

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE NOVEL *THE SILENCE OF THE
GIRLS* BY PAT BARKER**

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
ISLAMIC STATE UNIVERSITY MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG
2024**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE NOVEL *THE SILENCE OF THE
GIRLS* BY PAT BARKER**

THESIS

Presented to

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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.)

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2024

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

The thesis entitled "*Violence against Women In The Novel The Silence Of The Girls By Pat Barker*" is my original work. I do not include any material previously written or published by another person except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Suppose there is any objection or claim. I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, June 26th 2024

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MOTTO

يَعْلَمُونَ لَا أَكْثَرَ هُمْ وَلَكِنْ حَقُّ اللَّهِ وَعَدَ إِنَّ الْآلَ وَالْأَرْضَ السَّمَوَاتِ فِي مَا لِلَّهِ إِنَّ الْآلَ

We have nothing in this world except two things, namely entrusted & assigned. (Q.S. Yunus: 55)

“Ad Maiora Natus Sum ”
(Karlina Supelli)

DEDICATION

It is an honor to dedicate this thesis to:

My beloved mother, mama Erna Yusnita, and my beloved family, the Bani Mansyur Mukhtar family, have provided encouragement, trust, and patience to researcher to continue and always strive in the academic journey. Every drop of sweat and prayer from my mother, Mama Erna Yusnita, made me enthusiastic about completing this study and achieving my dreams.

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ABSTRACT

Sadiqah, Hajidah Sahwa (2024). Violence Against Women Of The Female Characters In The Novel *The Silence Of The Girls* By Pat Barker. Thesis. English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Humanities, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang. Supervisor Dr. Istiada, MA.

Keywords: *direct violence, sociological approach, women survive*

During the colonial period, women were faced with violence because of their status as women and also as a low-class group. There is a form of violence in this study, which is included in the category of direct violence. The form of violence that researcher took from an essential story in the novel *The Silence of the Girls* that is relevant to the research uses Johan Galtung's theory of violence, namely violence that is not only limited to class and gender issues but the construction of a society that the ruling group has formed. This research also highlights essential findings from empirical studies found in various former colonies worldwide. These findings provide insights into specific instances where women are disproportionately affected by and experience forms of oppressive practices or policies. The research found direct forms of violence with physical violence, sexual violence, mental violence, and verbal violence. Therefore, the researcher will also explore how the protagonists and female characters respond to the environment and circumstances entangled with violence.

ABSTRAK

Sadiqah, Hajidah Sahwa (2024) Kekerasan Terhadap Tokoh Wanita Dalam Novel *The Silence Of The Girls* Karya Pat Barker. Tesis. Program Studi Sastra Inggris Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Dr. Istiada, MA.

Keywords: kekerasan langsung, pendekatan sosiologi, perempuan bertahan

Pada masa penjajahan, perempuan dihadapkan pada kekerasan karena statusnya sebagai perempuan dan juga sebagai kelompok kelas rendah. Terdapat bentuk kekerasan, dalam penelitian ini yaitu termasuk dalam kategori kekerasan langsung. Bentuk kekerasan yang peneliti ambil dari cerita penting dalam novel *The Silence of the Girls* yang relevan dengan penelitian menggunakan teori kekerasan Johan Galtung, yaitu kekerasan yang tidak hanya terbatas pada persoalan kelas dan gender saja, namun adanya konstruksi masyarakat yang telah dibentuk oleh kelompok penguasa. Penelitian ini juga menyoroti temuan-temuan penting dari studi empiris yang ditemukan di berbagai wilayah bekas jajahan di dunia. Temuan-temuan ini memberikan wawasan mengenai contoh-contoh spesifik di mana perempuan secara tidak proporsional terkena dampak dan mengalami bentuk-bentuk praktik atau kebijakan yang menindas. Dalam penelitian ditemukan adanya wujud kekerasan secara langsung dengan adanya kekerasan fisik, kekerasan seksual, kekerasan mental, dan kekerasan verbal. Oleh karena itu, peneliti juga akan mengeksplorasi bagaimana respon tokoh utama dan tokoh perempuan dalam menghadapi lingkungan dan keadaan yang terjerat dengan kekerasan.

مستخلص البحث

ورطلاً ركراب تابل تانبل تاصد قياور في قينا سنا تايصخشلا داهطضا (2024) قوهس دجاه ،قصد
جذلام قيموكل قيملاسلا ميهاربا كلام ادلاوم عماج ،قينا سنا موعلا قيلك ،يزيلجلا بدلا قسار دج مانرب
ريتسجام ،داعتسا .د قفر شمل

أرمل لاضد ،تيكار تشلا قيو سنا ،داهطضلا :تيحاتقلا تامللا

الدنيا الطبقة من كمجموعة وأيضاً كنساء وضعهن بسبب العنف النساء واجهت ،الاستعمارية الفترة خلال
العنف شكل ويستخدم .المباشر العنف فئة ضمن يندرج ،الدراسة هذه في ،العنف أشكال من شكل هناك
غالتونغ يوهان نظرية بالبحث الصلة ذات " البنات صمت " رواية في مهمة قصة من الباحثة أخذته الذي
المجتمع بناء على بل ،فحسب الاجتماعي والنوع الطبقة قضايا على يقتصر لا الذي العنف أي ،للعنف
التي التجريبية الدراسات من مهمة نتائج على الضوء البحث هذا يسلط كما .الحاكمة الجماعة شكلته الذي
محددة حالات حول رؤى النتائج هذه وتوفر .العالم حول السابقة المستعمرات مختلف في عليها العثور تم
وجد وقد .منها ويعانين القمعية السياسات أو الممارسات بأشكال متناسب غير بشكل النساء فيها تتأثر
.اللفظي والعنف النفسي والعنف الجنسي والعنف الجسدي العنف مع العنف من مباشرة أشكالاً البحث
المتشابهة والظروف البيئة النسائية والشخصيات البطلات استجابة كيفية أيضاً الباحثة ستستكشف ،ولذلك
العنف مع

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter has many sections that explain the research, including the research subject and previous-future investigations, research problem, relevance, scope, and research theory. Finally, clarifying important phrases gives readers an overview of the vocabulary they should understand.

A. Background of the Study

Violence against women often occurs, especially in regions and countries that are being colonized or have experienced colonialism in the past. Where the impact of colonialism will still be felt in the future. Violence against women is not just a problem in one country or one culture. It is widespread across the world, structurally, culturally, and individually. In this case, if we explore a country that has been colonized, it will show various forms of violence experienced by women. Violence against women in world conflicts, namely war, tends to go unnoticed or even unaddressed, focusing only on the war for power without digging deeper into the impact of war, whose impact continues even after the war ends. (Setiawan, 2012).

Gender-based violence is a severe problem faced by societies around the world, and the roots of this phenomenon can be traced back to the patriarchal structures that dominate many cultures and social systems. This refers to a social system in which a group holds primary power and dominates in roles of political leadership, moral authority, and social privilege. These structures create gender inequalities that often result in various forms of violence against women and other

minority groups (Abdurrakhman, 2021). Violence, in a general sense, according to Galtung, is a barrier that should be avoided and restrained, which causes a person not to be able to actualize themselves naturally. The barrier, according to Galtung, can be avoided, so in this case, violence can also be avoided if the barrier is removed (Eriyanti, 2017). More clearly, according to Galtung (1971), violence is any physical, emotional, verbal, institutional, structural, or spiritual condition, as well as behaviors, attitudes, policies, or conditions that weaken, inhibit, and dominate or destroy ourselves and others (Confortini, 2006).

An example of the phenomenon of violence against women due to colonialism in the past is Syrian women. The gender dynamics before the 2011 war in Syria were patriarchal. Women were only allowed to vote in national elections in the mid-1950s. Although Syrian women were allowed to work, they are still oppressed today. They only have a small percentage of participants from the total number of women present before the war. Syrian society still views marriage as a contract or agreement between a husband and his wife's father rather than the woman's desire and based on love. Over time, the prolonged impact of the Syrian crisis has caused many gender complications due to the war conflict, which is still having an impact. (Worldwide, 2022).

Large numbers of Syrian women have been killed in the war, few women feel safe in their neighborhoods, the incidence of sexual violence is relatively high, and almost all Syrian women have reported experiencing violence from a partner. This number is even higher than the number of Syrian women refugees. This phenomenon is an ongoing gender conflict in Syria (Worldwide, 2022). This is the

impact of colonial hegemony, which still exists in regulating international political policy (Isdiyanti, 2022).

This worldwide phenomenon is not unique to Syria. Syria is one of the ten worst countries in terms of women's rights. (Worldwide, 2022). Furthermore, it refers to the Central African Republic, which is experiencing a crisis that will enter its tenth year in 2022 and has an unequal impact on women. Women are more likely to experience the crisis because women still experience gender oppression due to the patriarchal society to this day. One in every five Central African women still faces violence in the home perpetrated by an intimate partner. (Worldwide, 2022).

Gender-based violence has the majority of women as victims. The idea of gender as a social construct is one of the elements that make up power relations in society. In this case, a patriarchal understanding of gender can be a tactic for the application and reproduction of violence at various levels. (Eriyanti, 2017). In this case, social reality, as mentioned above, does not only occur in the real world but is also depicted in literary works. Literary works are very relevant to humans and society as a reflection of society, which presents a picture of life; life itself is a reality of social phenomena. Literary works are the result of observations and literary re-imaginings of the social life around them and often reflect the reality of people's lives at a certain time. Literature can also be a reference to understand the nature of life, including in the context of social life. The problems that occur in a novel describe and are a reflection of society in real life. (Istiqomah et al., 2014).

Literature can guide people to the path of truth because good literature is written with honesty, clarity, sincerity, wisdom, and humanitarian ideals. Good

literature is able to awaken, remind, and return individuals to the right path, namely the path of truth, to perfect their life roles. Literature can be considered a social phenomenon (Purwaningsih et al., 2023). There are also authors who write literary works wrapped in stories of women's struggles or feminists who examine literary works from a feminist perspective. When reading war-themed scientific works, readers often only focus on the war of power and enjoy the exciting storyline. But without realizing it, there are some events that have a significant impact on women because of the violence experienced.

According to Galtung (1996), The violence that often happens to women is based on gender-based violence, because of the inherent patriarchal culture and by monopolizing power or superpower with the highest control in the hands of male power. Thus, although women are often victims of violence by men, because of the pro-violence culture in society, and the embedded gender inequality, namely women are born weak (minority groups), women themselves finally feel violence as something that cannot be avoided (Eriyanti, 2017).

In this case, the depiction of the phenomenon of violence against women in literature is not only done from the perspective of women themselves, but feminist literature can also be depicted from the observation of men. The author who creates a work is a member of society who sees the social reality that occurs in his environment, even what happened in his past, which is then expressed in the work (Purwaningsih et al., 2023).

In the heroic tale of the Iliad or Greek history there is a terrible event, namely the Trojan War, much used as a work of Greek literature or mythology, the

attack on the city of Troya in Asia Minor which was colonized by the Greek Achaeans, occurred at the end of the Bronze Age and lasted for ten years. The war, which occurred due to a gap between two parties trying to achieve political, economic, social, or even individual interests, had a significant impact on the lives of women at that time. The Trojan War is one of the most important events in Greek mythology and is recounted in many literary works. The Achaeans slaughtered the entire Trojan people (except for some women and children who were made slaves) (Sheldon, 2021).

In these literary works, readers often only enjoy or focus on the warfare sector, but if examined more deeply, many Iliad stories show that women in that era experienced a lot of violence. One of the literary works that recounts this history is the novel *The Silence of the Girls* of the Maidens, inspired by the history of Europe that was once colonized by Greek troops, which is the latest novel by Pat Barker published in 2018 (Jenihansen, 2023). The novel retells the events of The Iliad from the perspective of Briseis (the main character), who becomes Achilles' death slave. With the spice and intrigue of an interesting story, but with a lot of helpless women's lives (Jenihansen, 2023). The novel, which explores the history of the Trojan War in its story, shows that women victims of war must become slaves of the winning side.

When critiqued from a woman's point of view, it becomes clear that the lives of women in the story or period were very bad and suffered many injustices. Author Pat Barker wants to show readers that the female characters during the Trojan War in the novel experienced various conflicts and sufferings during the War, including

the loss of loved ones, violence, and traumatic experiences due to war and facing an uncertain fate. In addition, Pat Barker or the author of *The Silence of the Girls* also highlights their experiences as women in a male-dominated society and how they tried to survive and maintain their dignity amidst the chaos of war. (Martin, 2022).

In *The Silence of the Girls*, the female protagonist, Brises, is a figure of keen observation and hidden pain. In this novel, she establishes relationships with other slave girls who become prostitutes, nurses, corpse bathers, and blood victims. She observes every event and behavior of the people around her, from the arrogance of the heroes to the sorrow and pain of the other women who share her fate. Beneath her serene countenance lay deep wounds and unspoken trauma from war and slavery. The main character, Briseis, in the novel *The Silence of The Girls*, is just one of the thousands of women behind the scenes of the novel (Mumtaz & Marsih, 2023).

Violence against women is prevalent in literature and the real world. Violence tends to occur because of men's desire for control and power, but it is also possible that there are men who experience violence (Lavanya & Rashida, 2020). According to Young (2020), cruelty can be caused by xenophobia, an unreasonable and serious fear of individuals, tendencies, or thoughts that appear attractive. Some women are involved and suffer from violence in society. The cruelty may be verbal savagery, physical savagery, or mental savagery. Verbal savagery is an act of savagery in the frame of discourse. Physical savagery is a heinous act committed by someone who tries to hurt others, such as (slapping, hitting, and so on)

(Rebolledo, 2023). Therefore, this research use Johan Galtung's violence with a sociological approach that will be discussed further.

As for the previous study that is relevant to this research, the researcher divided it into two things, namely, six journals that discuss research that uses the theory of violence against women formulated by Johan Galtung and four journals that discuss research on the novel *The Silence of the Girls*. Relevant research discusses violence according to Johan Galtung. First, this research aims to analyze structural violence is in the novel *The Sea Speaks his Name* by Leila S. Chudori in 2016. This research uses the New Historicism theory and violence theory Johan Galtung's structural problems experienced by Indonesian citizens, as well as socio-political conditions in the novel. This type of research is literary criticism. This research shows the relevance of the events presented in the novel with actual historical facts, there are many similarities and correlations to the socio-political conditions of the novel and in Indonesia. The correlation drawn between the novel and Indonesia shows the struggle of students in seeking the rights of oppressed people and the problem of the monetary crisis that occurred in Indonesia (Muhibbuddin, 2016)

Next is research entitled "*Violence against the Main Character in the Novel Perempuan Kamar by Agus Subakir*" in 2021. This research reveals the form of violence experienced by the main character and explains the motives that cause the violence, so that the main character experiences continuous violence. The results of this research are; there were three perpetrators of violence, two types of violence were found; physically and psychologically, three impacts of violence were found

on the main character, and three motives for violence were found. The theories used in the research are Johan Galtung's theory of violence and the theory of literary structuralism (Ashar, 2011)

Next is the research entitled "*Analysis of Violence Against Female Characters in the Novel Tjap by Yuditeha (Gender Perspective)*". This analysis uses a gender perspective approach with the aim of examining the forms of violence, factors and impacts of violence on women that occur in the novel "*Tjap*" by Yuditeha using the Galtung model of violence theory in 2024. In the research results, various aspects of violence were found, first; forms of violence, namely murder, sexual harassment, torture. Second; violence factors namely; individual factors social factors. Third, the impact of violence, namely; psychological disorders, and death (IndraIndrapuri, B. S. (2024). Analisis Kekerasan Terhadap Tokoh Perempuan dalam Novel Tjap Karya Yuditeha (Perspektif Gender). 4(02), 7823–7830.puri, 2024).

Furthermore, previous research with the title *Forms of Violent Behavior and Discrimination Against Characters in the Novel "00.00" by Ameylia Falensia: Study of Johan Galtung's Theory in 2024. Forms of Violent Behavior and Discrimination Against Characters in the Novel 00.00 by Ameylia Falensia. Theoretical study: Johan Galtung's violence and discrimination in schools. This research reveals direct and structural violence, as well as discrimination that occurs at school in the novel. And there is a form of resistance through the main character who shows courage and resilience in the face of discrimination and violence* (IndraIndrapuri, B. S. (2024). Analisis Kekerasan Terhadap Tokoh Perempuan

dalam Novel Tjap Karya Yuditeha (Perspektif Gender). 4(02), 7823–7830.puri, 2024).

Next is research entitled "*Structural Violence in the Novel Siri' by Asmayani Kusrini: Perspective on Johan Galtung's Theory of Violence*" in 2023. The research identified two forms of structural violence; repressive and mediated violence. Mediated violence occurs through exploitation of positions and achievements, while repressive violence occurs through discrimination against middle class people (Kusrini, 2023).

Lastly, is research entitled "*Gender-Based Violence Against Syrian Women Refugees in Jordan 2011-2016*" in 2022. By using Johan Galtung's theory of violence. This research has the ideology that the gender-based violence experienced by Syrian female refugees in Jordan is caused by factors of cultural violence in a complex domain, and the presence of patriarchal structural violence in the form of economic exploitation and oppression in the realm of political movement against women, which in some cases leads to direct violence. The complexity of the causes of violence creates direct, structural and cultural positive peace (Komnas, 2022). The six studies above all discuss and use Johan Galtung's theory which is relevant to the research I will describe.

Next is related to research that discusses the novel *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker. First, this article discusses Pat Barker's novel *The Silence of the Girls* and women activists who retell the Greek legend of the Trojan War. The theory of feminism is used as a framework to analyze the critique of classical myth. This theory allows the researcher to show how women are represented in classical

literature. Some of the founding figures of the theory used in the research include Kate Millet, Simone de Beauvoir, Hélène Cixous, and Adrienne Rich. (Sen, 2020).

This article is about Pat Barker's novel *The Silence of the Girls*, which retells the story of the Trojan War from a feminist perspective, highlighting the experiences of women often overlooked in traditional narratives (Mon, 2020). Furthermore, this article discusses the research entitled *An Analysis of the Character of Achilles in Contemporary Retellings of The Silence of the Girls*. It aims to explore the characterization of Achilles in the novel, focusing on contrasting views. It discusses how Achilles is portrayed as a hero or as a morally corrupt figure, as well as modern society's views on masculinity, feminism, and homophobia. It also emphasizes the importance of considering multiple sources when studying historical texts such as the Iliad. (Khoerul Ummah, 2022).

Another research examines three contemporary fan fiction novels by women that echo Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls* (2018). This study identifies aspects of Homer's Iliad that Hauser, Barker, and Haynes ignore, namely the reductive concept of the "hero" and Achilles' rise to fame through battle. In this research, the experiences of Briseis and Hecuba described in the novel and the messages they evoke will be used to explore the culture of opposing sexual violence and demands for women's empowerment that are widespread among the government. (Sheldon, 2021).

The four studies have the same research object, namely the novel *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker, but use different research theories. The gap between the four studies above is the use of a theoretical focus, namely Johan

Galtung's theory, as a research theory, which then the data is explicitly studied, namely the types of direct violence experienced by all female characters in the novel, both physically and in terms of their characteristics, in accordance with Johan Galtung's theory of violence. In addition, it describes the response to women's inequality that has not been identified in previous studies. In addition, it also describes the form of women's struggle to show their existence with the freedom they are trying to get.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the research background above, the researcher formulated the problems to be answered in this study as follows:

1. What are the forms of violence suffered by female characters in the novel *The Silence of the Girls* according to Johan Galtung?
2. How do the female characters respond to the violence they experienced in *The Silence of the Girls*?

C. Significance of Study

This research aims to enrich theory based on literary studies, especially considering what the female characters experience in the novel "*The Silence of the Girls*." This research also provides several references in literary works, especially regarding forms of violence and their causes. This research examines broadly that behind the war conflict, there were women who were affected by the war, namely violence against women. This research aims to invite readers to think critically about the nature of women, and women's issues that are far from view. Ultimately, this is beneficial to other people interested in the topic to be researched.

This research shows readers that in the world, all humans must be treated fairly, regardless of race, ethnicity, or even gender. Because women are unique creatures and have the same rights as men, it is inappropriate for their rights to be silenced and their lives to be risked for the sake of male lust and the construction of a group.

By looking at this phenomenon, this research also shows readers that being a creature destined to be female is not a curse, and women are not destined to be in the lower class. They are also given reason and the right to voice everything within them and have full rights over themselves. The novel *The Silence of The Girls* shows that change must start with a movement.

D. Scope and Limitations

"*The Silence of the Girls*" can be discussed from various points of view. However, this research focuses on the forms of violence formulated by Johan namely direct violence, helping to identify forms of violence, especially among the female characters in the novel. Apart from that, this research will also discuss the struggles of female figures in fighting for their freedom and rights as human beings.

Researcher only focus on violence related to female characters in novels, which is taken from activities such as reading and interpreting novels. Then, the researcher underlines and combines sentences related to the theory. Researcher look for correlations in the occurrence of violence. This analysis uses the theory of violence according to Johan Galtung with a sociological approach to literary criticism, which focuses on using a woman's perspective in the novel *The Silence of the Girls*. In this study, researcher also focused on the stages of female characters in responding to or fighting in their environment.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Violence: Violence is any physical, emotional, verbal, institutional, structural, or spiritual condition, as well as behavior, attitudes, policies, or conditions that weaken, inhibit, and dominate or destroy ourselves and others (Galtung, 1971).
2. Direct violence: Direct violence involves the use of physical energy, such as killing or torture, rape, and sexual violence, as well as beatings—also verbal violence, such as; insult (Galtung, 1971).
3. Structural violence does not involve clear individual perpetrators but occurs because of unjust social systems and structures. It causes loss or suffering for individuals or groups through rules, policies, and practices that hinder their access to all needs (Galtung, 1996).
4. Cultural violence: the prevailing attitudes and beliefs of a person or society that have been taught since childhood and surround and are inherent in everyday life which are used to legitimize or justify violence, both direct and structural. These include values, norms, religion, and ideology that make violence appear legitimate or inevitable (Galtung, 1971).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Sociological Approach to Literary Criticism

Literary works are very relevant to humans and society as a reflection of society, namely showing a picture of life; life itself is a reality of social phenomena. (Davidsen, 2018). The author who creates a work is a member of society who sees the social reality that occurs in his environment, even what happened in his past, which is then expressed in the work. Literature is more than just an artifact (animate object); it is a living figure. Literary works are seen as figures that can provide scenarios, models, and ideologies for readers to see and shape themselves to position themselves well in society and social life. Literature can guide humans on the path of truth because good literature is written with honesty, clarity, sincerity, wisdom, and human idealism. Good literature can awaken, remind, and return individuals to the right path, namely the path of truth, to perfect their life roles. So, literature can be considered a social phenomenon. (Neina et al., 2022).

Literature reflects that life is largely made up of social realities that occur in society in real-time. In this sense, life includes relationships between people, between people, between groups, and between events that occur within a person. Works are known as depictions of the world and human life through a work of fiction (Davidsen, 2018). Therefore, literature can be seen as a tool that can mirror or reveal a phenomenon that occurs in society; the author uses stories or works in which some expressions want to be conveyed to the audience. So, literary works and social reality are highly correlated. Furthermore, to understand the relationship

between literature and social reality and identify the social, moral, and cultural values contained in literary works, this research uses sociological studies that discuss this matter. The study of sociology in literary works is a scientific discipline that pays attention to the relationship between literature and social reality, both from the perspective of the author, the literary work itself, and the reader of the literary work (Sari et al., n.d.). Sociology of literature identifies how literary works reflect social, cultural, and moral values in society and how literary works influence and reflect society. Using a mimetic approach is a type of literary criticism that places greater emphasis on aspects of representation or imitation of the real world in literary works (Sari et al., n.d.). With this approach, researcher can explore more deeply how literary works are relevant in society, as well as how literary works enrich people's understanding to respond to everything that happens around society. So, the novel *The Silence of the Girls* is not only a literary work of fictional entertainment but also a depiction of the reality of life.

B. Violence

Violence, in a general sense, according to Galtung, is a barrier that should be avoided and restrained, which causes a person not to be able to actualize themselves naturally. The barrier, according to Galtung, can be avoided, so in this case, violence can also be avoided if the barrier is removed (Eriyanti, 2017). More clearly, violence is any physical, emotional, verbal, institutional, structural, or spiritual condition, as well as behaviors, attitudes, policies, or conditions that weaken, inhibit, and dominate or destroy ourselves and others (Rozi, n.d.) Galtung suggests that each type of violence is interconnected and can influence others.

According to him, violence that kills quickly through bullets or kills slowly through hunger and disease is committing the same crime (Argenti & Galtung, 2024). In his writing, Galtung said that each form of violence is correlated and can influence each other. Galtung himself differentiates types of violence into three, namely, direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence (Schwarz, 2019). However, in *The Silence of the Girls*, the wartime context is not entirely relevant, so this analysis will only analyze the form of direct violence, according to Johan Galtung.

C. Direct Violence

According to Johan Galtung (1996), direct violence is violence perpetrated by someone directly. Direct violence is perpetrated by men, and there is massive direct male violence at all levels of social classes, as criminal violence both in the family and society and as political violence within and between societies (Dwi Eriyanti, 2017). The cruelty is in the form of physical savagery, verbal savagery, and mental savagery. A verbal savagery is an act of savagery in the frame of discourse. Physical savagery is a heinous act committed by someone who tries to harm another person, such as (slapping, hitting, and so on). At this point, mental cruelty relates to the individual in relation to mental, ethical, otherworldly, and social wounds. (Galtung, 2011)

Direct forms of violence are common crimes that involve the use of physical force, such as torture, physical abuse, murder or mental abuse, rape, humiliation, personal discrimination, and bullying. Direct violence can take many forms (Galtung, 1971). In many ways, Johan Galtung's thoughts on violence are in line with those of radical feminists. Galtung claims patriarchy is direct, structural, and

cultural violence. Patriarchy makes distinctions between public and private, productive and reproductive roles, which form unequal power relations between men and women.

Women's bodies are the main object of oppression by male power. The body and reproductive rights, sexuality, sexism, power relations between women and men, and the public-private dichotomy are the focus of the problem. Biologism is used as a form of cultural violence against women by justifying male superiority through muscle strength and showing women's weakness in the form of women's emotional instability and the decline of menstrual and reproductive cycles. (Eriyanti, 2017).

a) Physical violence

Physical violence is direct violence related to the victim's body parts. Where the victim feels suffering because of the mistreatment committed by the perpetrator (Eriyanti, 2017). Physical cruelty is a heinous act committed by someone who tries to harm someone, such as (slapping, hitting, or killing) (González & Kramm, 2021). Women have experienced physical cruelty committed by men, which is based on physical crimes or sexual harassment specifically related to the human body because of lust, such as groping, squeezing, and forcing sexual intercourse. (Salamor & Salamor, 2022).

b) Psychological Violence

This form of violence can be seen directly from the physical and psychological side, where there are perpetrators, and there are also victims. This model of violence is usually interpreted as "violence" in general. For example,

physical or mental abuse, insults, personal discrimination, and bullying are also included in direct violence. Young (1990) said violence is not only direct physical violence but also the knowledge of oppressed groups that they are vulnerable to committing violations simply because of their group identity and also psychological violence, which includes a person's mental condition, where the violence is detrimental to the victim's mental condition (Rebolledo, 2023). According to Galtung, direct violence is very detrimental to individuals or groups because this form of violence can harm the mind, body, and soul (Galtung, 2011).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the method employed to perform this research. The research method consists of the following components: research design, data source, data collecting, and data analysis.

A. Research Design

This research is a type of literary criticism research because it uses the main source of literary works as the object of research (Herawati, n.d.). This research uses the novel *The Silence Of The Girls* by Pat Barker, which was published in 2018. The researcher used a sociological approach and Johan Galtung's theory of violence. In this study, researcher analyzed female characters who experienced violence in the novel to find and understand the framework in a patriarchal society using Johan Galtung's theory of violent thought.

In the analysis, the researcher collected data on forms of violence, which from the triangle of violence or three forms of violence according to Johan Galtung, the researcher only identified one form of violence, namely direct violence experienced by female characters in the novel, then found forms of responding to how they struggled to survive. Thus, this research can test the fact that violence should not be practiced in society's social life.

Johan Galtung asserts that violence against women does not only occur because of natural personal or gender issues but also because of power structures that limit women's access and opportunities in society, as well as structural and cultural factors that make gender inequality a natural thing. Therefore, with this in

mind, this study examines the novel using the theory of violence research that focuses on women's perspectives by using Johan Galtung's theory to identify forms of violence due to gender and reproductive differences that occur in society (Confortini, 2006). Of the three forms of violence according to Galtung, the focus of this research is on the relevance of Johan Galtung's theory of violence, namely, forms of direct violence. So, this research aims to describe the forms of direct gender-based violence that occur in society and women's struggle to actualize feminism or survive in responding to direct violence during wartime in the novel *The Silence of The Girls*.

B. Data source

The data source of this research is the novel *The Silence of The Girls*, which is the object of research. *The Silence of The Girls* is the latest novel by Pat Barker, which was published in 2018. *The Silence of the Girls* is 325 pages long, and there are 47 sections in the book. This novel is the latest novel by Pat Barker, published on August 30, 2018. This novel retells the events of The Iliad from the perspective of Briseis, the main character who becomes Achilles' deadly slave. It recounts the war between Troya versus the greek Helen. Female characters during the Trojan war experienced various conflicts and suffering during the war, they also faced despair when the Trojan city fell so that their fate was uncertain. In contrast, for men, the war was holy because they felt like heroes and great by dying because of war. (Altin, 2021).

C. Data collection

The data collection techniques in this study used reading and note-taking techniques, described as follows: First, the reading technique is to read the novel *The Silence of The Girls* as a whole to understand the whole, namely by reading it carefully to understand the novel more deeply. Then in the next reading technique, the researcher reads and highlights the most important parts to identify the data.

Furthermore, the researcher highlighted the most important phrases, sentences, conversations, and other evidence of events relevant to violence based on Johan Galtung's theory. Evaluate and organize appropriate data systematically and determine theories related to the data, then pay attention to quotes or expressions that contain forms of violence and how women survive, respond and fight back.

D. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, analyzed it in several steps. First, we classified the data into the forms of direct violence experienced by female characters during the colonial period and their struggle against the oppression. Secondly, the researcher analyzed and interpreted the selected data based on Johan Galtung's theory of direct violence and how women respond. Finally, the researcher draws conclusions based on her findings.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the forms of violence faced by the female protagonists in Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls* by looking at how male power treats women so that they suffer and are unequal to men and how the female characters respond and fight violence for their roles as women living in wartime. Male-led and male-dominated royal power has always oppressed women because of class and gender differences. Women are considered weak because of their reproduction which makes a patriarchal culture. It also shows how women struggle in gender-based violence and their fate is uncertain.

The female characters in *The Silence of the Girls* are vulnerable and often victims of violence because their gender is in a system of inequality. Under capitalism, women experience patriarchy as an unequal outcome in equal employment, sexual harassment, physical violence, verbal violence, and psychological violence or service and sacrifice of life. Women live in different ways depending on changes in the ruling class system. This places women as subordinate to men who have limited space or are unable to choose their fate and thus continue to experience violence.

Brisies, the lead actress of *The Silence of the Girls*, is just one of thousands of women behind the scenes who have experienced violence. The research uses a theory of violence that examines the problems of women who experience oppression, namely direct violence from colonizers and the original patriarchal culture (Martin, 2022). In his theory, Johan Galtung formulated three forms of

violence, namely direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence (Eriyanti, 2017). However, in this study the researcher will only relate to direct violence because the setting of the story tells of a time of war or the absence of government policies (structure) such as an established state. This study found that there is direct violence related to the experiences and circumstances of the female characters in the novel. Briseis and the female characters in the novel often experience forms of violence, as seen from their suffering throughout the story. In this section, the first analyze the violence that refers to them. Then, the women in the novel respond to the violence they experience.

1. Direct Violence Experienced by Female Characters

The direct form of violence, where crimes often occur and are committed by the perpetrator directly without going through an elaborate structure, which usually tends to be physically related, is called direct violence. (Rebolledo, 2023) Physical cruelty is violence based on physical crimes, mental crimes or lust directly related to the human body, such as touching, squeezing, and forcing sexual intercourse, which is called sexual violence. In addition to physical violence, direct violence can also be mental and verbal abuse.

According to Johan Galtung, direct violence is violence perpetrated by a person directly. Direct violence is perpetrated by men and there is massive male direct violence at all levels or social classes, as criminal violence both within the family and society, and as political violence within and between societies (Galtung, 1996). According to Galtung, this form of violence can harm the mind, body and soul (Vinet & Zhedanov, 2011).

Female characters in novels are depicted as often experiencing violence. One of these acts of violence is physical cruelty committed against women whose nation was lost during the war, namely by taking all their possessions, family, and even themselves. In the novel *The Silence of the Girls*, researcher found two types of violence that occurred to female characters in the novel. This violence includes two types: physical, verbal violence, and mental crimes. Physical violence is an action that is physically related to the victim's body. Meanwhile, psychological or emotional violence is violence related to a person's soul.

a. Physical Violence

Physical violence is violence related to the victim's body parts. Where the victim feels suffering because of the torture carried out by the perpetrator. Not only did they experience violent behavior, but the female characters in the novel *The Silence of the Girls* also received sexual harassment from the men of the Greek troops.

Datum 1.

"I saw a woman raped repeatedly by a gang of men who were sharing a wine jug, passing it well-naturedly from hand to hand while waiting for their turn."

According to Galtung (1971) direct violence is of several kinds. In the classic form, Galtung uses physical force, such as murder or torture, rape and sexual violence. Galtung also describes direct violence as usually thought of and representing behavior that threatens life itself. (Firdaus et al., 2021). The data above shows that Brisies as the main character who has been held captive as a slave, witnesses other women who are being raped or experiencing sexual violence. Violence is based on physical crimes that are specifically related to

the human body and mental crimes from a first-person perspective (Rahmawati et al., 2022). According to Galtung (1971) phenomena that often occur such as torture, rape and sexual violence, are included in the type of direct violence because women's gender and reproduction are not the same (Eriyanti, 2017).

Datum 2.

Two men, who never spoke except to each other, walked along the line of women, pulling down a lip here, a lower eyelid there, prodding bellies, squeezing breasts, thrusting their hands between our legs. I realized we were being assessed for distribution. A few of us were singled out and pushed into a particular hut while the others were led away. (Page 14)

Not just once, the harassment happened repeatedly. Apart from the women who were abused, the protagonists of *Brisies* also experienced the same thing. They were treated like objects whose souls were considered non-existent; they only needed their bodies for gratification. This is a form of sexual violence by forcing another person to have sex or taking another person's body parts. Galtung is in line with radical feminist thought, claiming that the female body is the main object of oppression by male power. The body and reproductive rights, sexuality, sexism, power relations between women and men (Eriyanti, 2017).

Datum 3.

One day, she appeared wrapped in a heavy mantle despite the heat. As she was bending down to pick up the little boy's toy battleship, the folds of cloth fell open to reveal black fingermarks around her throat. (Barker, 2018.p. 48)

The data above shows that Tecmessa, a prize winner for Ajax, who later married and experienced domestic violence. Tecmessa has strangulation marks on her neck, which *Brisies* accidentally discovers, so the data above shows the physical violence that befalls the female character named Tecmessa.

Violence is any physical, emotional, verbal, structural or spiritual condition, human behavior that dominates or destroys ourselves and others. In general, violence is correlated with power (Galtung, 1971). The data above shows that due to Ajax's power and position as a leader and a man in his area, his emotional behavior can harm others who become inferior groups.

Datum 4.

I parted from Tecmessa at the gate of Ajax's compound and walked the last few hundred yards alone. I was aware of the common women all around me, tending fires and carrying cooking pots, getting ready for the warriors' return. Of all the women in the camp these were the most wretched. Many of them carried the curious circular bruises that came from contact with the butt end of a spear. They lived around the fires, slept under the huts at night; the youngest of them were no more than nine or ten years old. I'd thought their lives were altogether separate from mine, but now I understood that Agamemnon at least would sometimes donate one of his concubines to his men for common use. (Page 49)

Brisies sees the bruises caused by the spear handles on the bodies of the women in Agamemnon's compound living with facilities that are more deplorable than the life in the hut where Brisies lives. The above data shows that female characters experience physical violence. Because of the bruises on each woman and in the sentence "Agamemnon at least occasionally donated one of his concubines to his men for their mutual use" shows the deprivation of the rights of Agamemnon's concubines by giving his women for the sexual satisfaction of the soldiers. The data shows that women are really under the class of men, even soldiers. According to Galtung, violence refers to an attitude or behavior that is inhumane, so that it harms other people who are victims of violence and only benefits one party or group. (Firdaus et al., 2021). The violence above includes direct personal violence and violence.

Datum 5.

“As I walked through the camp, I looked at the common women, noticing a split lip here, a bruise there. One girl, young and otherwise pretty, had a starburst scar on her forehead where a spear butt had struck. Had she been one of Agamemnon's girls, one of those he'd tired of and thrown out of his huts?” (Page 47).

As Brisies pondered her fate because she was about to be claimed by Agamemmon, she walked through the camp and then met ordinary women and girls. It was seen that the girl had a beautiful face but had a wound on her neck with a spear mark, just as she had seen when walking through Agamemmon's camp. Thus, this is inherent to the characteristics of women living under Agamemmon's orders. This data shows that these women experienced physical violence.

In addition, it is likely that the reason they were in another camp was because they had been expelled or banished after attempting it. The sentence *“Had she been one of Agamemnon's girls, one of those he'd tired of and thrown out of his huts?”* means that it is not certain that they are the banished women but, the sentence ‘one of them’ shows that there are indeed many who have been victims of being banished by Agammemon and it is a common thing for Agamemmon's women. So, in addition to experiencing physical violence, women also experienced sexual violence, which also led to psychological violence as they were banished and lived with the suffering that their past had given them. The continuous violence experienced by women is due to power, structural and cultural forms that are inherent so that it seems to be a common thing and happens continuously

Datum 6.

I could see he was still angry. I tried to edge past him, but he caught my arm, his nails digging deep into my skin. "I wish I'd never met you." Said very quietly. "I wish you'd died that day at Lyrnessus." He rammed me hard against the side of the ship. I raised my arms to shield my face, but he just seized the end of a rope ladder and with a few powerful steps climbed onto the deck. (p. 164)

When Achilles felt sad and angry with Agamemnon, he blamed Briseis for his quarrel. He vented his anger on Briseis because Briseis was his slave, which caused him to quarrel with Agamemnon. So, the data above shows that apart from violence from Agamemnon, Briseis also experienced physical violence from Achilles himself. Women become the outlet or victims of problems between other individuals, rulers or men channel their emotions and harm women or other people. The issue of oppression or violence against women is based on power relations in which there is a tendency for men to control women and dominate women as a whole. Men's activities are legitimized by the institutions or culture of a patriarchal society (Galtung, 1996).

b. Psychological Violence

This form of violence can be seen directly from the physical and psychological side, where there are perpetrators and there are also victims. This model of violence is usually interpreted as "violence" in general. For example, physical or mental abuse, insults, personal discrimination, bullying, are also included in direct violence. Young (1990) said that, Violent is not only direct physical violence but also the knowledge of oppressed groups that they are vulnerable to committing violations simply because of their group identity and also psychological violence, which includes a person's mental state, where the

violence harms the mental state of the victim (Rebolledo, 2023). According to Galtung, direct violence is very detrimental to individuals or groups, because this form of violence can harm the mind, body and soul (Galtung, 2011).

Datum 7.

Poor Helen was raped on a riverbank when she was only ten. Of course, I believed her. It was quite a shock to me, later, to discover nobody else did (p.110)

Helen, who was also the Trojan queen and was taken by Agamemnon, was also sexually assaulted when she was ten years old. In this case, it is not normal for someone who is only ten years old to experience sexual violence. This will lead to prolonged trauma and burden. The impact of early physical sexual violence such as hopelessness, emotional disturbance, anxiety, and loss of direction can occur in victims of violence. On the other hand, suicidal thoughts, unstoppable anxiety, and severe depression are long-term effects of sexual violence (Waspiyah et al., 2022). Sexual abuse of minors is often accompanied by other forms of violence, both physical and mental. Child victims suffer twice as much. because they are still too old to understand the world. Physical violence can be anything related to the victim's body, such as beatings, slapping, or coercion, all of which can cause physical and mental harm to the victim.

In addition, the data above also includes verbal violence due to humiliation, not only experiencing physical sexual violence, but Helen also does not believe that everyone is a victim of sexual violence, where victims who are still children should be protected and trusted (victims of violence are labeled as liars even though they are not) so this also includes verbal violence

(Waspiah et al., 2022). Referring to Galtung's (2010) statement that many stupid men don't know or don't even care about the impact of rape on a woman's body, mind and soul, as a trauma that interfere with the growth of his mind, his psychology, his spirituality (Rozi, 2023).

Datum 8.

A moment later, he turned to Odysseus. "Tell him he can fuck her until her back breaks. Why would I care?" (p.134)

The data above includes the verbal violence uttered by Achilles against Odysseus, which is a sentence that demeans Brisies and shows insult to Brisies intentionally or not. Achilles shows that the woman is completely meaningless and is just like an object; she means nothing to him, so she deserves to be a slave to be slept with by her owner, and that is completely meaningless to Achilles; he doesn't care about Brisies. The sentence above is not related to the physical but is an insult that causes psychological and emotional pain. Verbal violence certainly involves emotions; namely, it is called sexual harassment. Apart from being demeaning and insulting, this also shows how superior he is compared to women, so he can do anything and demean women. According to Galtung, violence also includes a group that is institutionalized and limited, namely the validity of people who are labeled with certain characteristics as members of a social group that is symbolically the target of the violence (Galtung et al., 2023).

Datum 9.

It had all happened so quickly: hauled from darkness into light, stripped of my veil, displayed barefaced like a whore in the marketplace...Like being in the arena that first day all over again. And, in the end, that one moment of disturbing intimacy when Achilles had looked straight into my eyes, and

suddenly, there was nobody else in the room, and I knew I couldn't lie.
(p.137)

In direct violence it appears that to hurt, torture or kill is to place its "actual bodily realization" below its "potential realization". Thus "mental realization" is also not possible, because without physical integrity, freedom to realize oneself as a whole is hampered (Galtung, 2011). Brisies recalled her time in Achilles' tent, where she experienced the physical violence and sexual abuse she received, but the psychological abuse she experienced continued to ring in her mind. The men coerced Brisies so that she was treated like a prostitute who did not comply with their wishes and desires.

The feeling of helplessness and fear that Brisies felt at the time, which she later felt because the incident was so painful for her, is called trauma. Forcing others to do what others want falls into this category. Brisies was forced to not wear the veil and behave like a prostitute, and later in life she was forced by circumstances to remember the painful events she experienced.

Datum 10.

The news spread rapidly from tent to tent and soon all but the most seriously injured were laughing and singing. Marching songs, sentimental songs about mothers and home, romantic songs about wives and sweethearts and—increasingly, as the day wore on—songs about Helen. The eyes, the hair, the tits, the lips That launched a thousand battleships... They all believed that Menelaus, her husband, Agamemnon's brother, would kill her when he got her back—he'd said so, many times. Some of them were inclined to think that was a waste. Fuck her first, then kill her. Fuck her standing, Fuck her lying, Cut her throat and fuck her dying. When she's dead but not forgotten Dig her up and fuck her rotten. They sang themselves hoarse, calling for jugs of stronger wine, which, on Machaon's instructions, we had to refuse. (p.173)

The data above shows that the cause of the difference in reproduction is the difference in the way of revenge (difference in accepting the impact of war). The Greeks, especially Hellen's husband Menelaus, planned not to kill

Helen immediately when they won the war. But before being killed, they would play pranks on Helen because it was very unfortunate for them. The difference is that there is sexual violence if the victim is a woman, unlike men who fight and kill each other.

Women would experience sexual violence first before being killed or made slaves, and women could not fight back or defend themselves. This means that women were oppressed due to reproductive differences, as per the data above. A woman, even a queen, as in the data above, experiences serious humiliation because before or even after her death, she will experience violence.

In addition to experiencing a double burden from men, women are also unable to fight back or defend themselves. The double burden in question is that women who live during wartime, in addition to being threatened by the opposing nation, are also threatened by their own nation because they are slaves and the patriarchal culture inherent in their nation. So that women cannot protect themselves or determine their rights both in their nation and in the nation that has or will colonize them.

In addition, problems between nations have nothing to do with women. If nations go to war because of women, it is not because of women themselves, but women who are used as objects. In the end, it is women who have to bear the consequences. The data above falls under verbal violence, because the words spoken are an insult to women, especially Hellen.

In the overall violence data above, it can be concluded that direct violence occurs repeatedly and is even commonplace. The continuous violence experienced by women is caused by power, structural and cultural forms that are inherent so that it seems to be a common thing and happens continuously. The structure that makes women slaves and the lowest class, and the patriarchal culture inherent in their times. Although women are often victims of violence by men, with the structure and pro-violence culture in society, women themselves eventually feel violence as something that cannot be avoided. Even then, women become the umpteenth victims of male violence, women are forced to perpetuate the culture of violence and even become perpetrators of violence against other women, for the benefit of men (Galtung, 2011)

2. Female Figures' Responses to Violence

Violence often operates within a gendered context – even when women do not necessarily have higher rates of death and misery. And in fact, women may have a higher life expectancy than men if they are able to fight for women's rights from childhood, such as not killing female babies, not distinguishing or selecting because of gender, and giving women rights like full human beings (Vinet & Zhedanov, 2011).

Datum 20.

When, on the citadel roof, my cousin Arianna had stretched out her hand to me before leaping to her death, I'd chosen to live, but if I'd had that choice to make again, now, knowing what I knew now ...Would I still have made the same decision? (p.39)

As a woman who thinks long and hard and does not want her fate to change in other people's nations, Arianna decides to jump and commit suicide so that her life will not become a slave. She fought for her rights, and even to the point of death,

she still tried to make her own choices regarding decisions related to herself, namely by committing suicide. One must be free to pursue one's life plan of one's own free will, even the decision to die.(Young & Allen, 2020). According to Young, struggle also includes defending the concept of justice with the right to fair conditions for self-development and self-determination of each individual.(Uhde, 2010). The data above shows that Arianna's response to violence is to try to reject being a slave and choose to free herself by suicide.

Datum 21.

On our way home—her word, not mine—that day, Tecmessa went over the events of the previous night, how she'd had to beat Ajax with her fists to make him stop (p.47)

When Ajax could not control himself and strangled Tecmessa, the woman then fought back by beating Ajax. This was an act of resistance to protect herself. The previous data shows that no one dared to resist torture and anything done by men and only obeyed their orders. This shows that women or slaves are very obedient to men's orders, in contrast to Tecmessa who chooses to fight back and protect herself. Tecmessa's resistance to stop the torture is not only by avoiding but by trying to hit Ajax. This data shows that women are not completely weak, they also have rights for themselves and even to express themselves.

Datum 22.

I was learning so much from Ritsa but also from Machaon, who, once he saw I was interested and already had a little knowledge and skill, was generous with his time. I started to think: I can do this. And that belief took me a step further away from being just Achilles's bed-girl—or Agamemnon's spittoon (p.121)

Brisies started to like the pestle and mortar work; she could survive and enjoy his day doing that work. She dares to try and choose a little freedom, namely, doing what she wants. This can be seen using a comparison of existentialist feminist

theory, namely Beauvoir's theory, which offers three strategies to emphasize the existence of women to be equal to men, including 1) women must work to develop themselves, 2) women must become intellectuals. (Tong, 1998). In Marxist feminism, women are encouraged to struggle, and the way to liberate themselves in this theory is to work so that they can exercise freedom according to their own will. (Yoon, 2014).

According to Young's theory, the struggle is seeking justice with the right to fair conditions for self-development and freedom of self-determination for each individual, as well as working together between women and uniting for this (Germia, 2020). The existence of mutual support and the limited opportunities for data freedom shows that this has made Brisies' spirit and hope start to burn to fight for her life and fate. The data above shows that Brisies' response to her unfair fate is to try to survive, enjoy her new life, and continue to try to show her existence.

Datum 23.

As soon as I was sure I wasn't being observed, I climbed into the cart and lay down beside Hector, my hot body flattened against his cold side. I pulled the linen sheet loose so its folds would cover me, too. Its body feels clammy against my skin, the smells of thyme and rosemary are not strong enough to hide a whiff of decay. (Barker, 2018, p.244)

Brisies tries to fight for his fate by taking advantage of the opportunity to escape from the Greek complex. After a long time, Brisies also despaired about her fate like other women; now, she finally decides to try and fight for her freedom, namely returning to the Trojans in the hope of being free from the slavery of Achilles and his people. According to Young and other feminist figures, there will be no change in women's conditions for freedom if there is no struggle. In this case, the awareness

of the dominated and oppressed must be built and formed through a struggle for this matter, which is primarily pursued by women themselves. (Tong, 1998).

When compared with Plato's philosophical theory, God determines a person's life from birth, which then determines their class in society. This means that people grow based on the abilities they have brought since childhood, so it is difficult for them to become or be like other groups because their capacities have been imprinted since birth, especially in countries or groups that have not implemented a democratic system.(Germia, 2020).

In this case, women have been born into a lower class than men, and women are differentiated because of their reproduction, and it will be more difficult and require struggle when they want to be equal to other groups. The principle of justice is simple, namely, treating everyone based on the same rules, norms, standards, and principles of rights or law. (Simanjuntak et al., 2021). Therefore, according to Young (2014), women must survive and fight for their rights; this is a movement to eliminate gender inequality and injustice. That change must start with a movement. In feminism, women must fight to get their rights so that gender inequality does not exist. Feminism also rejects the occurrence of a world dominated by men because it requires playing according to the rules made by men and used against women. (González & Kramm, 2021).

Empowering women through anxiety and self-desire then forms a women's movement where women can share experiences, strengthen each other and build bonds with each other, voice their worries and suffering freely, and develop a new,

decent, and better life. The struggle exists to fight oppression and discrimination due to inequality (Kristami et al., 2022). In this research, the struggle is aimed at women to defend the rights and dignity of women who were oppressed during the war due to arbitrary injustice from a culture that is quite developed and embedded in society.

Datum 24.

But the more I thought about it, the more insane this bid for freedom seemed. If Priam had discovered me before we got to Troy, he might well have tipped me out of his cart, even while we were crossing the battlefield, perhaps. And even if I got as far as Troy and succeeded in reaching my sister, what did the future hold? A few weeks of happiness, shadowed by fear, and then I'd be hiding in another citadel, surrounded by another group of terrified women, waiting for another city to fall. Squeezing my eyes tight shut, I tried to think. I was trapped. At last, the lurching stopped. I'd felt Achilles's presence walking beside the cart every moment, but now the sense of him was lifted, and a few minutes later, I heard him talking to the sentries. The mules' harness jingled. All that stuff about Troy falling and becoming a slave again and being hauled in front of Achilles—it was all true. But I'd known all that before I got into the cart. Something else, something I couldn't put my finger on, had made me turn back. Perhaps no more than a feeling that this was my place now, that I had to make my life work here. He'd known I was in the cart and—again, for whatever reason—had been prepared to let me go. So this was no longer, straightforwardly, a meeting of owner and slave. There was an element of choice.

Although Brisies failed in her escape attempt, she returned not because of her attachment to Achilles' slave or because her attempt was thwarted by others. Brisies returns out of her own volition and choice; she thinks and uses critical reasoning in her decision to return to Trojan. For her to be empowered and have a successful life is not by running away or hiding. But by trying and struggling in the place where she was now, "this was my place now, and I had to make my life work here." By thinking and choosing back to the sentence, "*He'd known I was in the cart and—again, for whatever reason—had been prepared to let me go. So this was no longer, straightforwardly, a meeting of owner and slave. There was an element of choice.*" meaning that Brisies had managed to determine her own life she knew what was best for her (p.247). The construction of society by the ruling group can become a framing of the entire community, and

violence is patent. Whereas gender-based violence can be eliminated if the two groups benefit and synergize with each other. With the efforts that women must fight for because success must be fought for. So the data above shows that Briseis is again trying to choose according to her freedom. She is trying to use her reasoning for the courage she chooses.

Datum 25.

"If I die...I'm not saying I will if..." Alcimus looks terrified. "Look, I haven't had a premonition or anything like that..." It's not a premonition; it's knowledge. "I just want to make a few sensible plans for the future." Alcimus gapes at him. "Briseis is pregnant." Ah, that went in. "If I die, I want you to marry her and..." He holds up his hand. "If. If. I want you to take her to my father. I want the child to grow up in my father's house." Silence. "Is that all right?" Alcimus says miserably, "It's an honor I don't deserve." "But you'll do it?" "Yes." "Swear?" "Yes, of course. I swear." And then: "Does she know?" Achilles shakes his head. "No, there's no need to tell her yet. As long as you and I know what's happening." "Better to die on Achilles's burial mound than live and be a slave." I stood there in the cold wind, feeling coarse, lumpen, and degraded compared to their fierce purity. But then I felt my baby kick. I pressed my hand hard against my belly, and I was glad I'd chosen life. Alcimus is here now; I have to go. Alcimus, my husband. A bit of a fool, perhaps, but as Achilles said, a good man. And, anyway, there are worse things than marrying a fool. So I turn my back on the burial mound and let him lead me down to the ships. Once, not so long ago, I tried to walk out of Achilles's story—and failed. Now, my own story can begin. (Barker, 2018. p. 272)

According to Galtung (1996), peace can be formed if there is effort and struggle with the patriarchal structure of society and masculine dominance. For Galtung, it must be replaced with equality and cooperation between men and women by developing femininity, which is more conducive and mutually beneficial for the realization of peace (Eriyanti, 2017). According to Galtung, by changing institutions, thought patterns, and attitudes and changing patriarchal culture, gender-based violence will be replaced with positive peace in which there is harmony and balance between men and women. The data above shows that in the end, Briseis could appreciate herself; she began to feel life when she felt the baby in her womb. Achilles also promised a decent and peaceful life to Briseis as his

will. Brisies did not choose to commit suicide because she felt that her life still had great hope and did not depend on the Greeks.

The data above shows that the struggle is not only carried out by Brisies; the success of Brisies' life to become a completely free woman is also due to the efforts of several dominant groups who are awakened. It proves that the struggle for equality cannot be easily achieved by women if there is no male awareness or involvement. According to Young (2010), although he defends his concept of justice for the self-development and self-determination of each individual to be fair, rights can be guaranteed only by recognizing the disadvantaged groups that individuals belong to, both in terms of equality and the special differences they have (Uhde, 2010).

The novel ultimately shows that the struggle for freedom and equality continues and that women must fight against the systems that seek to oppress them. The novel's depiction of the struggles faced by women in ancient Greece serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of the ongoing feminist struggle and the need for continued resistance to oppression. Similarly, the struggle will be successful and accomplished if there is unified cooperation among the women and the need for awareness among the men to fight for freedom for the women.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter describes some conclusions and suggestions. Based on the results and discussion of this study, the researcher will conclude from the findings in the previous chapter. Furthermore, based on the research problem, this conclusion is divided into two answers. First, what forms of direct violence against women are found in the novel *The Silence of the Girls*? Second, how do the female characters respond to the violence they experience in the novel? Finally, the researcher makes recommendations for further research

A. Conclusion

Researcher found the problem of women who experienced violence and how they struggled to deal with violence. In this case, the researcher divides it into two parts, first regarding the forms of violence experienced by female characters and second discussing how female characters deal with the oppression they experience. The forms of violence experienced by female characters are direct violence, namely physical violence in the form of physical, sexual violence, persecution, and rape. Furthermore, direct violence is in the form of mental violence and humiliation.

In addition, researcher also found female characters' responses to the violence they experienced. A character named Brisies tried to fight for her freedom, and several women also tried to free themselves. The female characters try to show their existence through their various decisions, even though they do not fully have freedom. Brisies tries to escape from the Greek place but also tries to actualize herself while living in Achilles' camp. Tecmessa tries to protect herself by hitting

Ajax when he physically abuses her. Arianna chose suicide for her freedom so as not to become a Greek slave, as well as Achilles and Alcmus, who finally fought for Brisies' freedom, and her birth made Brisies' rights intact as a human being.

From the data found, the novel ultimately suggests that the struggle for freedom and equality must continue and that women must continue to fight against the powers that seek to oppress them, as the story is not over yet. The novel's depiction of women's struggles in ancient Greece is a powerful reminder of the importance of the ongoing feminist struggle and the need for continued resistance to gender-based violence. Similarly, efforts will be successful and accomplished when there is unified cooperation among women and the need for awareness among men to fight for freedom for women.

B. Suggestion

Suggestions for future researcher can be given to understand how this novel influences society's views on women and their struggles. Research can be done to compare this novel with other stories that have similar themes, such as Homer's "The Odyssey." Research can be done to understand how this novel influenced the development of feminist theory and women's struggle in modern society. The researcher suggests that future studies examine the themes of women and power, existentialist feminist perspectives, postcolonial feminists, and structuralism theory from perspectives given the abundance of data related to these themes in this novel.

In addition, this research can also be an additional source of information for future studies that examine how the data of violence, according to Johan Galtung,

can work in the novel. So that researchers can also relate to phenomena that exist in the current era or literary works that tell of modern times. The researcher also suggests to future researchers if they want to use the theory of violence, they can analyze the impact of violence using a psychological approach or how to overcome violence structurally and culturally.

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