

**THE STRUGGLE OF FEMALE CHARACTERS AGAINST
OPPRESSION IN *GATHER THE DAUGHTERS* BY JENNIE
MELAMED**

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
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**

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**The Struggle Of Female Characters Against Oppression In *Gather The Daughters* By Jennie Melamed**” 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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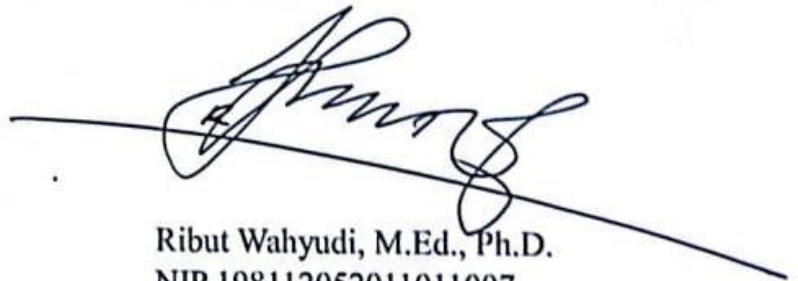
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MOTTO

*"Don't Be Afraid To Try Even If You Fail,
Because Failure Is Part Of Success"*

DEDICATION

My parents Yono and Siti Jumaiyah who always support me in conducting this thesis. My beloved brother M. Hafidz Eko Setyono always accompanies me.

May Allah SWT bless you all, Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise for the presence of Allah SWT who has bestowed His mercy and guidance, so that I can complete this thesis entitled *The Struggle Of Female Characters Against Oppression In Gather The Daughters By Jennie Melamed*.

This thesis is a final project as one of the requirements to get a Bachelor of Literature at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. I realized that the preparation of this thesis cannot be separated from the assistance of various parties, both directly and indirectly. Therefore, I would like to express great gratitude to:

1. Prof. Dr. M. Zainuddin, M.A., as the Rector of Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.
2. Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag., as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.
3. Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed., Ph.D., as Chief of English Letter Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.
4. Dr. Hj. Istiadah, M.A. as the thesis adviser who has provided guidance, direction, and input both technically and theoretically so that this thesis can be completed well.
5. My beloved family, Mr. Yono and Mrs. Siti Jumaiyah, and my brother Mochamad Hafidz Eko Setyono who always expressed their love, attention, prayers, and motivation, both morally and materially, for the completion of this thesis.

6. Thank you to my friends from the class of 2020 majoring in English Literature who have accompanied and fought together from start to finish, especially (Mbak Atus, Illi, Titil, Ipitil, Bilsky) and Lili who have motivated in preparing this thesis.

I have tried to prepare this thesis well, but there may still be shortcomings in it. Hopefully this thesis can be useful for all of us. Amen.

Malang, September 24th, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silvia', written in a cursive style on a light gray background.

Silvia Afifatul Muvidah

ABSTRACT

Muvidah, Silvia Afifatul. (2024) *The Struggle Of Female Characters Against Oppression In Gather The Daughters By Jennie Melamed*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr. Hj. Istiadah, M.A.

Key word: Oppression, Struggle, Feminism.

This study examines the forms of oppression experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed and their struggle against oppression. The novel portrays a patriarchal society on an isolated island where women are marginalized, powerless, exploited, and subjected to cultural imperialism and violence. This novel tells that female characters are confined to domestic roles and denied education, while societal norms enforce their subordination. This research is literary criticism research because the researcher interprets and analyzes literary works. This research focuses on literary texts with the theme of oppression of women. To conduct this study, the researcher uses the theory of oppression by Irish Marion Young to determine the forms of oppression experienced by female characters and how the female characters struggle the oppression. As a result of this research, the researcher found forms of oppression include marginalization, powerlessness, exploitation, cultural imperialism, and violence. These five forms of oppression are presented to show the condition of female characters who have been oppressed. For example, the female characters are forbidden to leave the house and are forbidden to read books. They are expected to stay at home and do housework. This study also identifies various ways of female characters struggle against oppression. There are three ways of female characters struggle against oppression such as intellectual struggle, physical struggle, and emotional struggle. For example the struggle shown by Janey where she starves herself to delay puberty and organizes other women to fight against powerlessness; Amanda tries to swim to escape from the island; Vanessa uses her intelligence by questioning and challenging the island's rules.

الملخص

مفيدة، سيلفيا أفيفة. (2024). صراع الشخصية الأنثوية ضد الظلم في رواية *Gather The Daughters*. أطروحة البكالوريوس. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الثقافية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية، مالانج. المشرف د. هج. إستعادة، م.أ.

الكلمات المفتاحية: القمع، النضال، النسوية

يتناول هذا البحث أشكال الاضطهاد الذي تعيشه الشخصيات النسائية في رواية *Gather The Daughters* لجيني ميلاميد ونضالهن ضد هذا الاضطهاد. تصور هذه الرواية مجتمعاً أبويًا على جزيرة نائية حيث يتم تهيمش المرأة وعاجزة وتعرض للإمبريالية الثقافية والعنف. اقتصرت الأدوار المنزلية على المرأة ولم تتلق أي تعليم، وفرضت عليها الأعراف المجتمعية. يعتبر هذا البحث من أبحاث النقد الأدبي لأن الباحث يقوم بتفسير وتحليل الأعمال الأدبية. يركز هذا البحث على النصوص الأدبية التي تتناول موضوع اضطهاد المرأة. وإجراء هذا البحث استخدم الباحثون نظرية الاضطهاد للكاتب إيريس ماريون يونج لمعرفة أشكال الاضطهاد التي تعيشها الشخصيات النسائية وكيفية نضال المرأة في الرواية. يقوم الباحثون بتحليل أشكال الاضطهاد الموجودة وكيف تكافح النساء ضد هذا الاضطهاد. وتظهر نتائج هذا البحث أشكال الاضطهاد المتمثلة في التهميش والعجز والإمبريالية الثقافية والعنف. تظهر هذه الأشكال الأربعة من الاضطهاد حالة النساء المضطهدات. يحدد هذا البحث أشكالاً مختلفة من النضال ضد اضطهاد الشخصيات النسائية: جاني تجوع نفسها لتأخير البلوغ وتنظم نساء أخريات لمحاربة العجز؛ أماندا تحاول الهروب من الجزيرة. تستخدم "فانيسا" ذكائها من خلال التشكيك في قواعد الجزيرة وتحديها لمحاربة التهميش؛ وتكشف روزي عن حقائق مخفية لمحاربة العنف.

ABSTRAK

Muvidah, Silvia Afifatul. (2024). *Perjuangan Karakter Perempuan Melawan Penindasan Dalam Novel Gather The Daughters Karya Jennie Melamed*. Tesis Sarjana. Jurusan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Dr. Hj. Istiadah, M.A.

Kata Kunci: Penindasan, Perjuangan, Feminisme

Penelitian ini mengkaji bentuk-bentuk penindasan yang dialami tokoh perempuan dalam novel *Gather The Daughters* karya Jennie Melamed dan perjuangan mereka melawan penindasan. Novel ini menggambarkan masyarakat patriarki di pulau terpencil di mana perempuan terpinggirkan, tidak berdaya, dieksploitasi, dan menjadi sasaran imperialisme budaya dan kekerasan. Novel ini menceritakan bahwa tokoh perempuan dibatasi pada peran domestik dan tidak memperoleh pendidikan, sementara norma-norma masyarakat memaksakan subordinasi mereka. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kritik sastra karena peneliti menafsirkan dan menganalisis karya sastra. Penelitian ini berfokus pada teks sastra dengan tema penindasan terhadap perempuan. Untuk melakukan penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan teori penindasan oleh Irish Marion Young untuk mengetahui bentuk-bentuk penindasan yang dialami tokoh perempuan dan bagaimana tokoh perempuan tersebut berjuang melawan penindasan tersebut. Sebagai hasil dari penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan bentuk-bentuk penindasan meliputi marginalisasi, ketidakberdayaan, eksploitasi, imperialisme budaya, dan kekerasan. Kelima bentuk penindasan ini disajikan untuk menunjukkan kondisi tokoh perempuan yang telah tertindas. Misalnya, tokoh perempuan dilarang keluar rumah dan dilarang membaca buku. Mereka diharapkan untuk tinggal di rumah dan mengerjakan pekerjaan rumah tangga. Studi ini juga mengidentifikasi berbagai cara tokoh perempuan berjuang melawan penindasan. Ada tiga cara tokoh perempuan berjuang melawan penindasan, yaitu perjuangan intelektual, perjuangan fisik, dan perjuangan emosional. Seperti perjuangan yang ditunjukkan oleh Janey di mana ia membuat dirinya kelaparan untuk menunda pubertas dan mengorganisasi perempuan lain untuk melawan ketidakberdayaan; Amanda mencoba berenang untuk melarikan diri dari pulau; Vanessa menggunakan kecerdasannya dengan mempertanyakan dan menentang aturan pulau.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THESIS	i
STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP.....	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	Error! Bookmark not defined.
LEGITIMATION SHEET	Error! Bookmark not defined.
MOTTO.....	v
DEDICATION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
ABSTRACT (English).....	ix
ABSTRACT (Arab)	x
ABSTRACT (Indonesia).....	xi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	xii
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
A. Background of the Study.....	1
B. Research Questions	9
C. Significance of the Study	9
D. Scope and Limitation	10
E. Definition of Key Terms	10
CHAPTER II.....	11
LITERATURE REVIEW	11
A. Feminist Literary Criticism.....	11
B. Oppression	12
C. Five Faces Oppression	15
1. Exploitation	15
2. Marginalization.....	17
3. Powerlessness	18
4. Cultural Imperialism.....	19
5. Violence.....	20

D. Struggle	21
CHAPTER III	24
RESEARCH METHOD.....	24
A. Research Design.....	24
B. Data Source	24
C. Data Collection.....	25
D. Data Analysis	25
CHAPTER IV	27
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	27
A. Forms of Oppression Experienced by The Female Characters.....	27
1. Marginalization.....	28
2. Powerlessness	31
3. Exploitation	34
4. Cultural Imperialism.....	38
5. Violence.....	41
B. The Female Characters’ Struggle Against Oppression	43
1. Intellectually Struggle	44
2. Physically Struggle.....	49
3. Emotionally Struggle.....	51
CHAPTER V.....	54
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	54
A. Conclusion	54
B. Suggestion.....	55
BIBLIOGRAPHY	57
CURRICULUM VITAE	60

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the initial framework of the study such as the background of the study, which describes the relevance of the study on the oppression of female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. In addition, this chapter formulates the problem that is the main focus of the study, determines the objectives to be achieved, and explains the scope and limitations of the study. Definitions of key terms are also included to clarify the understanding of the concepts used in this study.

A. Background of the Study

Oppression of women in the 21st century is more diverse than previous centuries, despite advances in women's rights that feminist groups have fought for. However, it doesn't rule out the possibility that there is still oppression against women which continues to occur today. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), women receive evaluations more often in the field of work than men, which is one of the oppressions caused by stereotypes that are detrimental for women (2020). It is not uncommon for women to earn 30 percent lower wages than men even with the same skills. In the political field, women also often face restrictions in holding office, even women who have entered the political arena still have to obey the rules and expectations that are dominated by men (Worker.org, 2018).

Common forms of oppression include sexual harassment, domestic violence, social exclusion, and unequal access to aspects of quality education and employment careers. Women also often experience discrimination in the workplace, especially in terms of recognition for their ability to contribute to their work and opportunities for advancement. However, there are still many views state that women only have abilities in the domestic sphere and are unable to show themselves in the public sphere. According to Walby, oppression of women is not only caused by individual factors, but also the result of social structures that influence women's lives (Walby, 1990). The patriarchal social and cultural structure places men as more important than women, giving rise to an imbalance of power between men and women. Male domination is the most important thing in acts of oppression because it can create a culture and ideology that prioritizes men over women (Madsen, 2000).

Feminism discusses disappointment and injustice towards women in various aspects of life as well as women's efforts to change this situation (Bashin and Khan, 1995). In literary studies, Feminism focuses on women and expresses criticism of male dominance and the problem of gender inequality that exists in literary works. Many literary works tell about feminism such as *The Vox* novel by Christina Dalcher tells that women are only allowed to speak a hundred words a day. In addition, women are not allowed to work, girls are not taught to read or write so women have no voice. However, the female characters in the novel fight to reclaim their

rights. The *Handmaid's Tale* novel by Margaret Atwood also tells of women whose freedom is restricted and who only have a role as a reproductive tool. In addition, women are also not allowed to read, all that is expected is obedience.

The other novel that tells about feminism is *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed discussed in this study. This novel tells how life is on an island controlled by men where patriarchal practices are still very strong. Only a wanderer who is a man is allowed to leave the island, while women are required to remain on the island. Apart from that, women are also regulated in terms of marriage by the authority and traditions of their ancestors which must be obeyed. Their access to knowledge was only through one book because they were restricted from leaving the island. This makes the four main characters want to fight for justice for them. So they look for ways to have control over their own lives.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel because it has a unique story where women on the island are governed by very strict rules that oppress them. Besides that, the researcher is interested to write the topic about woman oppression because this topic is still relevant today, as stated in the article published by UNESCO in 2023, there are still more than 120 million girls worldwide who are not in school. The obstacles they face include poverty, early marriage, and gender-based violence, which is more common in conflict-affected areas (Unesco.org, 2023).

The following are several previous studies that conducted research that is relevant to this research to support the implementation of the research. The first previous study that had the same object was entitled *The Utopian Promise and the Dystopian Premise: Body Transgressions in Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed which was conducted by Kohil Mouna and Bouregbi Salah (2020). This type of research is a comprehensive analysis that discusses the existence of a system of domination in patriarchal practices. The data source used in this research is the novel *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed which was published in 2017. The results of this research state that the cruelty endured by women and sanctified by the patriarchal system was successfully expressed by dystopian feminist writers.

The next research uses the same theory of oppression from Iris Marion Young's perspective with the title *Oppression Experienced By Female Characters In Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's The Forest Of Enchantments* by Annisa Qothrine Nada (2021). This research uses a literary criticism method using feminist literary theory. This research uses Irish Marion Young's theory of oppression to determine the forms of oppression experienced by female characters and the struggle of female characters to fight oppression. The results of the research show that there is oppression against women in the form of exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, violence (verbal and physical), and cultural imperialism experienced by female characters. Female figures also struggle to fight the

oppression they experience by becoming intelligent women and having the courage to speak up about the unfair treatment experienced by women.

The following previous research was entitled *Shekiba's Struggle Against Oppression Practices in the Novel The Pearl That Broke Its Shell* by Nadia Hashimi written by Ana Maratulkhaq (2023). This research uses a literary criticism method using a feminist literary approach. This research analyzes the oppression received by Shekiba using Irish Marion Young's theory of oppression. The results of this research show the oppression experienced by Shekiba in the form of marginalization, powerlessness and violence.

The following previous research was entitled *The Main Character's Resistance Against Oppression in Malala Yousafzai's I am Malala* written by Hermanto (2021). This research uses a literary criticism method using feminist literary theory. This research uses Irish Marion Young's theory of oppression to determine the forms of oppression experienced by the main character and James Scott's theory of resistance to determine the main character's resistance to oppression. The results of this research show that there are forms of exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, violence and cultural imperialism experienced by the main character. Apart from that, the main character also shows his resistance through open and closed resistance.

The following previous research was *The Main Character's Struggle against Women Oppression in Eka Kurniawan's Man Tiger* conducted by

Kamilah (2021). This research uses a literary criticism method using a feminist literary approach. This research uses Irish Marion Young's theory of oppression to understand the oppression experienced by female characters and how they struggle against oppression. The results of this research show that there is oppression in the form of violence (physical, sexual, mental), marginalization, powerlessness due to male dominance. Apart from that, the main character in the novel also struggles to fight oppression by avoiding the causes of violence, running away and hiding, having a job, and daring to express his opinion.

Further research relevant to this research was conducted by Azara, Supiastutik, and Irmadani (2019) with the research title *Representation of Women's Oppression in Snow Flower and The Secret Fan by Lisa See*. This research uses qualitative methods using the Representation Theory proposed by Stuart Hall and Iris Marion Young's theory of oppression. The research results reveal that the novel depicts three forms of oppression against women, namely powerlessness, cultural imperialism, and violence through the practice of foot binding which is considered a way to improve the status of Chinese women towards a better life. Lisa See tries to highlight how Chinese culture in the 19th century shaped the identity of Chinese women, especially in their adherence to that culture. Foot binding was key to Chinese women's acceptance in society, and Lisa See describes the reality of this oppression in detail in the novels *Snow Flower and The Secret Fan*.

The following previous research was entitled *Oppression of Women as Reflected in the Character Lakshmi in the Best Selling Novel by Patricia McCormick* by Kristami, Surya, and Lubis (2022). The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with data sources from the novel Sold by Patricia McCormick. This research uses Iris Young's theory which explains the oppression of women due to capitalist patriarchy and male domination. The results of this research reveal that there is oppression against women carried out by men and women. Apart from that, researcher also argue that oppression of women can occur because of class and power domination, not just because men dominate who is superior.

The next previous research was entitled *Women's Struggles Against Oppression in Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing* conducted by Septiana (2022). This research uses a literary criticism method using a feminist literary approach. The researcher used Iris Young's theory of oppression and combine it with an existentialist feminist approach to discover forms of oppression and the struggle to fight oppression. The research results show that female characters in the novel experience different kinds of oppression in the form of exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism, and violence. Apart from that, the characters in the novel also show struggles against oppression such as the ability to solve problems, have a job, and the intelligence to defend human rights.

The next previous studies have the same topic as the research to be conducted but uses a different theory. Research conducted by Diksita Galuh

Nirwinastu (2021) with the title *Oppression of Women as Depicted in Selected Poems of Marge Piercy*. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The results of this research explain the forms of patriarchy experienced by women in poetry. This research uses a critical feminist approach. This poem describes the oppression of women, the subordination of women and the exclusion of women. The oppression described in the poem takes the form of subtle oppression, such as in aspects of education and family. Apart from that, this research also explains how the impact of oppression can hinder women's development into better individuals.

The next previous study is entitled *Women's Oppression and Struggle in the Novel Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu* conducted by Cita Hikmah Yanti and Dini Anggraini (2022). This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with data sources taken from the novel *Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu in the form of dialogue and quotations. This research uses Iris Marion Young's theoretical approach to understand the various kinds of oppression that occur in the novel *Moxie*. The results of this research explain the existence of oppression against women such as sexual harassment, intimidation and discrimination. This occurs due to the existence of a patriarchal system and sexism as the trigger as well as the way women struggle in facing this patriarchal system.

This study provides new perspectives and data sources on the novel *Gather The Daughters* using Young's theory of oppression. The researcher decided to research this novel which focuses on the oppression experienced

by the female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters* using Iris Marion Young's theory of oppression. In this study, the researcher analyzes the oppression of 4 female characters, three of whom are main characters and one of them is a supporting character. Apart from that, the researcher also discusses the struggle shown by female characters against oppression in the novel *Gather The Daughters*.

B. Research Questions

According to the background of the study, the author determines the research question as follows:

1. What forms of oppression are experienced by the female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed?
2. How do the female characters struggle against oppression in the novel *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed?

C. Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the field of literary criticism studies, especially in the novel *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed. In addition, this research is also useful for developing and expanding discussion of knowledge about oppression of women. Practically, this research is expected to provide benefits, motivation, and awareness for women to fight oppression and injustice towards the patriarchal system that can prevent the process of development and progress

of women. In addition, it is hoped that this research can be a reference research for deeper research.

D. Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on showing the oppression experienced by the female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Apart from that, this research is also limited in answering the research problem, namely the forms of oppression experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters* and also showing how women struggle against oppression.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Oppression : A systematic process in social institutions that prevents certain people from socializing, communicating with others, and expressing their feelings and points of view on social life. This can also mean inhibiting the abilities and skills of certain people in a social environment (Young, 1990).
2. Struggle : Struggle means everything that is fought for and requires courage, energy, energy and imagination to achieve something that is fought for (Kennedy, 2018).

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review covering feminist literary criticism, the concept of oppression, and struggle is discussed in this chapter. Feminist literary criticism as a theoretical framework used to understand how women and their experiences are represented in literary works, especially related to gender inequality and oppression of woman. Besides that, there are several indicators of oppression based on theory of oppression stated by Iris Marion Young. In addition, this chapter also examines the concept of women's struggle against oppression.

A. Feminist Literary Criticism

Feminist literary criticism is an approach to literary criticism that relies on feminist ideological thinking. In literary criticism, feminism is considered a movement to increase awareness of how women are exploited, oppressed and ignored in social society as reflected in literary works (Sugihastuti, 2016). Feminist literary criticism is a type of literary criticism with a feminist view that fights for women equality and views the existence of women both as writers and in their literary works (Wiyatmi, 2012). A feminist literary criticism approach analyze the character of women in social society, how women and men relationship, and how women struggle to achieve their life goals as depicted in literary works (Djajanegara, 2000).

Feminist literary criticism focuses on how literature depicts women's perspectives, women's experiences, and women's struggles due to gender injustice. This approach highlights the representation of women in literary works. The main focus in analyzing feminism in literary works is the position and role of female characters in literature, the lagging behind of women in various aspects of life (Endraswara, 2008). According to Cora Kaplan, writing activities are part of Gamble's resistance strategy (2010: 163). The existence of literary works that give voice to women against patriarchy and the discrimination that women experience is a form of creative resistance in fighting for women's rights (Tong & Botts, 2018).

Feminist literary criticism aims to analyze literary works that depict the experiences of women who are dominated by men and the existence of patriarchal practices that still apply (Endraswara, 2008). The aim of the feminist approach in the literary aspect is to increase awareness about women in all aspects of literary works, including the writers, the characters, and the readers (Carter, 2006). Apart from that, feminist literary criticism also aims to study how gender relations work, as well as situations in which women experience male domination (Wiyatmi, 2010).

B. Oppression

Oppression is a form of injustice where there is the use of authority, law and physical force to prevent the equality and freedom of others. Oppression is a form of action that dehumanizes other people, such as placing limits on education and opportunities (Heldke & O'Connor, 2004).

Oppression also occurs when individuals or groups are pressured by larger forces, such as political, economic or cultural forces. Oppression is a limiting concept that refers to the context of injustice. However, justice must refer not only to distribution but also to the institutional conditions necessary for communication and cooperation as well as the development and implementation of individual and group capacities. Oppression is also a form of application of power that is applied arbitrarily and authoritarily without paying attention to the desires, rights or interests of other people by the ruling group (Young, 1990). Oppression can also be caused by groups or individuals who feel they have greater power and higher authority.

The concept of oppression has emerged since the 1960s among radicals as an effort to reduce injustice such as sexism, ageism and racism which are the impact of class domination (Young, 1990). However, the existence of class differences causes privileges for one group and causes oppression for other groups. All oppressed people experience obstacles in their ability to develop themselves, develop creativity, express opinions and express themselves. Thus, people who experience oppression are considered weak and do not have the power of authority, such as cases regarding views towards women, black people, or people who have physical and mental disabilities.

One of the oppressions that still frequently occurs today is oppression of women, such as domestic violence, equality in leadership policies, and gender stereotypes. It is not difficult for feminists to show that

the oppression of women is partly caused by the systematic transfer of power without reciprocity from women to men. Oppression against women is not only caused by inequality of status, power and wealth, but also because men do not involve women in activities that have privileges such as the right to freedom, power, status. However, many people still think that women who work outside the home are not feminine because they compete with men (Pilcher & Whelehan, 2004).

The oppression experienced by women often occurs due to the patriarchal culture that is still embedded in a social system. A patriarchal system that has existed for a long time can cause oppression, which is then adapted to cultural changes and gradually becomes part of everyday behavior (Weber, 2010). This is also based on social power where there is one group that is superior so they feel they have the right to oppress other groups. Oppression against women can be seen from the physical, educational and social aspects of women.

Oppression against women is a detrimental and discriminatory action or treatment against women in various dimensions of life. This includes various forms of exploitation and restrictions on rights that lead to the reduction of women's dignity, freedom and equality. There are several factors that cause oppression of women, such as patriarchy, gender inequality, and cultural stereotypes. As stated by Alison Jaggar (1983), women's oppression occurs because of the patriarchal system.

Young stated that oppression refers to actions carried out by powerful groups against weak groups (Young, 1990). This concept is closely related to domination, where one or more groups dominate by conquering other groups or individuals. Young identified five main aspects of oppression that reflect conditions in a society. Young's theory of oppression can be applied to a variety of contexts, including the oppression of women in literature. To describe the injustice in these situations, he divides oppression into five categories: exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism, and violence.

C. Five Faces Oppression

1. Exploitation

Exploitation is an action that uses people's labor to produce maximum profits without considering justice (Bowles, 1981). Exploitation of women refers to the abuse of power or control by a more dominant group to exploit women unfairly. This can include using women in unfair or underpaid work, sexual exploitation, or even using women's resources without providing fair compensation. Exploitation occurs when a group or individual is controlled and used by others according to their own goals and interests. Exploitation occurs due to the diversion of the results of one group's work which is beneficial to other groups and has the potential to create structural relationships between social groups.

Gender exploitation consists of two components; nurturing and sexual energy transferred to men and the material results of labor transferred

to men. Christine Delphy (1984) describes marriage as a class relationship in which women's labor benefits men without commensurate rewards. She explains that this exploitation lies not in the type of work women do at home, as it can include a wide range of tasks, but in the fact that they perform tasks for someone they depend on. For example, in many agricultural production systems around the world, it is men who bring women's produce to market, and it is often men who receive the full status and income from this labor.

One form of exploitation is also where women provide emotional attention to men and children and provide sexual satisfaction to men. However, males provide less emotional attention to females in their group (Brittan and Maynard, 1984). Some people argue that household work carried out by women is a form of exploitation of the capitalist class because this work is paid with the wages received by a family. However, as a group, women experience gender-specific exploitation, in which their energy and power is distributed, often unconsciously and unacknowledged, for the benefit of men, such as by providing them with sexual or emotional services, or releasing them for more important work and creative (Young, 1990).

According to Young's theory, prostitution or actions that provide benefits to men are a form of gender exploitation. When women work as sexual workers or caretakers of other people's bodies in the workplace, this is called gender exploitation. Providing them with sexual or emotional

services is a consequence of their status as women. The power given to employees by their employers is evidence of gender and racial exploitation.

2. Marginalization

Marginalization is a form of oppression where there are groups or individuals who are marginalized or outside the existing power structure in society. Marginalization involves not only inequality in the distribution of resources or access, but also inequality in political and social participation. So they have limitations to participate in various aspects. Marginalization of women is often caused by the view that women only have access and abilities at home or what is usually called the domestic aspect. Women who work outside are often seen as a challenge for men, this causes women to develop and be ignored because of this misunderstanding (Hedkle, 2011).

People who cannot or will not be used in the labor system are referred to as marginal people. Marginalized groups not only lack access to resources, but also often lack representation or opportunities to participate in decision-making processes that impact their lives. However, all groups who are marginalized and do not participate in active social life can potentially experience annihilation (Young, 1990).

The feminist view says that all people, both independent and dependent, should receive respect and have the right to participate in decision making (Young, 1990). Dependence on others should not be a reason for neglect or disrespect. If this view that values social relationships and interdependence were more acknowledged, many forms of oppression

experienced by people considered "on the margins" would be reduced. Apart from that, marginalization is not only caused by the actions of dominating individuals or groups, but is also the result of existing power structures in society that limit access and opportunities for marginalized groups.

3. Powerlessness

According to Young, powerlessness refers to the experience of individuals or groups being systematically dominated, inhibited, or marginalized by systems of power that exist in society. This is not only limited to political or economic aspects, but also includes aspects such as identity, gender, race, social class, and more. Exploited and marginalized groups tend to have no authority and this is an indicator of powerlessness because there is no power and authority (Young, 1990).

People who experience powerlessness are those who don't have power and authority. Those whose power is controlled by other people without being able to control them. This makes people oppressive because they oppress people who are considered powerless and incompetent (Hinson & Bradley, 2013). In society in the past and even in some places today, women were often considered to have less power or authority than men.

Powerlessness is not only caused by individual or group actions, but also by established social structures. The existing power structure in society that favors certain groups will result in continued powerlessness and this can be detrimental to other groups. The following are some of the injustices

associated with powerlessness: a person cannot develop his capacities, does not have the authority to make decisions in his work life, and treated disrespectfully because of the status.(Young, 1990)

4. Cultural Imperialism

In the social environment, culture is related to forms of human interaction and relationships with others. Culture is also related to how a person appreciates, views and thinks about something (Kuper, 1991). Experiencing cultural imperialism means experiencing how dominant meanings in a society make other groups' unique viewpoints invisible, while simultaneously stereotyping other groups and marking them as “Other.” Young stated that cultural imperialism means the existence of a dominant society that gives marks to other groups or what is usually called group stereotypes, and assesses their culture and habits (Young, 1990). This kind of oppression reveals real problems of power in relation to others: who benefits and who is excluded.

This category limits the material life of society. Cultural imperialism involves and makes the experiences and culture of dominant groups common and the norm. Apart from that, cultural imperialism also involves a paradox where someone feels invisible, and at the same time is marked by something different. This invisibility occurs when the dominant group doesn't recognize the viewpoints present in other groups' cultural expressions as valuable viewpoints. These dominant cultural expressions often do not give enough space to the experiences of other groups, often

simply naming or referring to them in stereotypical or derogatory ways. This is the injustice of cultural imperialism: that the experiences and interpretations of oppressed groups are almost silent in the dominant culture, while the same culture forces the oppressed groups to accept their experiences and interpretations of social life (Young, 1990).

Cultural imperialism occurs when a more dominant or economically, politically, or socially powerful culture dominates and influences a weaker culture. This includes the spread of culture from one place to another and the oppression or neglect of minority cultures. This process can destroy cultural diversity and result in cultural homogenization, which benefits dominant groups and disadvantages weaker or marginalized groups (Young, 1990).

5. Violence

Violence is a type of oppression that occurs in social practice where a person or group is physically attacked which can harm them physically and mentally (Young, 1990). Group Examples of violent attacks include beatings, murders, and sexual assaults. Violence does not always occur through individual actions, but also through the social structures that exist in society. For example, certain social or political systems can indirectly cause suffering or injustice for certain groups and trigger violence. Bullying has a negative impact on the victim and can cause trauma which can make the victim suffer because of the action.

Cultural imperialism is also associated with violence. Societies that are victims of cultural imperialism may reject dominant meanings and seek to assert their own identity, or their cultural differences may refute the indirect claims of the dominant culture that it considers itself universal. Inequalities arising from challenges to hegemonic cultural meanings can also be a source of irrational violence. The gap in question is a feeling of incongruity or incongruity between what is believed or held by the dominant culture and what is stated or maintained by other cultures that are considered inferior or less valued (Young, 1990).

Violence becomes the face of oppression not only because certain acts are often particularly horrific, but rather because of the surrounding social environment that makes these acts possible and even acceptable. What makes violence a phenomenon of social injustice, and not just the moral wrong of individuals, is its systemic nature, its existence as a social practice. Violence is systemic because it is directed at members of a group simply because they are part of that group (Heldke & O'Connor, 2004).

D. Struggle

Struggle arises because of injustice or inequality between one party and another. According to Young, the concept of justice is treating everyone with the same principles, rules and standards as they should (Young, 1990). Struggle is an attempt to realize one's desires. If someone dreams of a desire then he must try, so whatever a person does to make his dream come true is called "struggle" (Nugroho, 1994). Struggle can be carried out in various

ways, either through education or strength, depending on the obstacles experienced (Krishnananda, 1989). However, the challenges and obstacles experienced by each person are different, as are the dreams they want to achieve. Even though facing difficult obstacles and challenges, a person must have the courage to fight for the goals he wants to achieve (Krishnananda, 1989).

Women's struggles often occur because of gender gaps, oppression and other forms of discrimination experienced by women in various aspects of life. Women's struggle is aimed at increasing women's rights, fighting gender gaps for the sake of women's liberation (Ackelsberg, 2004). Therefore, struggle is an effort to fight the oppression and injustice experienced by women. According to Young, this struggle also aims to fight discrimination and oppression experienced due to inequality (1990). Feminism is a movement that focuses its attention on women's struggle to determine their existence (Djajanegara, 2000).

Various ways that women can use to fight oppression. According to Beauvoir, there are four ideas of transcendence that women can do to be free from a culture that oppresses women (Beauvoir, 1949). One of them is that women can be intellectuals, meaning that women have the ability to use their minds, criticize social norms, and interpret the oppressive situations they experience to question unfair rules and seek freedom. Women can also fight oppression physically, meaning that women can fight through direct physical action. Women can rise up against physical actions such as

resistance to forced labor, protests, and even in militant activities (Davis, 1983). In addition, women can also struggle emotionally by how they deal with trauma, fear, and mental stress due to the oppression they experience.

This study also explains the struggle of female characters against oppression. Female characters' struggle is a way for female characters against oppression they experience. With struggle, female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters* can face the oppression they experience and try to get the right to freedom for themselves.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains the research design used in analyzing the novel *Gather The Daughters*. In this chapter, the researcher discusses the data sources used, systematic data collection steps, and the analysis methods applied.

A. Research Design

This research uses literary criticism as its research design. Literary criticism is a research method used to analyze and explain elements in literary texts to obtain understanding, meaning and interpretation without involving statistical calculations. Literary criticism is a tool for studying literary works from various aspects and points of view. In this research, the researcher uses a feminist literary criticism approach to analyze the feminist values in the novel *Gather The Daughter*. The main focus in this research is the oppression experienced by the female characters and their struggle against oppression. To analyze the themes raised in the novel, the researcher uses Iris Marion Young's theory of oppression.

B. Data Source

The data source used in this research is an English novel. The data used in this research is a form of dialogue, sentences and narration in the novel *Gather The Daughters* by Jennie Melamed. This novel was published

on July 25, 2017. The novel was released by Litle, Brown and Company. The novel is 341 pages long. The data in this research are in the form of dialogue texts, narratives, excerpts from short story texts that describe oppression of women and how female characters deal with this oppression. The instruments involved in this research process are humans as researcher.

C. Data Collection

The researcher took several steps to collect data. First, the researcher carried out an initial reading of the novel *Gather The Daughters* to understand the contents of the novel as a whole. Second, the researcher read the object carefully to identify in depth the content of the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Researcher then read the most important parts to find data that is relevant to the problems that be studied in this research. Next, based on Young's theory, the researcher highlights phrases, statements, conversations, dialogue and other important quotations related to the oppression experienced by the females characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Finally, the researcher collects data and organizes the data according to the theory that be used.

D. Data Analysis

The researcher identified data that has been processed through several steps. First, categorize the data into forms of oppression experienced by female characters depicted in the novel *Gather The Daughters* based on Irish Marion Young's five forms of oppression and how the characters

struggle against oppression. Then, the researcher interpreted and analyzed the data that had been found based on Young's theory of oppression. In the final step, the researcher draw conclusions based on the data and analysis that has been carried out.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the forms of oppression experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Besides that, the researcher also examines how the female characters struggle against oppression they experience. All the problems that were formulated in the previous chapter are discussed in this chapter.

A. Forms of Oppression Experienced by The Female Characters

The researcher analyzes the oppression of female characters based on Iris Marion Young's feminist theory of oppression. Researcher focus on the oppression experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Many women experience oppression due to the rules on the island where they live. These rules were created by their ancestors, and some of them oppress many women. One of these rules prohibits women from leaving the house to play except in the summer. If it is not summer, they can leave the house but must be with their husbands. Furthermore, they are prohibited from leaving the island which makes women feel constrained and have no control over themselves. Only wanderers who are men chosen by their ancestors can leave the island. Everyone believes that these patriarchal rules come from their ancestors and must be obeyed by all people. The researcher identified five forms of oppression experienced by female

characters: marginalization, powerlessness, exploitation, cultural imperialism, and violence.

1. Marginalization

Marginalization is a form of oppression where some groups or individuals are marginalized and outside the existing power structure in society (Young, 1990). Marginalization emphasizes social or structural processes in which a person or group is ignored or devalued by society at large. Communities that won't be utilized in the employment system are called marginalized communities (Heldke & O'Connor, 2004). Researcher found several data that show the marginalization of women in the novel *Gather The Daughters*.

The first marginalization data found in the novel *Gather The Daughters* is the limitation in developing women's knowledge and intellect. This kind of marginalization process can give rise to poverty because marginalized parties are not allowed to develop themselves (Fakih, 2008). Poverty in this context is the lack of knowledge because in any case women are not encouraged to read books to increase their insight so that they lack insight. The following data shows the evidence;

Father hid some books in a secured chest, saying they are only for the eyes of wanderers, and Vanessa has never been able to budge the lock. (p.20)

The quote above explains that Vanessa's father kept several books in a chest and Vanessa couldn't open the chest containing the books. Only wanderers can read the book in the chest, where the wanderer is a man.

Vanessa is prohibited from accessing and reading the books hidden in the chest. In this situation, Vanessa is marginalized because she can't freely access the books in her father's library and this causes Vanessa's knowledge to be limited which makes Vanessa can't freely expand her knowledge. This can be considered a form of marginalization because she is not given the same rights as other people to access these books. Restrictions like this place women in a marginalized position in terms of understanding, intellectual development, and knowledge of the wider environment around them. Therefore, this quote reflects how women are oppressed. In this case, Vanessa can be marginalized in terms of access to information and knowledge.

See, this is why it's a mistake to let everyone read things like this," says Mr. Adam. "You shouldn't know what Alaska is, or gold, or anything like that." "But I just said that there's gold on the plate," replies Vanessa. "And I don't know anything about Alaska except it's cold and there's gold there. (p.133)

The next evidence of marginalization is shown when Mr. Adam states that letting everyone read or know about things like Alaska or gold is a mistake. Vanessa is forbidden to read about certain things related to islands other than the island where she lives. Vanessa shouldn't know anything about outside the island Even though things like that are knowledge that everyone should have, including Vanessa. However, the father blamed Vanessa for knowing about this, and Vanessa should not have known about this. In this context, it can be interpreted that Vanessa has limited knowledge. With the limited knowledge shown by the data where women are not allowed to know things outside the island where they live, this

situation shows marginalization in the development of knowledge. Vanessa is placed in conditions that limit her ability to expand her horizons and knowledge of the world outside the island. Thus, this illustrates marginalization, because Vanessa is restricted from developing her knowledge.

The next form of marginalization experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters* is that women are prohibited from leaving the house. They have to stay at home and do their duties such as cooking, cleaning the house and taking care of their husband. According to Bhasin, women's movements have clear boundaries in a patriarchal society. This will be seen when many rules limit women (Bhasin, 1996). The following data shows evidence of marginalization:

Father shakes his head, as if to clear the accusation, and then says, "We were talking about you staying home, where you belong." "But Father—"
(p.188)

From the quote, Vanessa experiences marginalization when her father implies that her place should be at home. Vanessa, as a woman, is considered not supposed to be outside the home. From the data, it can be seen that a woman's place should be at home. The rule for women to stay at home becomes a form of marginalization because it narrows their space and opportunities to participate in social and public life. This policy can reflect a patriarchal that views women as figures who should be limited to domestic roles and curb their aspirations and potential outside the home. Father's

statement represents the current thinking that women's place is at home. This marginalization can narrow women's opportunities to develop further.

2. Powerlessness

Powerlessness is a person who does not have power and authority. Those whose power is controlled by others without being able to control it. Therefore, these people are placed in such a way that they must receive orders and rarely have the right to give them to others (Young, 1990). Powerlessness emphasizes the lack of power or influence that a person or group has. It can also be described as a lack of authority, status, self-esteem, and a loss of respect (Heldke & O'Connor 2014). In the novel *Gather The Daughters*, several quotes are found where women feel powerlessness and have no control over themselves. So they have no other choice except follow what has been arranged. The first data that shows powerlessness is where women are forced to marry, here is the data;

“It would be nice to have summer all the time,” continues Vanessa, “but we don’t. We never will—the frost comes at the end of summer, and we have to go home. Otherwise we’d freeze or starve. They’re going to make us get married whether we like it or not. We’re small and they can force us to do anything they want. Her voice is grating and bitter. (p.151)

The quote shows that women are required to marry whether they like it or not. Vanessa’s statement shows that women do not have the choice or freedom to determine their destiny. It can be seen that there is oppression in the form of powerlessness because they don’t have control over themselves. Women have to comply with long-standing rules under which they are forced to marry, without regard to their desires or needs. By having to marry

and have children, without giving her space to express woman desires, this shows how women are considered objects who must comply with other people's expectations or demands, without taking into account women's needs.

In that quote, we can see the powerlessness of women to reject what is destined for them. After all, women are only a small group who can be forced to follow the rules determined by their ancestors. This explains the powerlessness experienced by women where they don't have freedom over themselves. They are required to marry and don't have the power to refuse because they are considered small and have no choice but to do so. Apart from that, women are also considered subordinates who must carry out patriarchal rules from their ancestors even though these rules are patriarchal and oppressive to women.

"You're a woman now. This is what women do. This is how you get married, and have babies." "I don't,"... "think I want to be a woman." "My goodness, dear," said Mrs. Solomon. "As if you had a choice." (p.67)

The quote tells about Mrs. Salomon saying the way to get married and have children. She also emphasized that Amanda had no choice except to do this. The statement "As if you had a choice" reinforces that women do not have other choices. Women must get married and have babies. By the rules on the island, women who have menstruated must immediately get married and have children. Therefore, Mrs. Salomon revealed that Amanda had to follow social norms about what a woman should do, such as getting

married and having children. She conveys these social demands placed on Amanda as a woman.

The quote above highlights about Amanda's experiences of powerlessness to determine her destiny, she has no other choice. It also highlights how the control that has been imposed by the island's norms and rules makes women feel constrained and powerless. So that places them in oppression with a form of powerlessness. The powerlessness experienced by Amanda puts women under oppression because women are not allowed to choose their path in life.

It's the thought of her having to do it that is awful. She doesn't want all that stretching and fluid and odor to ever have anything to do with her Mother says she'll feel different when she's older, and Lenore Gideon told Vanessa she doesn't have a choice anyway.(p.43)

In this quote, Vanessa had no other choice despite to do something she thought was bad. Vanessa felt that all about stretching, fluids, and smells that had to do with her were bad. However, the statement "Lenore Gideon told Vanessa that she had no choice" shows that after all that is what a woman must do and there is no other choice for Vanessa. This shows the powerlessness experienced by Vanessa in choosing other options. Because she is required to experience all the things related to giving birth, such as stretching, fluids, and smells, which according to Vanessa are bad things. This reflects a situation where social norms and expectations limit the freedom of individuals, especially women to make different decisions. Vanessa must follow the rules set by society, showing how gender oppression can occur. In this context, it illustrates how social and cultural

pressures can force someone to follow a certain path even against their desires.

What you said about us being unable to change anything. Like we're goats waiting to be slaughtered. Something like that." (p.162)

This quote explains that Janey cannot change anything. According to Janey, women are likened to animals that are just resigned to waiting to be slaughtered. This statement illustrates how powerless women are to reject all the island regulations that oppress them. The quote above illustrates how powerless women are to change the situation. They are oppressed by various patriarchal rules, which prohibit women from leaving the house, prohibit women from reading books, and so on. Women are depicted as animals who are just waiting to be slaughtered, which means that women are just waiting to carry out orders from their ancestors without being able to refuse them. They cannot change circumstances and situations that must occur. This highlights the powerlessness of women who are seen as someone who can only wait for a decision that will determine their destiny. Janey and other women in a similar situation are considered to have no ability to change their destiny, like animals who cannot move and wait for someone else to decide.

3. Exploitation

According to Iris Marion Young, exploitation is a form of oppression in which the labor or productivity of a particular group is exploited by another group (Young, 1990). Exploitation occurs when a person's labor is used for the benefit of others, while the value generated from the work is

not fully enjoyed by the worker himself. This novel tells the experience of a female character who is used only to take care of domestic matters serving her husband. The female characters in this novel experience exploitation because their energy is used and forced to take care of the house and serve their husbands without paying attention to their desires. The following is data that explains the exploitation in the novel *Gather The Daughters*;

“You don’t think girls should read?” says Vanessa in a too-loud voice “No need for it, sweetheart,” says Mr. Adam. “You’ll get married, have children, help out your husband if you need to. Why waste the energy learning to read when there’s no use for it? It’s like all these clocks. Why do you need clocks? Why do you need to know what time it is? Why do you need books?” (p.129)

In this context, Mr. Adam said that women don't need to read because it would be a waste of time and pointless. The role of women is only to take care of household affairs so women do not need to read books. In this case, it shows exploitation where women are exploited for domestic affairs such as taking care of children, serving husbands, and doing household chores. With his statement "Why do you need to know what time it is? Why do you need books?" Mr. Adam illustrates that they are not only exploited for household chores such as taking care of children and serving husbands but are also prevented from intellectual activities or broader self-development. Women on this island are expected to serve the interests of men and families.

The female characters are exploited to do housework instead of reading books for their interests. This shows that women's labor is only used for household affairs without any recognition of their potential to participate

in the wider community. This data shows how women are excluded from the opportunity to enrich themselves with knowledge and are forced to devote their lives solely to the interests of their families and men.

What would she do as a woman? Have children, of course. Care for the house. Lie under her husband. (p.69)

This quote explains the role of women in their daily lives. In this context “she” refers to Amanda. Therefore, Amanda experiences exploitation when women are only treated to take care of domestic affairs. Domestic affairs means all matters relating to household affairs and household needs. In this quote, it is explained that women in the island must do domestic affairs, they must take care of the house and lie under her husband. A woman's duties and roles are only needed to manage household such as sweeping, cooking, and serving her husband.

Therefore, this context shows exploitation where women are reduced to domestic roles such as giving birth to children, taking care of the house, and fulfilling the husband's sexual needs. This reflects exploitation because women's energy and bodies are used for the benefit of men and families as executors of household tasks, which include activities such as taking care of the house and serving the husband, both physically and sexually.

.....they won't be allowed to stay on the beach. There are houses to be scrubbed, dishes to be washed, animals to be fed, men to be married, children to be borne, and the fathers have had enough. (p.197)

The quote illustrates how female characters were caught up in the joy of the beach, yet their enjoyment was short-lived as they were reminded of their numerous household chores and other responsibilities, including

cleaning the house, washing dishes, and feeding the animals. This quote shows that women must have a duty to take care of the house, get married, and give birth, not go out of the house to the beach to play or do other things.

The data above shows the existence of exploitation where women are expected to carry out domestic tasks, such as cleaning the house, washing dishes, feeding animals, getting married, and giving birth to children. All of these roles are emphasized as women's obligations. In addition, they "won't be allowed" to live on the beach or enjoy freedom; instead, they must return to domestic tasks. This reflects exploitation because women are forced to play roles they did not choose and are limited to domestic life to serve the interests of the family and men.

If they're all kind and gentle men, then how did Paula Moses's father get married? thought Amanda, and Mrs. Aaron glared at her as if she had spoken aloud. "As you know," said Mrs. Aaron, "you will be spending each night in a different household, moving from house to house during the day. Everyone is thrilled to have you. ... "You will travel as a group, always having each other, and the men will join you at the end of the day when they are finished working. You will spend the whole night together. (p.64)

The quote above explains that Amanda is required to stay in different houses and spend the whole night with men. This has indeed become a tradition and rule on the island. Women who have experienced puberty are forced to find husbands by staying in different houses and spending time with men. The phrase "everyone is thrilled to have you" indicates that society benefits from the existence of these characters, while individual rights or freedoms are ignored.

In this situation Amanda doesn't have the freedom or choice in determining their actions and is only seen as a servant to support daily life, this reflects a form of exploitation. Their energy and time are spent serving the needs of the family or community. In this context, Amanda is not given the space to choose their roles or receive equal compensation. This limitation of space and opportunity shows that women are exploited without any recognition or appreciation for their contributions. This reflects the exploitation experienced by women where women are positioned as those who serve or support the needs of others. Young states that exploitation occurs when a person's energy or abilities are used for the benefit of others, often in conditions over which the individual has no control or freedom (Young, 1990).

4. Cultural Imperialism

Experiencing cultural imperialism means experiencing how dominant meanings in a society make other groups' unique viewpoints invisible, while also stereotyping other groups and marking them as "Other." Young stated that cultural imperialism means the existence of a dominant society that gives marks to other groups or what is usually called group stereotypes (Young, 1990). Cultural imperialism involves and makes the experiences and culture of dominant groups common and the norm.

In this novel, it is found that there is a form of imperialist cultural oppression where the rules of ancestors and nomads must be obeyed by everyone, but these rules only refer to women. The following is one of

evidence that shows the existence of cultural imperialism in the novel *Gather the Daughter*.

“When a daughter submits to her father’s will, when a wife submits to her husband, when a woman is a helper to a man, we are worshipping the ancestors and their vision. Our ancestors sit at the feet of the Creator, and as their hearts are warmed, they in turn warm His... Vanessa feels Father staring at her and reluctantly stops gazing out the window. (p.25)

From the quote above, it can be seen that women are used as objects that must be submissive and obedient to men. With the obedience of the wives, this is a worship of their ancestors and their vision. In another sense, if a woman obeys and submits to a man, then she obeys her ancestors. In this data it shows that Vanessa is the main focus of what her father meant. Vanessa experienced oppression where women are seen as subordinates in family and community relations. Therefore, this quote shows an oppression of women in the context of ancestral culture which makes women oppressed by patriarchal norms. It explained that women as subordinates in family and community relations.

The statements such as "daughters submit to the will of their fathers" and "wives submit to their husbands" reinforce the expectation that women should obey and submit to the male figures in their lives. This creates inequality in relationships between men and women and reinforces power structures that give men greater control. Apart from that, according to Bhasin (1996: 5), several areas of women's lives are controlled by men in a patriarchal society, that women are obliged to provide sexual services to men according to the needs of men, not women.

The statement "when women become men's helpers, then we are worshipping our ancestors and their vision." can also be seen as a cultural justification for patriarchal norms that perpetuate forms of patriarchy that can oppress women. However, this quote encourages and strengthens the form of patriarchy that occurs. Because it makes men dominant and authority while women are required to submit, obey, and help men so that men have stronger power than women. This is an example of a form of Cultural Imperialism because it highlights the cultural justification for patriarchal norms that oppress women, where the maintenance of traditions makes women subordinate while men dominate and place women in a submissive position. The applicable regulations and laws are more restrictive for women than men. According to Young, cultural imperialism make that patriarchal norms and values from the dominant culture are imposed on other societies, and this can exacerbate gender inequality and perpetuate women's subordination (Young, 1990).

"Why not?" Rosie looks offended, like Caitlin just confessed to something obscene. It's the way it is, the way it's supposed to be Daughters submit to their father's will, it's in Our Book. It's what the ancestors wanted."
(P. 49)

The quote above shows that daughters must submit to all their father's wishes. This data shows that Rosie is under pressure from oppressive culture and rules when women don't have the freedom to determine their wishes. This has been arranged by their ancestors. However, with the rules set by their ancestors, they become the dominant culture and are determined to be normal culture so that everyone must obey them.

Especially women because women are the main targets of the norms and regulations on the island as stated in previous data which shows that women must submit and obey men. It means women must respect and obey their ancestors. By obeying the rules of their ancestors that would be a good thing even though it oppresses women.

5. Violence

Violence is a type of oppression that occurs in social practice where a person or group is physically attacked which can harm them physically and mentally (Young, 1990). Examples of violent attacks include beatings, murder, and sexual assault. Violence does not always occur through individual actions, but also through the social structures that exist in society. Violence hurts the victim and can cause trauma which can make the victim suffer because of his actions (Yusuf, 2016). In the novel, there are several forms of violence, namely beatings, murder, and whipping. The following is evidence of violence in the novel;

“She is dead,” says Janey. “But she didn’t bleed out. I think she was murdered.” There’s a long silence. “By Andrew?” whispers someone in a tone of scant belief. “No. By the wanderers. They pulled her body from the water. Caitlin saw them,” Janey says (p.176)

In this quote, there is an aspect of violence where Amanda doesn’t bleed out but instead, she is killed by a wanderer. The wanderer refers to a man who has power on the island. Apart from that, only wanderers are allowed to leave the island to look for food as a source of daily life. The use of the term "murdered" in this context emphasizes the existence of a deliberate act of violence. The statement indicating that Amanda was pulled

from the water by wanderers further strengthens the indications of physical violence. In this case, it shows the violence experienced by Amanda.

This context shows that the wanderer committed physical violence against Amanda. The violence committed here is nonverbal violence because of the form of murder committed by the wanderer against Amanda. Nonverbal violence includes physical actions carried out without using words, such as direct physical violence (Buss, A.H., 1961). Manipulation of Amanda's body after her death, such as pulling her from the water, increasingly shows harsh and disrespectful treatment towards the victim. This also illustrates the injustice experienced by women.

Mr. Balthazar peers around to look at the front of her and make sure she is still alive. Wincing, he sends out another lash, this one striking her shoulder... There is a long, weighty silence before Mr. Balthazar picks up the whip and delivers Janey's remaining eight lashes. (p.204)

The quote describes an act of violence committed against Janey by Mr. Balthazar. In the story, Mr. Balthazar determines whether Janey is alive or not because Mr. Balthazar will give the next whipping, this shows that Mr. Balthazar's whipping is so strong. Violence committed by Mr. Balthazar to Janey is nonverbal violence. Nonverbal violence is violence that involves physical action. The use of a whip as a tool to torture and punish Janey is a clear form of physical violence against a woman. Additionally, Mr. Balthazar took the whip and gave her the remaining lashes. What was worse was that Janey was not only given one lash, but Janey received more than eight lashes which were torturous for her.

This action shows that Janey experienced violence, when Janey was whipped by Mr. Balthazar didn't just deliver one lash, but multiple times. With enough force to make him worry whether Janey was still alive or not after each lash. Mr. Balthazar shows the inequality of power between himself and Janey. Mr. Balthazar uses his authority to oppress Janey, who has no ability or strength to fight or protect herself. This data shows that there is oppression against women, it is a physical violence.

Rosie is dead," hisses Mrs. Gideon. "She's dead and you can't see her." They stare at each other; Mrs. Gideon's light blue, flooded eyes meeting Vanessa's shocked stare. "Brian says they were beating her," says Mrs. Gideon. "They were beating her and she fell and hit her head. (p.210)

Further evidence shows that there was violence in the form of beatings that led to death. This beating was given to Rosie until Rosie died from the blows and impacts that hit her head. When Rosie was hit she fell and hit her head. This data shows how hard the beating felt, causing her to fall and hit until she finally died. In this quote, Rosie experiences the most tragic violence until she dies from the blows and collisions she receives. The beating that caused Rosie's death illustrates the form of violence experienced by women. In this case, it can be seen that Rosie experienced a form of violence against women.

B. The Female Characters' Struggle Against Oppression

After discovering several forms of oppression experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Next, the researcher analyzes how the female characters struggle to face the oppression they experience. Because without struggle, this oppression continues and hurts

women. Therefore, at least there is a fighting spirit in facing oppression even though in the end it doesn't change anything. There are several struggle carried out by female characters, both intellectually struggle, physically struggle, and emotionally struggle. In this section, the researcher analyzes the struggle of female characters against oppression they experience. The following are the struggle of female characters against oppression.

1. Intellectually Struggle

In Jennie Melamed's novel *Gather The Daughters*, the intellectual struggle of female characters is one of the struggle that shown by female characters against oppression. The female characters such as Vanessa and Janey use their thinking abilities to find a way out of the restrictive situation. Vanessa, for example, tries to gain information about the outside world through intelligent observation and veiled questions to the people around her. Janey, on the other hand, leads a discussion full of provocative questions about the possibility of life outside the island, inviting other women to think further about their role in an oppressive society.

Although they are physically shackled by strict rules, their minds remain free, and they struggle intellectually to dig deeper, seek knowledge, and design strategies of resistance. This intellectual struggle illustrates the women's efforts to fight oppression not only physically, but also through their minds and intellects ;

When they met on the beach two days ago, Janey suggested that Vanessa try harder to inveigle information from Father, but Vanessa knows this is futile. She has spent her whole life using everything she has—her body, her voice, her words, her smiles—in order to find out more about the wastelands. (p. 164)

The statement above explains that Janey asked Vanessa to continue trying to find out about wasteland areas, but Vanessa was sure that this wouldn't work. However, Vanessa had tried many times to get information about wasteland areas but her father always kept a tight lid on it. Vanessa's father was a wanderer, therefore Janey asked Vanessa to try harder to find information about the wasteland island from Vanessa's father. Only wanderers can leave the island and head to the wastelands to search for living supplies. So far, Vanessa has struggled as hard as she can to find information about wasteland areas to face and fight the oppression she is experiencing, but to no avail. She spent her entire life trying to find out more about the wasteland. In this context, Vanessa shows her struggle to fight oppression intellectually. Vanessa uses all her abilities—body, voice, words, and smile—to obtain information about the wastelands. His efforts reflect an intellectual effort to understand the world around him and seek deeper knowledge.

“they can't stop us from thinking. They can force us to do anything they want, but they can't stop us from thinking. And maybe if we think, we'll think up a way to...”(p. 151)

In the novel, women are forced to follow all the rules on the island that oppress women. The quote above tells that women can still think about how to fight oppression. In the sentence "They can force us to do anything they want, but they can't stop us from thinking," the female characters are

emphasizing that even though they may be forced to follow the rules or physical actions determined by the oppressive society, the ability to think cannot be taken away from them. After all, men can force them to do anything they want, but they cannot stop women from thinking about how to fight oppression. In this context, the female characters show their intellectual struggle. They try to use their minds as a form of resistance to oppression. They believe that through thinking, they may be able to find solutions or ways to fight the situations that restrict them. Even though their bodies may be controlled by external rules, their minds remain free, and through this thinking process, they try to create strategies to fight injustice and seek freedom.

Janey wants us all there at midnight. "I wanted to talk about...important things," Janey says. "Forbidden things. I didn't know how else to get us together without some adult looking on." "I...thank you for coming here. I just wanted to—I was talking with someone before she died. And she was talking about leaving the island. Maybe going to the wastelands, but I thought, maybe there's another island. Another island to go to."

A voice whispers, "What does she mean?" "Think about it," says Janey, slamming her hand into the altar again. "What if we didn't have to get married? What if we didn't have to obey our fathers?" A spark in her eyes. "What if we could make it like summer all the time? Wouldn't you like that?" (p.146)

The quote explains that Janey tried to gather the women and discuss together. Janey invites the women to gather and talk in the middle night so that no adults find out about their meeting. Apart from that, what Janey wants to talk about are forbidden things, she is talking about other islands that can be visited besides the island they live on. Janey told the story that she had heard of other islands that could be visited, but the women had never thought about it so the women were confused by the statement made by

Janey. Janey gives the women a new perspective that there may be other islands that can be lived on besides their island. So they don't need to comply with rules and norms that oppress women, such as getting married when they are bleeding and not leaving the house except in the summer. Janey not only gives the women new insights but also arouses their curiosity about the world outside their island home.

In this context, Janey's actions demonstrate an intellectual struggle. The data shows that Janey raises important and provocative questions about the constraints imposed by society, such as marriage and obedience to parents. She encourages the other women to think outside the island and consider new possibilities for their lives. Janey not only wants to discuss the forbidden, but also challenges their conventional thinking about women's roles and life on the island. Her efforts to gather them together for a midnight meeting reflect an intellectual struggle to find alternatives and broaden their horizons about freedoms and choices they may not have considered before.

"What if you could know something?" asks Janey softly. "I think we should try to know more. Even if in the end, it doesn't change anything." (p. 163)

This quote shows that Vanessa will try to find out about the abandoned island. Even though this may not change anything, Vanessa is trying to find out more about things related to abandoned areas. This shows Vanessa's struggle with being an intellectual and trying to find out about the world outside the island she lives on. . Vanessa's desire to know more about neglected areas highlights the importance of knowledge and understanding

in fighting for change. Despite realizing that her efforts may not change the situation significantly, she remains determined to explore and understand more about the abandoned island. Vanessa and Janey are trying to find deeper knowledge and understanding about their island situation. Janey shows her curiosity and thinking about the possibility of gaining more information, even though the outcome is uncertain. The data reflects Janey and Vanessa's intellectual struggle to find knowledge and understand the situation they are facing. They are trying to find deeper thoughts and information about their condition and shows that the effort to gain knowledge is important, regardless of the end result.

How are you settling in?" asks Vanessa. "Oh, everyone is so kind," says Mrs. Adam cheerfully. "People are helping us with everything. I don't know how to sew, or, or scrub things with sand, or cook over a fire, goodness no. Everyone is so willing to show me things, twice, usually." Vanessa instantly realizes that this means that people in the wastelands do not sew, or scrub things, or cook over fires. She wants to interrogate Mrs. Adam immediately;(p.166)

This quote shows that Vanessa tried to find out about the wasteland area by asking Mrs. Adam trick questions so that she could interpret them herself. Vanessa showed her ingenuity in finding out information about abandoned areas by asking Mrs. Adam intelligent questions. In the data, Vanessa observes and analyzes the situation around them. She realizes that although Mrs. Adam talks about the kindness of the people in the wastelands, the statement also indicates that the people there may not have the basic skills that are commonly done. Vanessa's thought process and understanding the implications of what Mrs. Adam said shows an intellectual struggle to understand the new reality they face.

In this context, Vanessa's actions show her intellectual struggle in dealing with the oppression she experiences. Vanessa tries to understand the new situation about the wasteland and explores further information. Vanessa gets new knowledge of Mrs. Adam, a resident of the wasteland area who does not have basic skills such as cooking, sewing, or scrubbing, and becomes her starting point for understanding the differences between life on their island and life in the abandoned area. This struggle makes Vanessa to be more curious about conditions outside their island and dig deeper into a reality that may be different from what she knows.

2. Physically Struggle

The next female characters struggle is a physical struggle against oppression. The female characters show how their bodies become a medium to fight against norms that restrict their freedom and identity. Janey, who has not yet menstruated at the age of seventeen, drastically reduces her food intake to avoid social controls that require women to marry after they reach puberty. On the other hand, Amanda shows her courage to fight against restrictions by deciding to swim across the ocean in search of a better life. Through these actions, the novel depicts the physical struggle of women, when they try to regain control over their bodies on a confining island.

She hasn't reached fruition at the age of seventeen, which is unheard of... They say she eats almost nothing, to keep herself from it, only just enough to keep her eyes open and her blood flowing through her veins. (p. 26)

The quote explains that at the age of seventeen, Janey hasn't yet experienced menstruation. So Janey is not married and has no children. At

this moment, she should already be menstruating and married to have children. However, the rules on the island stipulate that after the summer season when women can be free from their homes, women who are already bleeding are required to find a husband. Janey surprisingly rejects the norm. Janey chose to barely eat to avoid bleeding, which was interpreted as a sign of puberty and readiness for marriage. But she only ate a little to stay alive.

The actions taken by Janey are a physical struggle. Janey tries to control her body by deliberately reducing her food intake. The statement "*only just enough to keep her eyes open and her blood flowing through her veins*" Janey's action to restrain herself from reaching "fruition" is a form of physical resistance to the pressure of societal regulations that want to control her body. By refusing to eat and keeping her body from puberty, Janey physically fights the rules that control her own body.

"I'll swim and find a better one," she said. "Only you and me." (p. 58)

This quote shows Amanda's struggle, she wants to swim across the ocean so she can look for better things and escape the oppression she has been experiencing. Amanda's action to swim across the ocean reflects her courage in taking big risks to achieve freedom and independence. Even though the action is fraught with danger and uncertainty, Amanda remains steadfast in her determination to pursue her dreams and hopes beyond the island where she lives. Amanda's action to swim away from the island is a physical struggle because it involves direct bodily effort. In this context, the

act of swimming illustrates the desire to leave an undesirable place and seek something better, which is an effort that requires physical strength.

3. Emotionally Struggle

The female characters also show their struggle in dealing with emotional oppression. As shown by Amanda's character, she describes the emotional burden she bears due to social expectations and norms that restrict their freedom. Amanda, who realizes that she will give birth to a daughter, feels deep anxiety about her child's future. Her fear is that her daughter will experience the same suffering as she did. In addition, Amanda will also do anything as long as she can get away from the island. The following is data that shows Amanda's struggle emotionally:

“And then the baby started moving and I realized that I have a child inside me that’s going to come. I was so hoping for a son, but I did the ritual, and I’m going to have a daughter, she’s going to be mine, and I can’t—I can’t do this to her.”

“Do what?”

“I can’t make her go through what I did.”

“As a girl, you mean? But what you went through wasn’t unusual,” says Janey. “I mean, your mother is terrible. But it’s the way things are, we—

“No. I, we, need to get away,” Amanda croaks, her voice harsh and desperate and spiking through the dim room.

“Where would you go?” asks Janey innocently.

“Off the island.” (p. 96)

The data shows that Amanda is aware of the great responsibility she has as a mother of the child she is carrying. This triggers an inner conflict that Amanda experiences because she doesn’t want her child have the same oppression experience as she did. Where women must have no control over

themselves and must obey the rules that oppress women. The quote above reflects how Amanda's struggle is emotionally. Amanda feels emotional pressure when she realizes that she is pregnant with a daughter. When she says, "I can't make her go through what I went through," Amanda shows her fear that her daughter will experience the same suffering that she did as a woman in an oppressive society. Her decision to want to "run away from the island" reflects Amanda's struggle to protect her child from the same destiny.

This is one of Amanda's ways of fighting because Amanda not only faces her past trauma but also tries to find a way to protect her child's future, while fighting against the norms that have long oppressed her. In this context, Amanda's actions illustrate Amanda's very strong struggle, where she grapples with fear, helplessness, and anxiety about her child's future. The strong desire to protect her child from the oppression she experiences shows that Amanda is trying to fight against great pressure, as well as thinking of a way out of the situation that is trapping the women.

"I will leave. I don't care what I have to do. I'll kill people if I have to. I'll kill the ferryman. And if I can't find a way, I'll kill her. And myself. I don't care." (p.98)

This quote reflects Amanda's struggle to escape the conditions that made her feel trapped and confined on the island. The phrase "I will go" shows a person's firmness and determination to pursue their freedom and independence. She will do everything to get out of the island she lives on. Even if she killed the person or the boatman, Amanda didn't care because

all she wanted was to get off the island. The statement "I will leave. I don't care what I have to do. I'll kill people if I have to," shows the expression of helplessness and desperation felt by the character. The decision to leave a stressful situation and express a willingness to take extreme action, including violence, illustrates the emotions experienced. Amanda's struggle and courage in stating that she does not care about the consequences of her actions, including using violence, shows that she has such emotional intensity that she is ready to do anything to free herself from the situation that limits her.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the novel *Gather The Daughters* using Irish Marion Young's theory of oppression, the researcher provides conclusions regarding this research and suggestions for further research in this section. The conclusion here discusses the oppression experienced by female characters and how they deal with this oppression. Apart from that, the researcher also provides suggestions for further research that analyzes the same literary work or use the same approach and theory as this research to analyze other literary works.

A. Conclusion

In this section, the researcher divides the result of this study into two parts, the first is the form of oppression experienced by the female characters, and the second discusses the struggle of the female characters against oppression they experience. Various oppressions are experienced by female characters in the novel *Gather The Daughters*. Janey experiences oppression in the form of powerlessness and violence. Vanessa experiences oppression in the form of marginalization, powerlessness, exploitation, and cultural imperialism. Amanda experiences oppression in the form of powerlessness, exploitation, and violence. While Rosie experiences oppression in the form of cultural imperialism and violence.

Apart from that, the researcher also discovered the struggle of the female characters against oppression they experienced. There are three ways that female characters fight oppression. The first is intellectual struggle by trying to learn and think of various ways to find strategies to fight oppression. In addition, women also try to think of new perspectives on the world outside the island they live in. Another way that female characters fight oppression is by fighting physically. Like what Janey did, when she tried to damage her body so that she would not go through puberty. By delaying puberty, Janey could reject all environmental expectations given to women. In addition, female characters also struggle emotionally. Here Amanda is worried about the future of her unborn daughter, because she knows that a woman on the island will be oppressed. So she struggles to find various ways to get out of the island.

B. Suggestion

Awareness of these limitations encourages researcher to provide advice to fellow researcher who will explore the novel *Gather The Daughters* to consider using a different theory. By adopting a different approach, it is hoped that previous research gaps will be completed and the feminist perspective presented will be enriched.

Furthermore, researcher openly welcome input, suggestions and criticism from readers and users. Sharing these views plays an important role in the scientific development process, providing opportunities for research to develop and improve further. By receiving feedback from

multiple points of view, research will be more solid and representative, resulting in a deeper understanding of literary works and related feminist issues.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



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