

**AN ANALYSIS OF WOMAN'S VOICES AND RESISTANCE IN
ROB THIER'S *STORM AND SILENCE* BASED ON BELL
HOOKS' FEMINIST THEORY**

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
MALANG
2026**

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THESIS

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MALANG
2026**

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “An Analysis Of Woman’s Voices And Resistance in Rob Thier’s *Storm and Silence* Based on Bell Hooks’ Feminist Theory” 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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MOTTO

*“Karena sesungguhnya sesudah kesulitan itu ada kemudahan, sesungguhnya
sesudah kesulitan itu ada kemudahan”*

(Q.S Al-Insyirah 5-6)

*"Tidaklah mungkin bagi matahari mengejar bulan dan malam pun tidak dapat
mendahului siang. Masing-masing beredar pada garis edarnya."*

(QS. Yasin: 40)

*“Hadapi semuanya langsung di muka, apapun yang terjadi tidak apa, setiap hari
ku bersyukur melihatmu berselimut harapan, berbekal cerita”*

Hindia (Baskara Putra)

DEDICATION

No journey is ever undertaken alone. Therefore, this thesis is dedicated to the best people who have always accompanied, supported, and strengthened me to this point. With gratitude and love, this work is dedicated to:

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2. My brother, Ahmad Zunurain, for all the support and sacrifices for his younger sister.
3. All extended family for their support
4. Dr. Istiadah, M.A. as the thesis supervisor who has taught and guided the researcher in writing the thesis.
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Malang, May 17th, 2026

Putri Mujdalipah

ABSTRACT

Mujdalipah, Putri (2026) An Analysis Of Woman's Voices And Resistance In Rob Thier's *Storm And Silence* Based On Bell Hooks' Feminist Theory. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Islamic State University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr. Dra. Istiadah, M.A.

Keywords: women's voices, resistance, feminism, bell hooks, Wattpad, digital literature

This study examines the representation of woman's voices and woman's resistance to patriarchal domination in Rob Thier's novel *Storm and Silence*. It aims at exploring how woman's voices are represented through Lilly Linton's character and how woman's resistance is portrayed in the novel. It was written using feminist bell hook theory, specifically the concept of women's voices and speaking from the margin. The source of the research data is the novel *Storm and Silence*, published on Wattpad. Data was collected through in depth reading and citation recording relevant to the focus of the research. The findings of the study show that Lilly Linton's character is portrayed as a woman who dares to voice her opinions, resists gender subordination, and challenges patriarchal norms that limit women in the social, political, and economic spheres. The representation of woman's voices is evident through Lilly's courage in expressing herself, expressing criticism, and fighting for her freedom. Meanwhile, forms of resistance are manifested through the rejection of gender norms, the struggle for freedom of rights, the courage to enter the public sphere, and the resistance to male domination.

مستخلص البحث

مجداليه، بوترى (2026) تحليل لأصوات النساء ومقاومتهن في كتاب روب ثير *Storm and Silence* استنادا إلى نظرية بيل هوكس النسوية. أطروحة البكالوريوس. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة الدولة الإسلامية في مولانا مالك إبراهيم ملنغ. المستشارة الدكتورة دكتور. إستياداه، ماساتشوستس

الكلمات المفتاحية: أصوات النساء، المقاومة، النسوية، خطافات الجرس، واتباد، الأدب الرقمي.

تفحص هذه الدراسة تمثيل أصوات النساء ومقاومتهن للهيمنة الأبوية في رواية روب ثير "عاصفة وصمت". يهدف إلى استكشاف كيف تمثل أصوات النساء من خلال شخصية ليلي لينتون وكيف يتم تصوير مقاومة النساء في الرواية. كُتب باستخدام نظرية الجرس النسوي، وتحديدًا مفهوم الأصوات النسائية والتحدث من الهامش. مصدر بيانات البحث هو رواية "عاصفة وصمت" المنشورة على واتباد. تم جمع البيانات من خلال قراءة معمقة وتسجيل استشهادات ذات صلة بتركيز البحث. تظهر نتائج الدراسة أن شخصية ليلي لينتون تصور كامرأة تجرؤ على التعبير عن آرائها، وتقاوم الخضوع الجنسي، وتتحدى الأعراف الأبوية التي تحد من النساء في المجالات الاجتماعية والسياسية والاقتصادية. يظهر تمثيل أصوات النساء من خلال شجاعة ليلي في التعبير عن نفسها، والتعبير عن النقد، والنضال من أجل حريتها. وفي الوقت نفسه، تظهر أشكال المقاومة من خلال رفض المعايير الجندرية، والنضال من أجل حرية الحقوق، والشجاعة لدخول المجال العام، والمقاومة للهيمنة الذكورية. استنادا إلى هذه النتائج، يمكن الاستنتاج أن فيلم "عاصفة وصمت" يصور النساء كعاملات نشطات لديهن الصوت والوعي والشجاعة لتحدي الهيمنة الأبوية.

ABSTRAK

Mujdalipah, Putri (2026) Analisis Suara Dan Perlawanan Perempuan Dalam *Storm and Silence* Rob Thier Berdasarkan Teori Feminis Bell Hooks. Tesis Sarjana. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Dr. Dra. Istiadah, M.A.

Kata kunci: suara perempuan, perlawanan, feminisme, bell hooks, Wattpad, literatur digital

Studi ini meneliti representasi suara perempuan dan perlawanan perempuan terhadap dominasi patriarki dalam novel Rob Thier *Storm and Silence*. Ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana suara perempuan direpresentasikan melalui karakter Lilly Linton dan bagaimana perlawanan perempuan digambarkan dalam novel. Itu ditulis menggunakan teori bell hook feminis, khususnya konsep suara perempuan dan berbicara dari pinggiran. Sumber data penelitian adalah novel *Storm and Silence*, yang diterbitkan di Wattpad. Data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan mendalam dan pencatatan kutipan yang relevan dengan fokus penelitian. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa karakter Lilly Linton digambarkan sebagai perempuan yang berani menyuarakan pendapatnya, menolak subordinasi gender, dan menantang norma-norma patriarki yang membatasi perempuan di bidang sosial, politik, dan ekonomi. Representasi suara perempuan terbukti melalui keberanian Lilly dalam mengekspresikan dirinya, mengekspresikan kritik, dan memperjuangkan kebebasannya. Sementara itu, bentuk-bentuk perlawanan diwujudkan melalui penolakan norma-norma gender, perjuangan untuk kebebasan hak, keberanian untuk masuk ke ruang publik, dan perlawanan terhadap dominasi laki-laki. Berdasarkan temuan tersebut, dapat disimpulkan bahwa *Storm and Silence* menggambarkan perempuan sebagai agen aktif yang memiliki suara, kesadaran, dan keberanian untuk menantang dominasi patriarki.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the foundation of the study by explaining the background of the study, the research problems, the significance of the study, the scope and limitations, and the definitions of key terms. These sections provide the rationale, objectives, and conceptual framework that guide the analysis conducted in this research.

A. The Background of the Study

The current Wattpad platform is not only a means of entertainment, but also an open space that can be used for the representation of social issues and the expression of woman's identity. Many Wattpad stories explore emotional and social topics, even personal experiences related to gender and power issues. However, as Fast, Vachovsky, and Bernstein (2016) noted in their paper, narratives within this digital community often reinforce gender stereotypes, with male characters portrayed as significantly more dominant than female characters. However, other studies have found that Wattpad also provides a space and is often used to express ideological beliefs and resistance to them, particularly in studies of patriarchal domination or feminist studies (Isna et al., 2025; Maiza & Agustina, 2023; Sakti, 2025). This also reminds us that these gender issues persist today and have not been completely eradicated.

In this context, the development of digital technology has succeeded in generating various forms of literacy and new cultures, with digital storytelling platforms, Wattpad has finally become one of the examples of the diverse platforms

available as a space for expression. Since its first launch in 2006, Wattpad has managed to grow rapidly to become one of the most popular literacy platforms and is used by people all over the world. The platform is easily accessible and provides an open space for anyone to write, read, and share stories, making it part of a global digital literacy phenomenon that transcends the boundaries between readers and writers (Pianzola, Rebora, & Lauer, 2020).

Global trends occurring on other platforms such as Instagram and Twitter are in line with the phenomenon of woman's voice representation in digital literacy. For example, Caldeira (2024) in her research highlights that digital feminism on Instagram utilizes hashtags and online communities to be a means to introduce and emphasize the importance of gender awareness and empowering women. Many also discuss that social media plays an important role in expanding the space for activism and expression for women in the digital realm. Therefore, platforms such as Wattpad can be seen as a form of voicing feminism in a broader digital literacy space, where female characters in stories are depicted as trying to speak from the margins, express themselves fully, and speak from the edge of the patriarchal system.

Theoretically, this study is based on the feminist ideas of bell hooks, particularly in the concept of woman's voices and speaking from the margins. Hooks (2000) asserts that feminism does not only focus on the struggle against male domination, but also discusses the struggle to eliminate all forms of oppression from all sides. She strongly rejects feminism that is exclusive to middle class white women and loudly voices inclusive feminism based on collective consciousness. In

the context of digital literacy, hooks' ideas are considered relevant because through digital platforms such as Wattpad, many people write about marginalized positions and cultures, and use writing as a way to reclaim their voices and resist domination (Biana, 2023; Perazzone, 2023; Sakti, 2025).

A number of studies have examined literary works from various social and cultural contexts using bell hooks' feminist theory. Biana (2022) successfully developed a critical discourse analysis framework based on hooks' thinking that can be used to interrogate and dissect in detail the representation of gender, race, and class in popular media. Several studies have also been found to highlight the importance of feminist awareness in recognizing and understanding the oppression of sexism, racism, and the interrelated actions of capitalism. Meanwhile, Perazzone (2023) also mentioned that the concept of radical love and political solidarity hooks is one of the choices of patriarchal domination culture.

In addition, Ferrari (2023) connects bell hooks' feminist ideas with the field of education and says that feminist theories are based on the life experiences of women who are in marginalized positions. Similarly, Washington (2024) uses the feminist framework of bell hooks for qualitative and narrative inquiry, highlighting women's voices, love, and resistance as central elements in understanding the experiences of those in marginalized positions. Jose (2024) also uses the central theory of margin bell hooks to analyze the layered acts of oppression experienced by indigenous women in the Philippines, placing speaking from the periphery included in acts of political resistance. In understanding, previous research has

shown that bell hooks' feminist thinking consistently prioritizes voice, resistance, critical awareness, and solidarity.

However, while these studies successfully apply bell hooks' theory in educational, social, and cultural contexts, they have not yet specifically examined popular digital literary platforms such as Wattpad. Therefore, this study seeks to extend previous research by applying bell hooks' feminist theory to female characters in Wattpad stories as a form of digital feminist articulation.

On the other hand, there are also many studies that discuss Wattpad as a form of digital literature that depicts gender ideology and popular culture. Fast, Vachovsky, and Bernstein (2016) wrote in their paper that they found significant gender bias in approximately 600,000 Wattpad stories, namely that men are more often portrayed as strong, dominant, and aggressive characters, while women are portrayed as passive and emotional. Meanwhile, research conducted by Chandi and Trehan (2022) on BTS fanfiction on Wattpad found that although most stories still reinforce patriarchy, on the other hand, although not many, there are also narratives that portray men as more emotional and women as independent.

Darmawan (2023) also conducted research on the representation of sexual violence in Wattpad teen novels and found that, although some texts normalize violence, several narratives highlight or depict resistance to it. Another study conducted by Saniro (2021) on Dosa Faredita also highlights that Wattpad is an important and wide space for women writers and anyone else to speak up to fight for the freedom to make life choices through their narratives. In addition, Pianzola, Rebora, and Lauer (2020) consider that Wattpad is a social reading platform where

readers can shape the meaning of texts through comments, interactions, and participation.

Looking at the main points that have been found in previous studies previous studies, we can conclude that Wattpad has a dual function: this platform is not only a space that can be used to reinforce patriarchal stereotypes, but also as a space that opens up opportunities for free resistance to these stereotypes through the freedom to create that this platform provides, so that writers can freely express what they want to raise or voice.

In addition to Wattpad, several studies that talk about digital literacy also talk about social media as a good place for people to express themselves, both in the context of activism and personal expression, especially about feminism. Caldeira's (2024) research indicates that the practice of digital feminism on Instagram reveals that, despite the platform appearing to offer a broad space for women to articulate themselves and foster solidarity, ethical and structural challenges persist that constrain this freedom.

Several authors assert that social media can serve as an extension of woman's activism through campaigns like #MeTooIndia; however, it also presents significant risks, including digital harassment and access disparities. In addition to being a place for activism, social media has also become a place for women to read and write. In the realm of digital literature, Vega (2022) analyzes Rupi Kaur's Instagram poems as a means of affective empowerment that provides tranquility and emotional healing to her audience, whereas Duffy (2024) regards Kaur's work as a visual feminist medium that intertwines the body, art, and activism. In general,

these studies show that digital space is an important new narrative medium that allows female characters in digital texts to show their emotional complexity, build solidarity, and negotiate their identities in a world where power is not equal.

In the context of digital literature, Vega (2022) interprets Rupi Kaur's poetry that is crowded on Instagram as a form of affective empowerment that provides calm and emotional healing for its readers, while Duffy (2024) sees Kaur's work that has succeeded in connecting the body, activism and art as a visual medium. Simultaneously, this study provides knowledge that digital spaces are actively playing as a new narrative medium that has the potential to represent woman's characters in digital texts to bring emotional complexity, build solidarity, and renegotiate their identities in the context of unequal power relations.

In bell hooks' feminist perspective, digital space is not only understood as a medium of expression, but also as a margin, that is, a space outside the center of power that allows marginalized groups to speak (Hooks, 1992). Bell hooks (1989) asserts in her writings that speaking from the fringes is included in political action because voices emerging from marginalized positions have the capability to challenge and disrupt the growing patriarchal dominance. In this context, Wattpad, as one of the popular digital literary platforms, has evolved into a marginal space that provides opportunities for anyone to voice their experiences, vulnerabilities, and critical awareness, which may not have previously been considered in the conventional literature (Bell et al., 2018; Kait, 2014; Rubel, 1999; Saidah & Fitriana, n.d.; Setiawan et al., 2024).

Based on previous studies, it was concluded that research on digital feminism has been conducted extensively, both through social media analysis (Caldeira, 2024) and digital literary works such as poetry on the Instagram platform (Vega, 2022; Duffy, 2024). Meanwhile, several studies have also been conducted using Wattpad narratives as their object from a feminist perspective (Chandi & Trehan, 2022; Darmawan, 2023; Saniro, 2021). However, it was also found that bell hooks' theoretical framework had not been used directly in most of these studies to understand how woman's voices emerged, were negotiated, and then localized in a new context, namely popular digital literacy.

Therefore, this study fills this gap by applying bell hooks' feminist theory, particularly the concepts of woman's voices and speaking from the margins, to analyze Rob Thier's English language Wattpad work, *Storm and Silence*. Through this analysis, the research aims at exploring how women's voices are represented through Lilly Linton's character and how woman's resistance is portrayed in the novel.

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on the background discussed earlier, the focus or problems formulation of this study is as follows:

1. What are woman's voices represented in Rob Thier's *Storm and Silence* novel?
2. How do women's voices in *Storm and Silence* narrative represent the practice of "speaking from the margins" as a form of resistance to patriarchal domination according to bell hooks?

C. The Significant of the Study

Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to literary studies, particularly contemporary feminist studies, with a theoretical foundation on how bell hooks' theory can be applied in the context of digital literacy, which is currently popular. By analyzing the representation of woman's voices on Wattpad, this research helps to broaden understanding and enrich the literature on digital feminism and feminist literary criticism in the information technology era, as well as enriching feminist literary studies by expanding the application of bell hooks' concept of speaking from the margins in the analysis of popular digital literature. This research also responds to increasingly significant developments in digital literacy and reading culture on digital platforms. Practically, this research is expected to serve as a foundation and reference for students, researchers, or educators who wish to study gender, digital space literature, or feminist theory.

D. The Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on English language digital fiction, specifically the fictional story *Storm and Silence* by Rob Thier. This work is published on the Wattpad platform with the character of a female protagonist who experiences inner conflicts and struggles with complex social relationships. The representation of women in this work is the main focus of this study. This study is limited by theme, characteristics, text narrative, and narrative perspective. This paper does not discuss the reader's perspective or social interactions among Wattpad users, with the hope

that this study can provide new knowledge that focuses on the representation of women as assessed from the narrative of the story.

E. The Definitions of Key Terms

1. Digital Feminism

The form of feminist movements and expressions that are currently booming in the online space emphasize solidarity, empowerment, and redefining women's identities in digital culture (Caldeira, 2024; Neog, 2022).

2. Woman's Voices

According to bell hooks (2000), woman's voices are described as expressions of woman's experiences, emotions, perspectives, and identities conveyed through language and narrative as a form of rejection and resistance to patriarchal silencing.

3. Wattpad Narratives

Fictional works are published on the Wattpad platform as one of the famous digital platforms, then written, shared and can be accessed online. In addition to being shared, this space also provides an opportunity for writers and readers to actively interact in the global community (Azdina Nur & Rosadi, 2022).

CHAPTER II

THE REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the theoretical foundations and key concepts used as analytical tools to address research problems. Discussions include feminism, feminist literary criticism, women's voices, the concept of speaking from the margin, and digital narratives. These theories are used as tools to analyze how woman's voices are represented and negotiated in Wattpad's novel through the framework of bell hooks feminism.

A. Feminist Literary Criticism

According to Sugihastuti, feminist literary criticism addresses patriarchal dominance in literary texts and advocates for equitable representation of women (Ramadhini et al., 2025). This study employs feminist literary criticism to examine the representation of women in literary works.

In the past, literature has often limited how women are shown by using stereotypes like women as objects of love or women as symbols of morality (Liu et al., 2024). Feminist literary criticism sees this portrayal as a way to spread patriarchal ideas. The rise of digital literature, on the other hand, has made room for more complex and varied portrayals of women.

Digital literature like Wattpad lets anyone write and share stories without having to follow strict rules set by institutions. This creates chances for female characters to have agency, inner struggles, and a clear understanding of how gender power works. This study utilizes bell hooks' feminist framework to analyze the

portrayal of women in Wattpad narratives as active subjects articulating their own experiences (Maiza & Agustina, 2023).

This study employs a feminist literary criticism to analyze Wattpad narratives as both popular fiction and cultural texts that depict women's experiences in the digital realm. Bell hooks' theoretical framework bolsters this methodology by underscoring the significance of voice, experience, and resistance as fundamental components in feminist analysis.

In bell hooks' framework, feminist literary criticism interrogates the portrayal of women while also focusing on the marginalized status of the voices within the narrative. Hooks underscores that the experiences of women, particularly those from marginalized groups, should be paramount in feminist analysis. Consequently, feminist literary criticism interprets texts not only as aesthetic artifacts but also as political arenas for the interrogation or contestation of patriarchal ideology. This study uses feminist literary criticism to look at how female characters are created, how their voices are shown, and how much these stories reinforce or go against patriarchal norms.

Bell hooks argues that mainstream feminism is bad because it only talks about the experiences of middle-class white women. She stresses the need for inclusive feminism, which takes into account the experiences of women from underrepresented groups, such as poor women, black women, and women from less privileged socio-cultural backgrounds. So, hooks says that feminism is about working together to free everyone, not just one person.

Feminism is a key way to understand how stories shape woman's identities and show how gender power works in the world of literature and culture. Digital platforms like Wattpad are pertinent venues for examination, as women are depicted not merely as passive characters but as individuals who generate resistance and articulate opinions within the narrative.

B. Bell hooks' Theory

Among feminist theorists, bell hooks offers influential feminist concepts that emphasize the importance of woman's voices, lived experiences, and resistance in feminist analysis. In this study, the feminist theory proposed by bell hooks is employed through the concepts of woman's voices and speaking from the margins to examine how literary narratives function as spaces where women articulate their perspectives, express their experiences, and challenge patriarchal domination.

The name bell hooks is intentionally written in lowercase letters because it reflects the author's own stylistic and political choice. By adopting this form, she sought to shift attention away from her personal identity and toward the significance of her ideas and writings. Following her preference and the convention adopted in her published works, this study consistently writes her name in lowercase throughout the discussion.

1. Woman's Voices

According to bell hooks (2000), women's voices are the ways that women talk about their experiences, points of view, feelings, and identities through language and stories as a way to fight against being silenced by men. Bell hooks (2000) asserts that the endeavor to reclaim one's voice constitutes a political act,

particularly for women who have been silenced by the patriarchal system. Voice is not just the ability to speak; it is also the effort to be heard, recognized, and validated.

In digital narratives such as those on Wattpad, woman's voices come through in the way the story is told, the characters' inner thoughts, the conflicts that female characters face, and themes that have to do with personal experiences and power dynamics. Stories that let women speak for themselves help readers understand woman's lives from their own point of view, not from the point of view of men. So, woman's voices can be used to fight against stereotypes that say women are weak, passive, or dependent.

Women are often characters in stories on Wattpad that have voices and experiences that are unique to women. This study considers the portrayal of woman's voices in Wattpad narratives as a manifestation of feminist consciousness, enabling female characters to articulate their vulnerability, resistance, and agency within the digital realm. This voice is seen as a way to fight against stereotypes that say women are weak, passive, or dependent. Consequently, the analysis centers on the manner in which female characters express their thoughts, emotions, and life decisions within the narratives.

Bell hooks' feminist viewpoint posits that digital space serves not only as a medium of expression but also as a margin an area beyond the locus of power that facilitates the voices of marginalized groups (Hooks, 1992). Bell hooks contends that articulating perspectives from the margins constitutes a political act, as voices originating from marginal positions possess the capacity to contest and destabilize

entrenched patriarchal hegemony (Hooks, 1989). In this context, Wattpad, a well-known digital literary platform that isn't part of the mainstream literary canon, can be seen as a marginal space where the story shows female characters who talk about their own experiences, weaknesses, and critical awareness. These are things that are often left out of traditional literature (Bold, 2018; Thomas, 2011).

In this case, woman's voices in literature are divided into several forms that will then be discussed one by one afterwards, namely voice represented as self-expression, voice as critical awareness, voice as future imagination, voice as an emotional expression, and voice as assertive argumentation.

Woman's voices according to bell hooks are not only positioned as a means of verbal communication, but also as a political instrument used to free the shackles of all forms of oppression by the patriarchal culture of white supremacy. Hooks writes in her classic publication that the change from silence to speaking is a manifestation of the transformation of the individual from a passive object to an active subject who can determine and fight for their own destiny. Woman's representation in the context of literary and media analysis can be classified into five typologies of voice manifestations drawn from hooks' foundational works:

a. Voice as Critical Awareness

Voice as critical awareness is the initial foundation before a woman is able to resist. This concept is derived from the hooks book entitled *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984). Hooks emphasizes the importance of critical awareness through an intersectionality approach, in which women realize that the

oppression they experience is not singular, but rather layered due to the linkages between gender, race, and social class (hooks, 1984).

In text analysis, this voice manifests when female characters begin to show the oppositional gaze ability formulated by hooks in *Black Looks: Race and Representation* (1992), namely the cognitive ability to read, analyze, and question the power structure and patriarchal norms that shackle them. Characters no longer accept injustice as nature, but as a product of social construction that must be reconstructed.

b. Voice as Assertive Argumentation

When critical awareness has formed, the voice transforms into a confrontational act that hooks refer to as *Talking Back*. Based on her original journal article *Talking Back* and the book *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*, hooks defines this act specifically as the courage to speak equally and assertively to authority figures (such as fathers, husbands, or dominant institutions) who seek to silence them. (Hooks, 2015)

Voice as assertive argumentation is judged through dialogue or narrative in which female characters make rational, assertive, and rejecting arguments that are blind. This act of speaking carries social risks, but it is essential to break down the secular dominance of men in the text.

c. Voice as Self Expression

Voice as self-expression is closely related to woman's efforts to reclaim authority over their own bodies, identities, and narratives. In her theoretical essay *Theory as Liberatory Practice* (1991), hooks states that writing personal narratives

functions as a process of self-recovery to affirm the existence of their subjectivity (Hooks, 1991).

Patriarchal culture tends to define women based on the male gaze. Through honest self expression (speaking the truth), whether through actions, life choices, or literacy activities (such as writing diaries or creative works), female characters manage to get out of marginalization, the character moves from the status of an object defined by others to a subject who defines herself.

d. Voice as Emotional Expression

Patriarchal systems often delegitimize woman's emotions (such as anger, sadness, or trauma) by labeling them as a form of hysteria or weakness. Instead, hooks view the articulation of emotions as a crucial part of liberation. This thought is clearly stated in the essay *Sisterhood: Political Solidarity between Women* (Hooks, 1986).

Voice as emotional expression in the framework of hooks manifests in Love Ethics and emotional catharsis. Publicly voicing pain is not a sign of weakness, but the first step in healing and building political solidarity between women (sisterhood). The emotions voiced serve as a collective empathic glue to fight oppression together (Hooks, 1986).

e. Voice as Future Imagination

Women's voices not only serve to mourn or protest the oppression of today, but also project a new social order. Through her popular manifesto, *Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*, hooks emphasized that the end of the feminism

movement is the establishment of a New Vision of a world that is inclusive and free from all forms of sexist domination and exploitation. (Hooks, 2000)

Voice as future imagination is represented when female characters voice alternative ideologies, dreams, or blueprints for the future that uphold gender justice and class equality. Literature becomes a utopian space in which this future imagination is tested and offered to the reader as an agent of change.

2. Speaking from the Margin

Speaking from the margins is a central concept in bell hooks' feminist thought. Marginalization, meanwhile, is defined as a process that marginalizes women, preventing them from acting, expressing themselves, and realizing themselves because woman's roles are directed by male dominance (Permana & Maulana, 2021). Here, the margins can be understood as social spaces occupied by individuals or groups marginalized from centers of power. According to hooks (2000), the margins are not only sites of oppression but can also be spaces for resistance and the production of alternative meanings. With circumstances forcing female characters into marginalized positions, narratives provide opportunities for resistance to dominant discourses, along with the process of reclaiming and rebuilding woman's identities.

Bell hooks (1989) contends that articulating from the margins transcends mere speech, constituting a political practice that serves as a mechanism of resistance to patriarchal hegemony. The margins are perceived not only as zones of oppression but also as sites for the creation of alternative meanings that empower women to cultivate critical consciousness and navigate their identities (Hooks,

1992). Consequently, narratives that position female characters in marginal roles create opportunities for resistance against the center of power, simultaneously serving as a vehicle for deconstructing gender hierarchies and restoring woman's agency.

Wattpad can be seen as a marginal space in digital literature because it is not part of the mainstream literary canon. The stories that are shared on this platform often show experiences that are not well represented in traditional literature through the use of female characters. Putting female characters on the edges of the story lets them talk about their own experiences and work out their own identities as women in a system that is mostly male.

This study employs the concept of speaking from the margin to examine how female characters in Wattpad novel articulate their experiences of marginalization, resistance, and self-awareness. So, people see Wattpad stories as more than just fun; they also see them as a way to practice digital feminism.

C. Digital Narrative

Digitalization has started to help many fields, especially the digital one, and literature is no exception. Because of these changes, a lot of literary works are no longer just in traditional forms like printed books and manuscripts. Technology and social media have a big impact on how books are made, shared, and read today. A lot of writers now use digital media to talk about what's going on in culture, identity, communication, and social change. Not only do literary works show how globalization has changed society and culture, but they also show how technology and mass media have changed how people interact and talk to each other every day.

In this context, social media and digital technology serve not only as communication tools but also as instruments that influence societal perceptions and interpretations of the surrounding world.

Now digital platforms allow writers to connect directly with readers globally through platforms such as blogs, web pages and even electronic publishing applications while also slightly diminishing the conventional publishing process. This development opens up new opportunities for amateur or novice writers who are still trying to improve their writing freely to explore ideas and concepts more broadly and deeply. Digital technology has also enabled literature to develop in more interactive forms, such as electronic literature, multimedia narratives, and interactive storytelling that combine visual, audio, and text elements into a more dynamic reading experience (Zambahri & Wasli, 2025). In addition, writers are also able to freely express their ideas and views on a phenomenon that is happening or is currently being discussed through digital literary works. One of the topics that is quite widely discussed in digital narratives is feminism.

In this case, the Wattpad platform is also a space for expressing and voicing ideas, including the possibility of voicing feminism in the form of digital narratives. Wattpad is an online platform that facilitates the consumption and creation of written works. Wattpad is popular as a place to visit and share feelings through short stories, novels, and other forms of imaginative literature. Wattpad readers can also interact with authors through the reaction or comment feature, authors usually leave notes at the end of the chapter and readers can reply with comments. Thus, Wattpad is not only a medium for entertainment but also a platform that is mainly used for

entertainment purposes and is also noted as a medium for publishing literature. Numerous studies have confirmed Wattpad's efficacy as a resource for literacy development (Pratiwi & Dewi, 2023).

Wattpad has a lot of potential as a digital literacy tool, and there are many ways to use it as a literacy tool. But there are two main ways to use Wattpad. First, readers from all walks of life and all over the world can use this platform. This means that Wattpad can be a good way to help people learn more and become better readers. Second, Wattpad gives writers of all skill levels a place to improve their writing and share their thoughts. Consequently, additional research is required to ascertain the degree to which Wattpad can serve as an effective platform for enhancing digital literacy and expressing ideas through literacy (Simanjuntak et al., 2021). Consequently, investigating Wattpad's capacity as a medium to discern representations of women's voices and articulate perspectives from the margins. This study employs Wattpad as a medium to identify digital literary works that articulate woman's voices and convey perspectives from the margins within a narrative framework.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology is designed to be in lines with the research objectives and the theoretical framework of bell hooks' feminist literary criticism. This chapter explains the research design, data sources, research data collection, and research data analysis.

A. Research Design

In this study, the researcher uses feminist literary criticism as the main analytical approach. Through this approach, researcher can analyze text as product born from woman's subjective experiences, rather than simply works seen as story written from a masculine perspective. According to Maggie Humm, literary criticism helps explain the oppression of women (Janah & Septiana, 2022). Feminist literary criticism was chosen to emphasize in-depth reading and critical analysis of literary texts.

Specifically, this study adopts feminist literary criticism that emphasizes women as character, with bell hooks' feminist theory as its theoretical basis. Bell hooks' concepts of speaking from the margin, woman's voices, and resistance lead to an analysis of how female characters express marginalized experiences through literary narratives. With these concepts, researcher can analyze how literary texts can function as a medium of resistance to reclaim women's voices and challenge patriarchal domination.

The analysis was carried out by applying in depth reading and analysis to the critical text of novels published on the digital literary platform Wattpad. The selected novel were then analyzed to identify narrative strategies, character representations, and thematic patterns that reflected woman's voices and forms of resistance. By applying feminist literary criticism in the context of digital literature, this study questions how Wattpad functions as an alternative space to express marginalized voices and negotiate gender based power relations.

This study specifically aims to examine how woman's voices in Wattpad narratives function as a practice of speaking from the margins that represents a form of resistance against patriarchal domination, as proposed in bell hooks' feminist theory.

B. Data Sources

The data for this study used primary data. Primary data was obtained from the English-language work of fiction entitled *Storm and Silence* by Rob Thier. *Storm and Silence* is an English-language digital fiction novel by Rob Thier published on the Wattpad platform. Based on character interactions and plot development, this novel is considered an expression of digital feminism, because the female characters in it are involved in the practice of speaking from the margins as a form of resistance against male domination. Other data is obtained by utilizing information available in the author's notes at the end of the chapter, which are usually added by the author to interact with the reader.

This work has been published on Wattpad. The researcher chose this work for several reasons. First, the story features women as the main characters. Second, this work is among the works of fiction with the highest ratings and popularity. Third, this work contains elements of feminism. This story was chosen because it is relevant to the focus of the research. Although packaged as fiction, this story is still suitable for research from a feminist perspective because it presents female characters who have voices, emotions, and the ability to speak and move beyond their limiting positions

C. Data Collection Techniques

Data collection in this study conducted by reading *Storm and Silence* by Rob Thier in depth and comprehensively. Sections representing woman's voices, marginal experiences and resistance, as well as gender stereotypes identified and recorded. Data collection focuses on the narrative perspective, character development, conflict, and themes related to gender power relations. Data collected by marking and quoting narratives that will correspond to the selected concepts, woman's voices and speaking from the margin, such as dialogue excerpts that show the offering of positions, narratives that show female resistance, or the inner monologues of female characters that show consistency with the data needed by the researcher.

D. Data Analysis Techniques

The data analyzed using the methods or approaches described in the research design section, employing a feminist literary criticism approach, with bell hooks'

feminist theory as the theoretical framework. This analysis uses deep reading and critical text analysis as the methods of analysis. The analytical steps in this study carried out sequentially by taking data citations and identifying parts of the narratives that feature female voices such as inner monologues, dialogues, and conflicts experienced by female characters. The data that has been obtained is then classified based on the experiences of marginalization experienced by female characters in the narrative. After that, these woman's voices that have been taken will be analyzed to see how their representation shows the practice of speaking from the periphery by adjusting based on the concept of bell hooks feminism. The practice of speaking from the periphery is then interpreted as a form of symbolic resistance to patriarchal domination contained in the Wattpad novel. The results of this analysis does not stop at the mere description of representation, after which is continued to the direction to obtain the results of a theoretical understanding of power relations, marginal positions and forms of resistance represented through woman's voices in novel texts.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains the results of the researcher's analysis with the aim at providing answers to the formulation of research problems regarding the representation of woman's voices, as well as the practice of speaking from the margins in the novel *Storm and Silence* by Rob Thier using the theoretical framework of bell hooks. By reading deeply, the analyst focuses on how the female protagonist represents the awareness, experience, and form of resistance to patriarchal domination contained in the narrative of the characters in the novel. In addition, this chapter also explains how to apply wattpad as a digital narrative medium used in voicing feminism.

The representation of woman's voices and resistance in this study was analyzed through several main categories, namely woman's voices, resistance, and marginalization. These categories are used to delve into the dynamics of woman's positions in patriarchal social structures, as well as how the protagonist's character undergoes a process of critical awareness and dares to emerge as an active subject.

In this novel, the main character is presented as a woman who lives in a social system that limits her freedom of movement and participation, especially in the public and political spheres. However, through the various experiences and conditions he faces, the main character shows the development from a marginalized and unheard position to an individual who has the courage, awareness, and ability to fight and fight. She bravely confronts various challenges, gender norms,

including social pressures, and patriarchal constructions that seek to silence her voice.

A. Representation of Woman's Voices in *Storm and Silence* Narrative

The representation of woman's voices in this novel can be found through several main forms, namely voice as self expression, voice as critical awareness, voice as future imagination, voice as emotional expression, and voice as assertive argumentation.

In the novel *Storm and Silence*, the representation of woman's voices is shown through various expressions shown by the character Lilly Linton. This can be seen through dialogue, internal thinking, emotional expression, argumentation, and the character's critical views on social norms that limit women. When viewed from a bell hooks perspective, women's voices are concerned with how women express their experiences, identities, emotions, and perspectives as a form of effort to be heard and recognized in the patriarchal system.

Therefore, the analysis in this subchapter focuses on how woman's voices are represented in the narrative through the way Lilly speaks, thinks, expresses emotions, and expresses criticism of gender norms. In the novel, Lily is described as an active female character, especially in expressing her opinions, desires, and denials of various forms of sexism. This is contrary to the stereotype that existed at that time, which considered that women were passive figures, and did not have the right to choose as they wished. This shows that the author did not make Lily's character just to make the story more interesting, but also to voice her opinion as a

form of criticism of the rules imposed in the Victorian era. If Lily's character were portrayed as submissive, obedient, and solely focused on marriage much like the stereotypical woman of the Victorian era not only would the plot become less engaging, but readers would also fail to recognize the injustices or flaws in the system of that time. Through Lily's character, the author invites us to consider that women need not conform to traditional feminine standards; they, too, have the right to choose.

1. Voice as Self Expression

One way in which woman's voices are represented as a form of self expression in *Storm and Silence* is seen in how Lilly directly expresses her desires. This voice in the narrative emerges not only through a major challenge to the patriarchal system, but also through woman's courage to openly state what they want. "*Well, we'll just have to see, won't we, Sir, I said with a smile and curtsied*" (chptr.1). In that quote, Lilly demonstrates her freedom of choice. At this point, a vote had already taken place among several candidates. Lilly exercised her right to vote and chose Whip as the leader. However, most people disapproved of Lilly's choice because Whip was seen as an extreme rebel leader and considered a threat to the general public. Nevertheless, Lilly calmly voiced her opinion in response to those who disapproved of her choice.

In the setting of 19th-century Victorian society, woman were generally confined to the domestic sphere and were not considered suitable for work in the public sphere, especially in male-dominated professional fields. This quote also

shows that Lilly conveys her purpose directly, boldly and without hesitation, she also speaks as a representative of woman who state that woman are active agents who have their own desires and choices in life. Lilly's move forward to ask for the job illustrates a woman's agency. Women are given space to speak for themselves, so that they are not only objects discussed by patriarchal society, this is evident in the way Lilly speaks firmly, which also shows that women are being strengthened in their character, no longer represented as passive figures who can only be seen and accept social decisions. This is theoretically in line with the concept of woman's voices in bell hooks's theory, which highlights that women need to express their experiences, perspectives, and identities in order to be seen, heard, acknowledged, and valued for their existence in patriarchal systems.

Furthermore, there is a quote where Lily shows how desire grows inside her, so that the form of voice that arises is through internal reflection. "*My independence? My chance to build a career as a free woman?*" (chptr.7). This piece shows that freedom for Lilly is not only related to physical conditions, but also to social and economic freedom as a woman. It can be seen that women are also portrayed as having clear ambitions and life goals and do not always follow how social norms dictate their behavior in a patriarchal environment; there is an awareness of the need to free oneself from the shackles of existing social norms. The patriarchal culture has always seen women as financially and socially dependent entities on men, thus, Lilly's desire is present as a form of resistance to that construction. Lilly's voice in this quote emerges as a powerful expression of women's experiences and aspirations, which makes her fit the bell hooks concept

that women must reclaim their own voices and identities. The phrase "free woman" is used to emphasize that women are actually aware of the limitations that bind them not to break the rules in society.

Another form of women's voice is also seen from a quote showing Lilly's refusal of Colonel Remington's invitation to dance at a party hosted by Sir Philip Willkins:

"Will you do me the honour of dancing with me, Miss Linton?" he repeated.

"Err... no," I said.

He turned a bit red in the face, and went away, looking rather affronted. Hm... Perhaps that had not quite been according to etiquette? I racked my brains, trying to remember my aunt's lessons. Hadn't there been something about a lady never being allowed to refuse a dance unless she had already promised it to another gentleman? Well, if there was such a rule, it was complete bollocks. I should have the right to choose not to dance with whomever I bloody well pleased! (chptr.12).

This quote clearly shows a refusal of an invitation, implying that women also have the right to choose what they want to do and what they don't, or whom they want and whom they don't. This quote also indicates that a patriarchal system has existed and been passed down through generations, and this is confirmed when Lilly refuses the invitation to dance, Colonel Remington's face turning red as if displeased by it. However, Lilly rejected this rule, because according to her, all women have the right to choose what is right in their own eyes without interference from a system or domination. This rejection was confirmed by Lilly's use of the phrase "*it was complete bollocks,*" showing her strong disapproval of the rule. The passage concludes with Lilly's statement ending with an exclamation mark. It is as if the author wants to imply that this is a strong rejection of that rule. Bell hooks

also argued in her book *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (1981) that being a feminist means seeking freedom for everyone both men and women from the patterns of sexism. One form of her struggle is to reject the doctrine that “*women must be obedient,*” and this is part of self liberation.

2. Voice as Critical Awareness

The following dialogue was spoken by Lily as a form of criticism of disapproval of the law that contained patriarchal norms of that era:

“I had taken the time to think very long and sincerely about their arguments, finally coming to the conclusion that said arguments were complete and utter poop” (chptr.1)

This word comes from Lily's reflection that she did not approve of the law that prohibits women from participating in politics, even women are prohibited from exercising their right to vote in elections because women's votes are not considered strong enough to be counted. In this dialogue, Lily expresses her criticism and frustration with the patriarchal system of that era that developed so strongly. The use of the phrase "utter poop" indicates an emotional outburst of disapproval of the law. This was in stark contrast to the traits that society expected from women in that era which were obedience and elegance, whereas Lilly showed the opposite trait, she resisted.

In addition to voice as self expression, women's voices in *Storm and Silence* are also depicted as critical awareness: “*They're just a piece of cloth and don't make me any less of a girl*” (chptr.7). In this quote, clothing serves as a symbol of gender norms constructed by a patriarchal society, while the quote appears at a moment when the character is required to wear formal attire in order to sit on equal footing

with men in political circles. Lilly rejects the idea that a woman's femininity is determined by outward appearance or specific clothing. In doing so, Lilly asserts that clothing does not define a woman's worth; she remains a woman even while wearing formal attire a formal shirt and pants which was uncommon for women at the time. Lilly states that women can define themselves, not at all bound by feminine stereotypes. The voice is portrayed through the logical opinion that clothes will not change a woman's identity, Lilly will remain a woman no matter what she wears, even if she has to fight against existing gender norms. This is in line with the concept of hooks which talks about women speaking out against the definition of patriarchy.

3. Voice as Future Imagination

This depiction of voice, which reflects future imagination and women's awareness of gender inequality, is also evident when Lilly dreams of freedom for all women in the future: *"One day women will conquer their rightful place..."* (chptr.7), this quote shows a impersonal voice, Lilly not only thinking about herself, but also the future of women, about how Lilly envisions future changes to women's society that was considered bad at the time. The character dreams of women having a better future than the setting of the story that takes place, this indirectly also shows optimism for gender equality that will continue to be fought. On the other hand, the use of the word "rightful place" emphasizes that women actually have equal rights, but these rights are limited by the patriarchal system that develops in society. This reflects Lilly's critical awareness toward patriarchal domination.

There is also a similar quote that shows the awareness of gender unawareness:

'Of course they do! We have been kept down for centuries, but you'll see, one day women will conquer their rightful place in the world! One day, there will be hundreds, maybe thousands of women working as secretaries. We will be so good at it that we will put the men out of their jobs, and just about every secretary will be female!' (chptr.7)

It is clear from this quote that Lilly expressed her frustration with the system of the era against women. The annoyance arises due to the response to a sentence thrown by the main male character in the novel, Mr. Ambrose. He said in a sarcastic sentence against Lilly because he thought it was impossible for a woman to work as a secretary. This dialogue arose because of the patriarchal system that had been cultured and embedded in all human beings at that time.

'A girl working as a secretary?' he growled. 'It is impossible! If the city were to get wind of this it would be the biggest scandal in years! Besides, females do not have the orderly mind that is required for this kind of work.' (chptr.7)

It was this quote that made Lilly emotional, and she disagreed with the statement. Lilly then spoke out about gender blindness in the workplace. During the Victorian era, women were often considered to lack the intellectual capacity to work in professional fields, so Lilly's dream served as a critique of that stereotype. When linked to bell hooks' feminist concepts, what Lilly expressed through her narrative aligns with the from the margins to the center framework, where marginalization drove Lilly to advocate for rights that should have been accessible in the face of male dominance and the patriarchal system. In fact, this domination is said to have spanned centuries, as indicated by the phrase "*We have been kept down for centuries,*" and also as if to convey a critique of the oppression that women get

even before Lilly is born. And the sentence is followed by the hope and dream of the future that women will be able to replace men in secretary positions and can even be more proficient than men.

Not just a social imagination, but this is also a form of dream that is truly voiced to be realized through Lilly's persistence to eliminate the boundaries of domestic space in women. This illustrates how women seek to construct an alternative narrative to patriarchy. However, if you look at the feminist concept of bell hooks in the book *Feminists for Everybody*, Lilly's words based on the narrative are a little wrong. Hooks argues that voicing women's rights is not only about equaling men in the existing system, but about changing the system completely. Feminists must not merely aim for women to work like men, but to challenge the very system in the workplace itself. Nor should it result in men being marginalized in the same way women were previously, so that the system or the resistance and advocacy movement fails to find a resolution between the two sides.

4. Voice as Emotional Expression

In addition to being represented through emotional expression, women's voices in this novel also emerge through voice as emotional expression, as illustrated in the following excerpt: "*I wanted recognition. I wanted respect*" (chptr.9), Lilly expresses her emotional and social needs in this quote. The repetition of the phrase "I wanted" shows Lilly's strong desire to gain social recognition. It is not just a speech, but it is also a form of a demand for a strong confession. Women in patriarchal societies are often seen as inferior and not

considered equal to men, especially in the intellectual and professional spheres. Therefore, in this quote, there is embedded the desire of women to be appreciated as individuals who are not weak, whose voices can be heard and considered, who have good thinking skills and do not harm the world of work, not only as beings whose decisions are considered to be too influenced by emotions rather than based on logic. In this context, women demand social validation in the patriarchal system.

5. Voice as Assertive Argumentation

In addition, the representation of voice as assertive argumentation is also seen when Lilly tries to prove that women have the same abilities as men in the world of work, in her quote that reads: “*All I want is the chance to prove you wrong*” (chptr.7), this voice that describes full confidence is not just a boast, but also a statement to prove the ability that the character has, to no longer be considered inferior and no longer considered inappropriate. Lilly realizes that she is looked down upon only because of her gender identity as a woman, on the contrary, she shows determination and confidence in her own abilities. In this context, voice is represented as women's courage to make arguments and reject the inferiority constructed by patriarchal society. The dialogue is full of confidence and courage to face gender stereotypes.

Theoretically, this is in line with the concept of bell hooks regarding women trying to reclaim agency through their voices and actions. Through this voice, Lilly uses language as a tool to reject gender subordination and assert her position as an individual who is able to determine herself.

Furthermore, the representation of women's voices also shows Lilly's efforts to challenge various forms of gender restrictions imposed by patriarchal societies. Therefore, the next discussion will focus on how women's voices develop into a form of resistance to patriarchal domination in the narrative of the novel.

B. Represents speaking from the margins as resistance against patriarchy

In the novel *Storm and Silence*, feminism is not only presented in the form of voices and expressions against the patriarchal system or gender inequality, but also in the form of resistance to the system that limits women's freedom and position in society. The resistance in this novel is shown through the actions of the characters, the rejection of social norms, the urgent situation, the critique of ideology, and also the courage to penetrate or enter spaces that are conventionally dominated by men.

Therefore, based on the results of the analysis conducted by the researcher, several main representations can be found such as resistance against gender norms, resistance through political action, resistance through economic independence, and resistance through verbal confrontation. One form of resistance to patriarchy in this novel can be seen through Lilly's courage to enter a political space that is socially and legally only reserved for men. The action shows that women are not only aware of gender injustice, but also seek to oppose these restrictions directly.

“Calm down, Lilly, I told myself. You are on a mission for all womankind. If you should fall, hundreds will follow in your footsteps” (chptr.1).

In the narration, the quote shows that the female character in the novel is struggling against the patriarchal system, namely the right to vote (freedom in

politics). The resistance arose because Lilly felt that the rules that existed in that era only curbed women, who should have equal opportunities in politics, especially in the exercise of their right to vote. So, Lilly commits an act that violates norms as a form of resistance by disguising herself as a man. Because in 19th-century Victorian society, women were restricted in various aspects of life, such as political rights, access to jobs, and the freedom to determine their own future. Therefore, Lilly's various actions in the novel can be understood as a form of resistance to the patriarchal system that marginalizes women.

Lilly was aware that what she was doing was not right if it was based on the rules at the time, however, for Lilly what she did was a struggle for the rights that women should have. Lilly's courage is shown through the sentence,

"You are on a mission for all womankind. If you should fall, hundreds will follow in your footsteps" (chptr.1).

With this sentence, he was brave and believed that if his plan failed, then the next Lilly would appear with a different version. In this context, the courage carried out by Lilly is related to the bell hooks theory from margin to center. When women begin to realize their marginalized position, they try to resist the domination that restricts women's voices, identities, and freedoms. Through her actions, words, and courage to reject various forms of gender subordination, Lilly represents women who seek to resist patriarchal structures and fight for their rights and existence in social spaces.

Resistance is not only seen in the government phenomenon, but also seen in the situational context faced by the figure or what is called resistance through verbal

confrontation. This is found in the novel's narrative. "*I would rather stay and fight for my rights*" (chptr.2). This quote shows Lilly's form of refusal to obey the patriarchal system that was running in that era. Lilly chose to fight and fight for her rights rather than run away from the reality. We can see this from the vocabulary used by Lilly, namely "*fight for my right*," the word indicates a form of resistance carried out by women, because the system is far from justice for men and women

Unlike women in that era who were passive, resigned and chose to remain silent, through this quote it can indicate that Lilly is showing courage against oppression in real terms. In addition, this quote describes resistance to patriarchy of domination and is a form of speaking in a marginalized position. This is related to the bell hooks perspective in feminist theory: from the periphery to the center, demanding a movement that not only fights for equality between women and men, but also a movement that fights to end oppression and exploitation.

In addition to the resistance represented through the political and situational actions that Lilly faced, other forms of resistance also emerged through the rejection of dependence on men, especially in economic matters. In the feminist concept bell hooks, resistance to oppression is not only about the rejection of the patriarchal system, but it can also be through the rejection of dependence and the courage to change the principle from object to subject. "*What if I want to provide for myself?*" (chptr.2). In the book bell hooks entitled *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*, hooks conveys that oppression always places women as objects and controlled by something that is usually by men or power systems. In this quote,

Lilly asks this question to her aunt because she sees her economic condition which is very crucial. And also in this situation it is also explained that her sisters were sold by her aunt to rich merchants or nobles. Meanwhile, Lilly feels that she is a failed product of her aunt, and feels that she will not be liked by anyone. Judging from the incident, Lilly raised the question, as a form of resistance to the existing situation and system.

The question also contains a hidden intention, namely the desire to voice freedom of choice and socio-economic independence. Lilly didn't want to always be an object and wanted to fight for her rights as a subject. This is also related to the bell hooks statement in the book *From Margin To Center*, which informs that without independence, it will be difficult for women to have an entire agency.

The desire to provide for one's own life is a form of resistance against the dominant culture of financial dependency which only ends up maintaining power over women. Therefore, Lilly thinks that working is the best option than she has to end up on the streets or abandoned just because of the system that forces her not to work. This statement is reinforced by Lilly's dialogue that says:

“Well, here and now was a chance to provide for myself. A real chance. Thoughtfully, I stared at the card again. Money. Money to earn for myself. A way to freedom. If I didn't take it... then it would be the street for me. Or worse, the workhouse.” (chptr.2)

Another form of emphasis on reclaiming female agency is also seen in Lilly's next dialogue, when Lilly again emphasizes the rejection of the view that women should depend on men. *“chance to provide for myself”* Lilly sees work as a form of freedom. This quote shows how women actively build autonomy. with

Lilly's full awareness of voicing the resistance carried out through self-support, she rejects the existence of economic subordination. not only that, Resistance to patriarchal domination through verbal criticism is also present again in the actions and dialogues that Lilly conveys through the following quotes. *Lilly wants to try again*: “*Next time I wouldn’t get caught*” (chptr.12), in this quote, women's resistance is not temporary but persistent. This dialogue occurs when Lilly is punished for disobeying the dominant voice, but unfortunately the woman does not stop despite the pressure, but slowly the land will come back and try again. The voice remains intact and alive even after being punished, this shows that there is a continuation of resistance, not giving up, but trying again at the next opportunity. In this case, the character is very relevant to the concept of bell hooks, about how women continue to negotiate the space of freedom.

Furthermore, the form of female resistance is also represented through challenging male authority, which shows Lilly's courageous attempt to attack the patriarchal system. “*Oppressors of womanhood!*” (chptr.1) This quote shows Lilly openly attacking the patriarchal system. The voice in this quote is used as a political protest against the dominant voice. Furthermore, it demonstrates that women are no longer silent in the face of oppression, as resistance is now being expressed publicly no longer merely through curses or the character’s inner thoughts.

After delivering the dialogue above, Lilly also demonstrates resistance through her courage in presenting her arguments directly to men. As depicted in the narrative when Lilly protests inside the polling station, women engage in direct

resistance in public spaces by using their bodies and voices as tools of protest. They loudly voice their rejection of political exclusion and employ their speaking skills as a form of public resistance.

Furthermore, women's resistance in this novel is also represented through Lilly's courage to question male authority in setting limits on women. "*Why should men decide what women can or cannot do?*" (chptr.15), Lilly questions male authority. Voice is used to dismantle patriarchal legitimacy. Women reject gender rules made by men. form of direct verbal resistance. According to the bell hooks concept of speaking back. Marginalized women use their voices to challenge the center of power.

The next form of resistance is represented through Lilly's courage to question the male superiority that has been normalized in Victorian patriarchal society. "*What made men think they were superior?*" (chptr.16), Lilly criticized masculine superiority. questioning patriarchal social constructions. Voice indicates critical consciousness. Women do not accept inferiority as something natural. according to the concept of feminist consciousness in bell hooks. Resistance arises through a critical awareness of domination, not only that, Lilly's verbal resistance is also represented through a dialogue that persists against social and legal pressures by holding that women deserve equality because women are also human. "*Women are human beings too*" (chptr.2), Lilly demanded recognition of women's humanity. Voice is used to fight against patriarchal dehumanization. women refuse

to be treated inferiorly. show political awareness. According to bell hooks' concept of liberation struggle. Women use voice to demand equality.

The resistance in this novel is not only individual, but also develops into a form of solidarity with other women who are marginalized. It can be seen from how Lilly connects her struggle with the fate of other women. Resistance is not individual. There is a collective awareness of oppressed women. Voices represent marginalized women. show feminist solidarity. according to the concept of collective liberation in bell hooks. Speaking from the margins became a common struggle.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion drawn from the findings and discussion of the study, as well as suggestions for future research and related fields of study. The conclusion summarizes the main results regarding the representation of woman's voices and the practice of speaking from the margins as a form of resistance against patriarchal domination in Rob Thier's *Storm and Silence*. Meanwhile, the suggestions offer recommendations for researchers and readers, who are interested in feminist literary criticism and the application of bell hooks' theory in literary studies.

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis of the novel *Storm and Silence* by Rob Thier which uses the feminist theory of bell hooks, it can be concluded that the novel represents the voice and resistance of woman to the development of patriarchal domination manifested in the form of the character of Lilly Linton. The representation of woman's voices in this novel is seen in Lilly's thoughts, arguments, emotions, and critical awareness and rejection of gender inequality in Victorian society. Instead of just being silent and obedient, Lilly is portrayed as a female figure who rejects the system that restricts woman's freedom, especially in the political, social, and economic realms Lilly uses her voice to express her opinions, emotions, desires, and rejection of patriarchal values that position woman as inferior beings who are always dependent on men.

The findings indicate that woman's voices in this novel are represented in several forms: as self-expression, as critical consciousness, as a vision of the future, as emotional expression, and as a forceful argument. Lilly's voice serves not only as a form of personal expression but also as a means of reclaiming identity, autonomy, and recognition within a patriarchal society. Her statements and actions reflect the concept of speaking from the margins proposed by bell hooks, in which marginalized women use their voices to challenge dominant power structures and negotiate their existence as active subjects, not passive objects.

In addition, this study found that in this novel woman's resistance is represented through several forms of struggle against and resisting patriarchal domination. This resistance manifests itself through resistance through political action, rejection of gender norms, resistance through the desire to have economic independence, verbal confrontation, and challenges to male authority. Lilly has consistently opposed and questioned social norms that limited women's rights, including restrictions on women in employment, politics, and freedom to choose. Her resistance is shown not only through dialogue but also through actions that symbolically oppose the patriarchal system, such as when Lilly bravely enters a male-dominated space, rejects social expectations, and fights for economic independence.

Furthermore, feminist consciousness as mentioned in the bell hooks theory is also revealed in Lilly's resistance. Lilly acknowledged that it is patriarchal ideology that makes women's oppression continue to develop in social life. Therefore, her struggle is not just a fight for individual rights, but also a voice that

represents the collective awareness of the marginalization of women. Lilly symbolizes woman's efforts through their voices and resistance to move from marginalized positions to the center by demanding recognition, equality and freedom.

B. Suggestion

Based on the results of this study, researcher is well aware that there are many gaps, and there is still a lot of potential that has not been explored in depth. This encourages researcher to offer some recommendations for researchers, readers, or future writers.

First, future researchers are encouraged to delve deeper into literary works on Wattpad or other digital platforms using various feminist perspectives or theories. Because this research is limited to only the bell hooks concept of woman's voices and speaking from the periphery, future research may analyze the digital literature using a broader range of feminist approaches such as intersectional feminism, postfeminism, or queer feminism. Future researchers are also encouraged to explore how readers respond to feminist narratives on digital platforms to gain a greater understanding of the social impact of digital literacy.

Second, this study hopes that readers can increase awareness about the issue of gender inequality and the importance of caring for woman's voices in literature and society. Readers can understand that literary works are not only made for entertainment but can also serve as a medium that brings critique to social injustice and represents the experiences of those who are marginalized. Through Lilly's

character with a firm image, readers can take the point of how important courage, critical awareness, and freedom of expression are in resisting and facing an oppressive system.

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