the factory was fired and executed. His readings resulted in the advancement of knowledge for the workers but was later fired by the factory

owner on the orders of the Spanish government due to Antonio's revolutionary speeches which culminated in Antonio's execution for conducting readings in secret. The situation where Antonio lost his job until his death affected his family, especially Maria Isabel so that they experienced more economic difficulties.

Structural violence refers to systemic barriers and inequalities that prevent certain groups (underclass) from accessing opportunities and resources, ultimately leading to exploitation and limited mobility (Galtung, 1996). In this context, there are two types of exploitation known as Exploitation A and Exploitation B. Exploitation B refers to a condition where underdogs are kept alive but in undesirable and miserable circumstances (Galtung, 1990). This exploitation is a form of deficit in human needs in the well-being needs class.

Based on the data above, Maria Isabel experienced structural violence due to her low position in the social structure of colonialism. As part of the colonized group, Maria Isabel felt a significant impact in fulfilling her well-being needs as a result of the loss of work and even her husband's life as a breadwinner. She faces obstacles to getting a decent life with economic sufficiency, which shows the form of exploitation in structural violence according to Galtung (1990).

**c. Cultural Violence as the Root of the Violence Suffered by Maria Isabel in Gabriela Garcia's *Women and Salt* (2021)**

Cultural violence is a form of violence that is closely related to cultural norms and values. Cultural violence arises from beliefs that are instilled from an early age and reflected in daily activities in social life (Galtung, 1971). Patriarchy, which is a form of cultural violence, creates norms and beliefs instilled from the moment individuals are born, which influence everyday views on power and the justification of violence (Galtung, 2000). The construction built by the patriarchal culture that has taken root in society with its perspective on gender differences has created various forms of injustice, especially for women (Susanto, 2015). One of them is the wrong gender beliefs in the patriarchal culture of society that underlie gender discrimination in the work sector (Akbar, 2021).

Maria Isabel's position as a woman became disadvantaged in a patriarchal culture with the view that men have power and control over women, resulting in the legitimization of the direct violence she experienced. In addition, the structural violence she experienced stemmed from beliefs in colonialism that also demeaned her position as a colonized person in social life.

*she'd apprenticed for nearly a year prior to working for a wage. Yet the factory paid her by the piece, half of what the men earned, and she was the only woman in the shop, knew the men resented her. (p.15)*

The above statement shows how Maria Isabel is treated in the factory where she works. As the only female worker Maria Isabel was paid less than

the male workers. The owner did this even though the work Maria Isabel did was the same as the other male workers.

Cultural violence is violence that arises from beliefs that are instilled from an early age and reflected in daily activities in social life (Galtung, 1971). Therefore, this violence creates legitimacy for direct or structural violence (Galtung, 1990). One of these is the societal view that women are physically and intellectually weak, making them inappropriate for leadership roles. For example, men are often seen as the main breadwinners while women are seen as supplementary, resulting in a wage gap where women are often paid less than men in the payroll system (Akbar, 2021). The beliefs circulating in society regarding cultural dominance lead to the idea that men are allowed to dominate and control women (Harnoko, 2010). Thus, patriarchy in the workplace shapes the treatment of men towards women and even physical violence (Walby, 1990).

The data above shows that the cultural violence experienced by Maria Isabel can be seen through the low wages she receives from her boss. Her lower wages are based on the view developed in society that women are weak and unfit for leadership so they are paid less than men in work because their position is not the main breadwinner. The thought of male dominance results in the treatment of men who control women so Maria Isabel experiences direct physical violence. This is in accordance with Johan Galtung's thinking where the cultural violence that occurred to Maria Isabel in her workplace grew from views or beliefs about the position of women

that developed in society to build legitimacy on the direct violence she received from her superior.

*Some plantations kept enslaved people, and peasants who earned their keep on small plots of land tended others. The peasants and enslaved people, the guajiro farmers and criollo landowners, they all hated Queen Isabel II. (p.21)*

*the reports through the provinces grew more and more dire: public executions, entire villages burned to the ground, formerly free Black farmers forced into slavery. People were hungry, famished. Disease spread and wiped out whole families, whole prisons filled with mambises fighters. Their heroes were dying. (p.21)*

The utterance above shows the social conditions in Camaguey, Cuba during Spanish colonialism which was characterized by slavery practices on plantations controlled by the Spanish government and other colonial practices such as the extermination of forms of resistance shown by the capture of mambises fighters or soldiers fighting for Cuban independence from Spain.

One is the underlying belief of colonialism that colonial societies are considered superior to indigenous peoples. This often manifests in colonial takeover of land, construction of new settlements, and practices such as unfair trade, looting, rebellion, and slavery (Loomba, 2003).

The above data shows the cultural violence that occurred as the root of the violence experienced by Maria Isabel. This violence occurred as a result of the colonialism perpetrated by the Spanish government on Cuba. As defined by Galtung regarding cultural violence based on beliefs in social life, the cultural violence experienced by Maria Isabel due to colonialism is based on the belief in the dominance of the colonial party over the colonized party to legitimize colonial practices such as the extermination of resistance

to the colonizer as experienced by Antonio, Maria Isabel's husband who was a revolutionary so that he was dismissed from his job and killed, which had an impact on Maria Isabel's economic difficulties.

## **2. Forms of Violence Suffered by Dolores in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Dolores is Maria Isabel's great-granddaughter. The story is set in the city of Camagüey, Cuba in 1959 during the height of the Cuban revolution under the leadership of the dictator, Fulgencio Batista. Dolores is a housewife with two daughters, Carmen and Elena. Her husband, Daniel Hernandez, was a revolutionary fighter. Her abusive husband often abuses Dolores because Dolores does not want Daniel to join the rebellion, fears for her family's safety, and is unsure of change but Daniel thinks that Dolores supports President Batista.

Violence occurs when it is avoidable (Galtung, 1990), and harms basic human needs and lives. It can be any action that causes pain or reduces a person's well-being (Galtung & Fischer, 2013). For example, when a person is physically hurt or feels emotionally devastated by violence, it reduces the fulfillment of their needs such as the need for security, respect, and a sense of meaning in life.

### **a. Direct Violence Suffered by Dolores in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Galtung (1996) explains that direct violence is an act of violence committed directly by individuals, with the majority of cases committed by men while women are the victims. Much of the direct violence perpetrated by men is due to the dominance they have at various social levels. This results in direct male violence occurring at all levels of society, be it in the

form of crime in the community or within the family, as well as political violence in the context of social life. The dominance held by men reinforces the unequal treatment of women. (Dwi Eriyanti, 2017).

As a housewife, Dolores is often abused by Daniel, her violent husband. Her husband, who is also selfish, puts forward his desires and when his desires are not fulfilled, his anger peaks and he vents his anger by hurting Dolores. There is also the factor of circumstances, especially the family's economic crisis, which also makes Daniel more violent towards Dolores.

*Only the nights when Daniel came home rum-drenched, cursing the Yankee imperialists who paid him pennies while they cavorted with go-go girls in private clubs, when he dropped pesos, barely enough for milk, much less meat, into Dolores's hand. The blows came fast—to the face, the stomach, Dolores's back. (p.131)*

This quote depicts Dolores' living situation which is full of economic hardship and domestic violence. Whenever Daniel comes home drunk, he often complains about his plight of being underpaid while working for the Yankee imperialists who enjoy their wealth while he cannot even fulfill his family's most basic needs, such as buying milk or meat. This reflects Daniel's frustration towards the economic injustice he experiences, which is then expressed in the form of violence towards Dolores. Daniel's physical attacks on Dolores, which include blows to the face, stomach and back, show the intensity of the anger and misery they experience in their relationship.

*When he was done pummeling her at the door, when he'd drawn a bloody gash across her cheek and punched her eye shut, he grabbed her by the hair and threw her back into the house, to the bedroom. Then he pulled his machete from behind the bed and held it over her. (p.134)*

The quote shows the violence Dolores suffered from her husband, Dolores who was tired of her life with Daniel tried to set up a new life by raising money once she was sure the uprising against Batista would be fruitless and Daniel would die in battle. But when Daniel found the money under the mattress, he became so angry that he tortured Dolores and almost killed her.

Direct or personal violence occurs when an individual acts as an actor or perpetrator of violence. For example, if a husband is violent towards his wife, it can be considered personal violence between two individuals (Galtung, 1969). The impact of direct violence can be clearly visible, such as physical injury, death, or property damage (Galtung, 2004). In addition, direct violence can also result in a situation where the victim becomes displaced or experiences other negative impacts, especially on the general public.

The data proves that the violence Dolores experienced was direct or personal, aligning with Galtung's concept of direct or personal violence. Direct violence, according to Galtung, occurs when an individual acts as a perpetrator, which is evident in Dolores's case where her husband becomes physically violent towards her. This pattern of violence demonstrates Galtung's notion that direct violence can result from individual actions and emotions, leading to visible effects in the form of physical injuries such as those experienced by Dolores, diagonal wounds on her face, and bleeding cheeks, due to Daniel's punches.



**b. Cultural Violence Suffered by Dolores in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Cultural violence is defined as cultural norms that cause harm. These cultural ideas can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence. When accepted as norms, these cultural ideas show how some forms of direct and structural violence become accepted in society. That is when these cultural ideas are internalized by society, they can provide legitimacy for certain forms of violence that were previously considered socially unacceptable (Galtung & Fischer, 2013). Patriarchy is a system in which men strongly dominate, and this relationship is heavily influenced by culturally accepted gender differences. In patriarchy, there is often direct violence where men act as perpetrators and women as victims (Galtung, 1996). Violence in patriarchal cultures includes sexist, homophobic, and transphobic gender norms towards women. It also includes the interaction between other harmful cultural norms and these norms. Examples are sexist cultures that portray women as powerless and men as dominant, social norms that support rape cultures that treat women as objects and hypersexualize them, and cultural ideals of masculinity and femininity that reinforce binary roles and male-centric gender hierarchies (McInerney & Archer, 2023). In addition, women can be subjected to multiple forms of cultural violence, an example of which is the intersecting forms of racism and sexism that target Indigenous women.

The direct violence Dolores experiences from her husband stems from cultural violence that arises from cultural values or norms developed

in society. Her position as a woman and wife in the family is often considered low and weak so she cannot escape the dominance of men who hold control over women as the norm in patriarchal culture.

*But to reason with Daniel. She'd whispered her concerns one night as they lay in bed and thick rain lulled them to false calm. How quick he had knocked her to the floor, said she probably wanted to open her legs for Batista, slashed the belt across her face so that a welt formed diagonally from the bottom of her left lip to her right eyebrow. (p.129)*

The excerpt shows how Dolores received violence from her husband because her husband was angry when Dolores tried to reason with him about her concerns for the safety of the family, she tried to persuade Daniel not to get involved in Fidel Castro's rebellion against President Batista but Daniel got angry, rejected Dolores' opinion without consideration, and accused Dolores of supporting Batista thus hurting Dolores. Daniel still insisted on participating in the rebellion because of his hatred for the Batista government.

Cultural violence is violence that arises from beliefs that are instilled from an early age and reflected in daily activities in social life (Galtung, 1971). Cultural violence is negatively impactful cultural norms that can be used to justify direct and structural violence (Galtung & Fischer, 2013). One of the norms in patriarchal culture is that men are placed above women and are considered to have superiority over them. As the head of the family, men have significant power in making decisions in the household or domestic sphere and play an important role in social life. This justifies men or husbands to control women or wives, either for educational reasons or other

reasons that are considered justified, which can even include repressive actions such as physical violence (Sofiani, 2008).

The data above represents the cultural violence experienced by Dolores when making decisions where her husband has great authority over decision-making in the family. Dolores' opinion that contradicts her husband makes her receive physical violence. This indicates the superiority of men over women in patriarchal culture as described by Galtung (Galtung, 1996). This view of male dominance then legitimizes the direct violence Dolores experiences because Daniel feels he has authority over Dolores. As Galtung explains, cultural violence is used to justify direct violence (Galtung & Fischer, 2013).

### **3. Forms of Violence Suffered by Gloria in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Gloria is one of the other female characters in *Of Women and Salt* whose story is set in 2014 in Miami and Texas and 2016 to 2018 in Mexico. Gloria is an immigrant from El Salvador. She is not related to Maria Isabel or Dolores, she is a neighbor of Jeanette, Dolores' granddaughter who has a daughter named Ana whom Jeanette took care of when Gloria was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Gloria experienced difficulties during her migration as a result of the violence she experienced since her arrest and deportation. Gloria migrated to America after the war in her country that killed her family and the unsafe situation there.

**a. Structural Violence Suffered by Gloria in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Structural violence refers to inequalities that exist in social arrangements and institutions such as laws and community policies that result in negative impacts on individual well-being (Galtung, 1969). Unequal distribution of resources, limited access to basic human rights systems such as healthcare, education, and institutional policies that discriminate against marginalized groups have a major impact on individual well-being (Saleem et al., 2016). Structural violence against undocumented Latino immigrants living in the US takes the form of political exclusion and legal violence that includes denial of means to meet their needs, difficult access to public services, and restrictions on basic legal rights (Quesada et al., 2011).

As an immigrant or undocumented, Gloria experiences difficulties caused by structural violence that shapes her as a marginalized party.

*Instead they boarded us onto a bus with bars on the windows and dropped us off in Mexico. , so there they left us. Said, Find your way home. We were supposed to be turned over to Mexican immigration officials, but I guess they didn't show up. (p.77)*

The above data recounts the experience of Gloria and Ana who were suddenly deported and taken to Mexico without notice after two years of detention in a Texas detention center. Gloria thought that they would meet a judge to discuss her case and the fear of being held accountable. However, these hopes were dashed when they were dropped off in Mexico with no help or guidance, only being left with orders to find their way home. They must struggle amidst the uncertainty of an increasingly violent border.

Gloria felt hopeless and kept recalling the tragedies and casualties that occurred as a result of their journey, such as the unrecognized bodies found in the desert or morgues. All these experiences imply the deep suffering caused by harsh immigration policies.

Structural violence is created, for example when the legal system regulates a person's status, whether they are considered "legal" or "undocumented". By making this distinction, they make certain groups of people suffer economic hardship and also face many social problems such as housing segregation, deportation, and other rights violations (Saleem et al.,2016). Undocumented Latino immigrants are often fearful and distrustful of government institutions in the countries where they live. They live in an environment where their identity is considered illegal, and they feel neglected as individuals (Quesada et al., 2011).

Gloria and Ana's experiences reflect structural violence as described by Galtung. They had difficulty accessing the justice system and felt fear and distrust of government institutions in the countries where they lived. Harsh immigration policies and strict enforcement limit their basic rights, such as the right to due process before deportation. As well as the lack of care from migration officials when they are dropped off in Mexico without any direction. All of this represents a significant negative impact on individual well-being, which is a feature of structural violence that occurs within social and institutional systems.

**b. Cultural Violence Suffered by Gloria in Gabriela Garcia's  
*Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

In the process of Gloria's experience of structural violence, there is cultural violence that becomes the basis for legitimizing the structural violence that occurs to her.

*She's an alien too. She'll go with you. What do you mean? I say. She'll go to Mexico with you. (p.52)*

The excerpt above shows where Gloria is in the pre-deportation process when Ana is not with Gloria in detention. Gloria is worried about Ana if she is deported without her. The officer explains that Ana will come and join her for deportation because they are both "aliens".

Cultural violence is violence that arises from beliefs that are instilled from an early age and reflected in daily activities in social life (Galtung, 1971). Therefore, this violence creates legitimacy for direct or structural violence (Galtung, 1990). One form of this violence is the stigma that develops in social life that harms certain groups. The labeling of 'alien' is a form of stigmatization that can affect the treatment of the labeled party (Jones et al., 2019). The word 'alien' in the US migration context refers to people who are perceived as criminals or foreigners. This reinforces the idea that there is a hierarchy within society based on status, where immigrants are often portrayed as weak and vulnerable, while citizens are considered nobler and contribute more (Nuñez, 2014). It affects the way they are treated and their rights (Soltis & Walters, 2018).

The data above shows how cultural violence is the source or justification for the structural violence experienced by Gloria. The cultural violence was shown by the labeling of 'alien' towards her as an undocumented person in the country where she migrated. Due to the attributed nature of Gloria as an undocumented immigrant, the solution taken in the system is social cleansing, which refers to structural violence such as raids, detention, and deportation (Brotherton, 2018) that Gloria experienced. This is how cultural violence works to justify structural violence as described by Galtung (Galtung, 1990).

## **B. How the Female Characters Respond to Violence in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

In Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt*, each female character provides their response to the violence they face. Maria Isabel faces violence in the workplace, highlighting the challenges of a male-dominated environment. Dolores faces brutal abuse from her husband, Daniel, revealing a journey marked by fear and survival instinct. Gloria's response delves into resilience amid adversity, offering a moving exploration of human emotions.

### **1. How Maria Isabel Responds to Violence in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

In Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt*, the character Maria Isabel faces various forms of violence that affect her life at work. Maria Isabel, a female worker in a cigar factory, is often the victim of violence perpetrated by her foreman and male colleagues.

### **a. Acceptance**

*But her mother grew weaker, María Isabel could see. Finding her daughter a husband had become an aggressive devotion. María Isabel protested: she was happiest in the workshop True that cigar rolling was a coveted, respectable job she'd apprenticed for nearly a year prior to working for a wage. Yet the factory paid her by the piece, half of what the men earned, and she was the only woman in the shop, knew the men resented her. (p.17)*

The excerpt shows the state of Maria Isabel's mother who is getting weaker because she is very sick with their very difficult economic conditions. Maria Isabel chose to work as a cigar roller as her favorite job rather than getting married. Maria Isabel saw that getting the job was a stroke of luck because it was a job that was considered quite respectable while she had no schooling experience only an apprenticeship that she attempted before working there. She was the only female worker and was only paid half the wage of a male worker for the same work and no one at the workplace even helped her when she was perpetrated by the foreman.

The data shows how Maria Isabel's response in the form of acceptance to the violence she experienced at work. Her response was based on several factors. First, she did not seem to have much choice or protection, as there was no one to defend or protect her from the violence, making her feel alone and trapped in a difficult situation. Secondly, the difficult economic situation and her mother being seriously ill made her have to continue working and on the other hand, she was grateful for the work she had done to get the job. Maria Isabel may have felt that she had to accept the violence as part of her job and the difficult economic situation, even though she may not have fully agreed or felt comfortable with the circumstances. This could be an example of a response that arises when a



person feels trapped or has no other options in the face of violence or difficult situations at work.

## **2. How Dolores Responds to Violence in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

In Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt*, the character Dolores faces intense and repeated violence in her life, especially that perpetrated by her husband Daniel. Dolores' responses to this violence are multi-faceted and complex, reflecting the deep impact of violence on her psyche and her choices. These responses highlight the deep struggles faced by many people in abusive relationships, highlighting themes of resilience, survival, and the human ability to be compassionate and vengeful in the face of adversity.

### **a. Self-Protection**

*She apologized, of course. Sobbed and begged and pleaded and summoned her daughters' names in the hope of reaching the humanity in Daniel. But he swung. He swung and her hands sprang and she grabbed the handle with such strength, with such rage, that the machete halted inches from her face. (p.135)*

This quote depicts a harrowing moment in Dolores' life where she faced violence from her husband, Daniel. While being physically abused and fearing for her life, Dolores apologized, cried, pleaded, and begged Daniel to stop. However, despite her efforts, Daniel continued his violent outbursts. In a fit of rage that saw Daniel swing a machete at Dolores, Dolores managed to stop Daniel from harming her further by grabbing the handle of the machete, preventing it from reaching her face.

The data shows how Dolores' defensive response was when she experienced physical violence from her husband, Daniel. In the violent

situation, Dolores gave a complex response. Although she felt frightened, Dolores still tried to take care of herself. She tried to defuse the violence by pleading and apologizing to Daniel and even calling the names of her children in an attempt to calm her husband down. However, when the situation worsened and her life was threatened, Dolores showed incredible courage by taking action to protect herself by holding the machete up to her face to avoid greater harm.

### **b. Revenge**

*She must have stabbed him dozens of times, there was so much blood. So much blood could only have come from slash after slash into Daniel's chest and stomach, slash after slash after slash. She lit that whole couch and her unmoving husband on fire and watched them blaze into the sky, into the night. (p.139)*

This excerpt shows Dolores' murder of her husband Daniel. The last time Daniel joined the rebellion Dolores hoped he would die in battle and never come back, but instead Daniel showed up to announce the rebellion's victory over President Batista. Dolores felt that her hopes were dashed and that she might not be able to escape Daniel and be free from her painful life with all the violence she experienced from Daniel, she was no longer strong enough to endure her husband. Based on this disappointment, Dolores took the opportunity to take Daniel's life while he was fast asleep and burned his body, then reported to the people that Daniel died in battle as a hero.

Based on the data, Dolores' response to the violence she received from her husband, Daniel, was an extreme act of revenge. Unable to endure the painful life and violence she receives from Daniel, Dolores decides to take her husband's life while he is fast asleep. This act is an extreme response

and shows Dolores' high level of despair towards the situation she is facing. Dolores murders and burns Daniel's body, then tells people that Daniel died in battle as a hero, perhaps as a way to relieve guilt or justify her actions in her mind. This action can be called a revenge response or an extreme action in a desperate situation.

### **3. How Gloria Responds to Violence in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021)**

Gloria's response to violence in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* is a moving exploration of resilience. Her response to violence unfolds as a central theme, offering deep insights into the complexities of human endurance and the search for understanding amid adversity.

#### **a. Acceptance**

*And I am sorry I had nothing else to offer, Ana. That there are no real rules that govern why some are born in turmoil and others never know a single day in which the next seems an illconsidered bet. It's all lottery, Ana, all chance. It's the flick of a coin, and we are born.* (p.79)

In this quote, Gloria tells Ana that she has made a difficult choice regarding their lives. She regrets not being able to give Ana another choice, as they were both born into difficult and challenging circumstances. Gloria reflected that one's destiny in life often feels like a lottery or mere chance. She feels that life is like flipping a coin, where one is born into certain conditions without being able to choose.

Gloria's response to the violence she faced is a form of acceptance. As a mother, Gloria wanted Ana to grow up well without having to experience the difficulties of the life of an immigrant who made her grow up in Texas detention with limited access, quit school, and help her mother

work, and all other difficulties. But circumstances prevented them from doing so. The quote depicts Gloria feeling limited in her life choices and recognizing that many things in life happen randomly and unpredictably. She feels sorry for Ana for not being able to give her other options, showing that she feels limited in her abilities and choices. She accepts that life is full of uncertainties and that some people are born into difficult situations, this is more an acknowledgment of reality than an active acceptance of the harshness or difficulty.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this final chapter, the researcher presented a conclusion and suggestion based on the data analysis that has been carried out in the previous chapters. The conclusions include the findings of the entire analysis that has been discussed previously, while the suggestions are intended for readers and researchers who are interested in the research theme.

#### A. Conclusion

The novel *Of Women and Salt* (2021) by Gabriela Garcia as the object of this research highlights the lives of three female characters who experience violence, namely Maria Isabel who experiences violence in the context of work and family difficulties, Dolores who experiences domestic violence, and Gloria who experiences violence in her migration experience in America.

Applying Galtung's theory of violence, the researcher identified two guiding questions for this topic. The first question focuses on the types of violence experienced by the female characters in Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt*, emphasizing how each character experiences different forms of violence in the context of work, household, and migration experiences. The second question deals with the responses that each character gives to the violence they experience.

After conducting the analysis, the researcher identified various forms of violence experienced by Maria Isabel, Dolores, and Gloria using Galtung's theory, these forms of violence include direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence. The three characters experienced these forms of violence because of their status as women, weak positions in the colonialism system, and an undocumented migrant.

From the results of the analysis, the initial issue that emerged was the type of violence experienced by Maria Isabel. Maria Isabel experienced direct violence from the foreman at her workplace in the form of physical violence such as grabbing and leaving visible injuries. The violence was rooted in the cultural violence she experienced from the belief of gender domination embedded in social life. She also experienced structural violence that led to her poverty. The violence is also rooted in cultural violence formed from the colonialist view of power over the colonized. As for Dolores who experienced direct physical violence by her husband such as pummeling. This violence is rooted in cultural violence in the form of views or beliefs about the husband's full control over his wife. Furthermore, Gloria experienced structural violence that caused her to experience difficulties in migrating, which stemmed from cultural violence in the form of the stigma placed on her in her social environment.

The results of the analysis further narrate how each character responds to the violence. Maria Isabel tends to respond with acceptance to the violence she experiences due to economic factors and the absence of

supporters so she considers it part of her job, while Dolores responds to physical violence with self-protection until it leads to revenge because she feels she is no longer strong enough to face her husband's violence, then Gloria also responds with acceptance because she views her difficulties as a reality that with limitations anyone is unable to manage.

The results of this analysis reflect the social realities often faced by women in various life contexts, who often experience various forms of violence rooted in gender inequality, a culture of domination, and social injustice. To reduce the impact of violence against women, concrete steps that can be taken include building public awareness of women's rights, systemic support from the government in providing legal protection and equitable access to health services, and the development of intervention programs that target cultural understanding and norms to change harmful mindsets towards violence against women, thereby creating a safer and fairer environment for all individuals.

## **B. Suggestion**

This research still cannot be said to be perfect. Some imperfections need to be further refined in future research. Exploring various aspects of Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* (2021) was a daunting task for the researcher. Therefore, the researcher recommends that future studies examine this novel from alternative perspectives, such as feminism or others given the amount of data related to these themes in this novel.

The researcher hoped that this study could be a reference for future researchers who are interested in the theme of violence. In addition, this research can also be an additional source of information for future studies that examine various forms of violence, such as direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence. Furthermore, to broaden the understanding, future researchers can also take literary works from different genres, such as drama, movies, poetry, and the like. In addition, for research involving the same novel, it is recommended to take a different analytical approach, such as a psychological or feminist approach. It is also recommended that future researchers analyze other female characters in *Of Women and Salt* that have not been included in the object of this study, seeing that other female characters also have the potential to experience violence in their social lives.

Because this research cannot be recognized as perfect, constructive criticism and suggestions will be greatly appreciated to improve its quality. The researcher hoped that the results of this study could provide benefits and useful information for readers who are interested in exploring the novel *Of Women and Salt* by Gabriela Garcia.



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## CURRICULUM VITAE



**Inge Firdiani** was born in Lumajang on June 29, 2001. Before starting college, she studied at An-nur Bululawang High School, Pondok Pesantren An-Nur 3 Murah Banyu Bululawang, and STIKK An-Nur 3 Bululawang, Malang. While at the pesantren she also participated in the Media Creative Community as a content creator, was actively involved in the forum of Musyawarah Akbar, and Daarud Dakwah, and the 23rd and 24th provincial Bahtsul Masail FMP3 in East Java. She started higher education in 2020 at the English Literature Department of UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang and graduated in 2024. She also studied at Ma'had Sunan Ampel al Aly and Pondok Pesantren Al-Barokah, Malang during college.