

Gender Oppression and Women Violence in Paula Hawkins “*The Girl on The Train*”

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Abstrak

Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap bagaimana penindasan dan kekerasan terhadap wanita di gambarkan di dalam novel sastra karya Paula Hawkins berjudul *The Girl on The Train*. Penelitian ini mengaplikasikan analisis teori dari Raewyn Connell’s “Hegemonic Masculinity” melalui sudut pandang feminis untuk membahas isu terkait. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif, serta sample data diperoleh dari kutipan-kutipan di dalam novel. Dari hasil penelitian ini disimpulkan bahwa penindasan wanita digambarkan melalui ketidaksetaraan gender dan kekerasan. Ketidaksetaraan gender digambarkan dari ketidaksamaan peran terhadap laki-laki dan perempuan untuk menjaga rumah tangga, sedangkan kekerasan digambarkan sebagai cara untuk mengendalikan tokoh wanita melalui kekerasan fisik, seperti ‘dipukul’, ‘diinjak’ dan ‘ditinju’. Selain itu, kekerasan juga terjadi melalui non-fisik seperti ‘dipermalukan’, ‘manipulasi’, dan ‘devaluasi’. Dari tindakan-tindakan tersebut disimpulkan bahwa tokoh wanita menjadi merasa tertindas, tidak percaya, dan mendevaluasi dirinya sebagai wanita dan manusia.

Kata Kunci; Penindasan, Kekerasan domestik, penyiksaan, hegemoni, maskulinitas

Abstract

This study aims to reveal how gender oppression and women violence represented in Paula Hawkins *The Girl on The Train* by a feminist perspective applying gender Raewyn Connell's theory 'Hegemonic Masculinity.' The research method uses a qualitative approach, and the data is collected from the quotation inside the novel. The research concluded that gender oppression is represented by gender inequality and violence. The gender inequality depicted as the role differences between men and women character for taking care the household, while the violence is depicted as a power to control the women character through physical violence such as 'hitting,' 'stepping' and 'punching' and non-physical violence such as 'shaming,' 'manipulating' and 'devaluing.' These acts concluded to make the women's character feeling oppressed, distrust, and devaluing themselves as a woman and a person.

Keywords: Oppression, Domestic violence, abuse, hegemonic, masculinity.

INTRODUCTION

Women’s abuse, violence, and devaluation have transpired publicly for over a decade. In feminist literacy, women tend to be portrayed as a person who is 'weak,' 'dependent,' 'obedient,' and 'faithful.' However, this custom of women conceives an act of oppression that motivates to abusive behavior, such as 'violence' and 'domination.' Women’s oppression conducted not exclusively in public but also issued in marriage. This act of violence acknowledged as domestic violence defined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women or known as CEDAW "Domestic abuse is a gendered crime that is deeply rooted in the societal inequality between men and women. It is a form of

gender-based violence, violence "directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects disproportionately." (CEDAW, 1992). It is further asserted about gender-related "The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty." (CEDAW, 1992: para. 6). Regarding the criteria of violence against women stated by United Nation Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Over Women "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women,

including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" (Article,1). This definition aims out violence over women is most likely caused by gender and inequality between men and women. The terms of 'oppression' in domestic violence are appropriate because of the relation among 'the state of oppression' and 'violence.'. It is stated about oppression definition by oxford "Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority" and Merriam webster "something that oppresses especially in being an unjust or excessive exercise of power" that both classified of power abuse and authority, which also included violence as the form of power. The result of these issues commences to injustice treatment like disrespect and dehumanization to women (Chen, 2017), which authorized to devalued their pride and role as women, and the victim will distrust themselves and consider that they conducted an act of misbehavior (Young,1997). Therefore, this study's issues will be about oppression because the primary purpose of oppression is to 'oppressed' and 'dominate' others, which is reflected on the Paula Hawkins *The Girl on The Train* as violence and gender role inequalities in the character household.

The author Paula Hawkins is a Zimbabwe-British author that was born on 26 August 1972. Before she became a famous author in fiction, she worked as a Journalist in *The Time* for about fifteen years in the business section. In 2009, she began writing as *Amy Silver* and wrote a romantic comedy novel "*Confessions of a Reluctant Recessionista*" and other novels, which do not get any recognition. Her big success is *The Girl on The Train* that released in 2015, which covered an issue about domestic violence, alcoholism, and affair. She was through financial issues when writing the book. However, she was able to release it under *Doubleday Company* in 2015. Her work paid off as her book became the number one in *The New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of 2015* for its dark complexity and the psychological issue inside the story. Upon the success with *The Girl on The Train*, she began writing other notable works of her *Into The Water* (2017) that goes on the same concept as her previous work.

"*The Girl on The Train*" story represents four characters: Rachel, Tom, Anna, and Scott. Scott is the only character who does not have his perspective in the story. Rachel, an alcoholic and a widower were once married to Tom, who is presently Anna's husband. At the beginning of the story, Rachel and Tom decided to separate because Rachel, who learns about herself, is unable to pregnant, including her alcohol addiction and her abusive behavior. Soon, Rachel found that Tom is cheating with Anna, the real estate agent of her house, and finally married to each other after her divorce. The neighborhood Jess and Jason, which Rachel named in her fantasies, is Megan Hipwell and Scott Hipwell. Megan

was declared missing by the police, and Rachel seems to involved in her missing during her drunken state. As the story progresses, it revealed that Tom murdered Megan because she was pregnant with his child, and he does not want to take responsibility for it. It is uncovered that Tom has an addiction towards women because he divorced Rachel with only an inadequate reason for being bored with her and cheating with Anna. After all, he thought she becomes dull due to her babysitting, which influences his affair with Megan.

From the summary above, this book is chosen as the study's object because of the complexity that exhibited several conflicts like alcoholism, abuse, and affair. Additionally, the author's writing use distrust narrative style to expose each character's personality.

The study about *The Girl on The Train* presents a diverse range of fields such as psychology and feminism. From the feminist perspective, it is noted that the novel portrays a great male desire and thirst for women's character. The study proceeds said that Tom has cheated on three women, Rachel, Anna, and Megan, which concluded the motive of his cheated is simply due to boredom (Muthuselvam, 2017). The different study is also discussing the affair and betrayal of the character with Sigmund Freud's theory. The study discussed how the id, ego, and superego take each character's authority and revealed how each character mentality when they are fronting the problems (Fetri& Imelda, 2018). Furthermore, another study that is from a linguistic point of view attempts to reveal the author's intention for Rachel's personality and mental state to understand which one is Rachel's actual memory and which one conceived by Tom. (Giovanelli, 2018)

Moreover, different studies about oppression in another literacy work explicated about women comprising oppressed in society. The study is concentrating on a major theme of a novel from Alice Walker. In Suresh's finding, the author tends to convey women's oppression and black feminism. The author viewed herself in black feminism, because she has been struggling with herself. Further, the study discussed that women in men's eyes are beautiful and obedient who is unable to think on their own. This bent mindset leads the women to be oppressed and their value to be taken by the man. (Suresh,2018) Different studies about women as the submissive sex in Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," studies how women live in a male-dominated world between Victor and the monster. It also analyzes how each woman's character in the story serves a specific purpose for the main character. (Haddad,2010). Lastly, the study in "The Devil Wears Prada," "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" focused on uncovering the power and gender oppression inside those novels. The author uses three theories that are Marxist-

Feminist approach applied to investigate the data by applying Engels's theory of power, Young's theory of gender oppression, Marx's, Engels's and Lenin's theory of liberation. (Erliska,2017)

From the previous study presented above, each of the studies concentrates firmly on the character's mentality. In Muthuselvam's study, the main study problem is Rachel and male domination. His last became the journal's main study to declared that Rachel is in the circle of male pressure. On Fitri Study, it is more a psychological investigation employing Sigmund Freud's theory of Id, Ego, and Superego, which concluded that each character has their tendency to be dominated by Tom. In Giovanelli, the linguistic approach could give an insight into the literature field. His study was investigating the author's intention to create Rachel's line and her intoxicated state. In another literary work, two of the studies uncover similar issues of women's oppression and feminism, while one study focused more on power and gender oppression. The analytic tool and the journal's topic are restricted to the feminist theory because of how it is heavily revolved to the mental state and woman condition.

On the other hand, each of the studies' gaps is certainly from the literary work and the theories they practiced to classified each section of oppression. One study uses Black feminism, one uses feminist, and the other uses five faces of oppression theory to uncover the woman's oppression and gender oppression in the story. The gap study of this thesis is on the topic of oppression. None of the previous studies issued the women's oppression and the male domination inside the "The Girl on the Train" in feminist and gender perspectives.

Therefore, this study will analyze how women's oppression and violence depicted in Paula Hawkins *The Girl on The Train*.

METHOD

The method of this analysis will be conducted by a feminist perspective applying the "Hegemonic Masculinity" theory by Raewyn Connell as the leading theory and various theorist opinions about the oppression to uncover the interpretation of oppression. This study will be concentrating on the women's character, which is Anna, Rachel, and Megan of their experience being oppressed by the male characters in *The Girl on The Train*. The data source is collected from Paula Hawkins's novel *The Girl on The Train* from Black Swan edition published in 2016 with 408 pages. The data will be collected from the direct or indirect quotations and phrases that indicated the gender oppression and women violence inside the novel.

Oppression

The concept of oppression stated by some of the theorists is defined as an act of domination. Iris Young (1997) defined oppression as "In its traditional usage, oppression means the exercise of tyranny by a ruling group." The statement directly confronts a hierarchy and person with the power to use their strength to dominate others. Young also compiling the type of oppression in 'Five Faces of Oppression' and spoke about five classifications of how someone being oppressed. She explained powerlessness, marginalization, violence, exploitation, and culture imperialism as the classification of oppression. On the other hand, according to Jason Chen on social theory and practice journal, he stated that "the core of oppression" should be understood as "the main problem of oppression" or the "the fundamental harm of oppression." It is best to identify the main problems of issues that could lead to oppression, fully understand the structure of oppression, and the reasons for oppression in some cases. Furthermore, Ann Cudd also speaks about the oppression that occurs from the institution "Oppression is harm through which persons are systematically and unfairly or unjustly constrained, burdened, or reduced by any of several forces.". Judith Andre Power, Manipulation, and Oppression added how an action regarded as oppression "To be oppressed is to be burdened in some unnecessary and systematic way that prevents or makes difficult full human development.

In the cause and motives of oppression, Sandra Bartky (1990) argued that it "Maybe political (when we have no say about the laws which govern us), economic (when we are kept from economic security), or psychological (when, for instance, "harsh domination" is exercised over our self-respect). In Jason Chen adds it, he stated that "Oppression is an institutional hierarchy that unjustly harms- lower tiers groups" he further stated that political, economic, racial, sexuality, and gender also one of the main causes of oppression. Followed by Iris Young that talks about oppression in the society like America "In American society today, for example, Blacks are not a simple, unified group with a common life. Like other racial and ethnic groups, they are differentiated by age, gender, class, sexuality, region, and nationality, any of which is a given context may become a salient group identity". Also, Raewyn Connell (2005) also expressed that gender role also involved as a form of oppression "To the extent oppression appears in a role system, it appears as the constricting pressure placed by the role upon the self.

Hegemonic Masculinity

Raewyn Connell's gender theory speaks about gender inequality in the institution between men and women

known as "Hegemonic Masculinity." It is an influential theory about masculinity that is concerned about men's domination over women or even among men. She defined Hegemony in general as "Hegemony, then, does not mean total control. It is not automatic, and may be disrupted - or even disrupt itself (Connell, 2005, P.37)". She speaks about how the hegemonic system created that cause by control or another. She also stated that "Hegemonic Masculinity can be defined as the configuration of gender practice which embodies the currently accepted answer to the problem of the legitimacy of patriarchy, which guarantees (or is taken to guarantee) the dominant position of men and the subordination of women (Connell, 2005 P.83)". For instance, a governmental position pre-dominantly by men, while women are being rejected and denied for wanting a position in the institution. Connell bringing the concept of masculinity has "Multiple Masculinities" and pattern that defined masculinity "the patterns of conduct our society defines as masculine," she further added, "Masculinities are defined collectively in culture, and are sustained in institutions." (Connell, 2000, P. 11). While in this study, Marriage also included in the institution of practice of women's subordination. We must also recognize the relations between the different kinds of masculinity: relations of alliance, dominance, and subordination. (Connell, 2005 P.37).

ANALYSIS

Hegemonic Masculinity Theory by R.W. Connell (2005) argues about gender oppression and masculinity involvement in the gender role system quoted "Roles are defined by expectations and norms, sex roles by expectations attaching to biological status. (Connell, 2005). She further explained that this role expectation becomes a chain of oppression to dominate others "To the extent oppression appears in a role system, it appears as the constricting pressure placed by the role upon the self. (Connell, 2005). The practice of gender oppression and inequality normally occurs in the institution, such as school, workplace, and military. An institution does not always refer to a building, and marriage is also an institution. Because it is the product of a legal nation and arranged by the nation through the law, it is considered a place to practice masculinity. On the other side, Young speaks about oppression "In its traditional usage, oppression means the exercise of tyranny by a ruling group" (Young, 1997) and organizing practice of study called "Five Faces of Oppression" that classified types of oppression.

The act of oppression also embedded violence as one of the methods to control others. Young's (1997) idea of oppression classified violence as the apparent act of

oppression, which the purpose of dominating and controlling others harshly. Such as weaponry, war, punch, hit, shaming, verbal and non-verbal abuse, and another method to hurt others. In Connell's, she viewed violence as an act of taming others and the most potent weapon of men domination to achieve their intentions to dominate women or among men themselves "Violence is part of a system of domination but is at the same time a measure of its imperfection. (Connell, 2005). Since violence is one of the instruments to dominate, the practice of violence could appear everywhere, including in the residential area. In this study, violence is classified as 'domestic violence' since the context of the study's object portrayed in the residential area, such as household and neighborhood. Connell's speak domestic violence as the practice of masculinity of men to show the power and control power "Domestic violence cases often find abused women, physically able to look after themselves, who have accepted the abusers' definitions of themselves incompetent and helpless. (Connell, 2005)"

In this study, the concept of Hegemonic masculinity is concerned with the men character's domination over women character by violence, abuse, and manipulation. Connell's "Hegemonic masculinity can be defined as the configuration of gender practice which embodies the currently accepted answer to the problem of the legitimacy of patriarchy, which guarantees (or is taken to guarantee) the dominant position of men and the subordination of women. (Connell, 2005, P.77). Masculinity generally talks about men's role and personality being form by the culture as 'strong,' gentle,' and 'masculine.' This characteristic is applied very strongly because of 'hegemonic' literally meaning as 'social context,' which means that masculinity rooted deep inside the social and institution. It shaped how men behave and personality in society, which, if it is unusual, men would be judged as 'feminine,' 'homosexual,' or 'not manly enough' to be called a 'man.' However, women formed by society as 'beautiful,' 'elegant,' and 'mannered,' which this commenced to the objectification of women in general, therefore, women always perceived by men and cultured as 'subordinate for men' (Connell, 2005)

In this study, it is a must to understand how the author's male character personality is portrayed in the story. Tom, who is Anna's current husband, represented as a charming, gentle, and very caring person. His word described as energetic, sweet, and able to temp women's hearts. However, as the story goes on, it is revealed that he is a compulsive liar and manipulator that powerful to oppress the women's character.

Tom's character portrayed as dominant and a tyrant in a household related to oppression. His status as legally or non-legally husband (because he divorced Rachel),

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does not have a right to devalue women by manipulation, violence, and gaslighting. In comparison to this case, women's character is unaware or not consent for comprising as a victim of manipulation, violence, and abuse. For example, Rachel has suffered from depression, self-blaming behavior, and considered herself as worthless, which violates gender because it is devaluation over women's quality and right. (Connell, 2005)

Therefore, it will be discussed further in data presented below about the violence and gender-oppression inside the story;

Gender Oppression and Women Violence

Gender oppression and violence inside the story are portrayed explicitly by the author as a form of tyranny inside the household. Young (1990) stated that violence is the apparent act of oppression as it is intended to destroy, annihilate, or even give fear to a group in the form of physical activity. However, in *The Girl on The Train*, the type of violence represented through physical and mental abuse. Physical abuse displayed by violence such as hitting, slapping, punching, slamming, or killing. While mental abuse revealed by the action of mental breakdowns such as mocking, shaming, and discrimination. These forms of abuse revolved around the woman character and devaluating women presented on the data below;

“His finger twist into my hair as he grabs a fistful and pulls, dragging me back into the living room, where he lets go. He stands above me, straddling me, one foot on either side of my hips. His daughter is still in his arms but Anna is at his side, tugging her.” (Hawkins, 2015, p. 394)

The quotation above explains one of the explicit examples of Tom's abusive to Rachel and how he performed his masculinity. Rachel and Anna decided to confront Tom about his questioning behavior because Rachel and Anna found inconsistencies in Tom's life ideas. However, as he confronted, he denied his allegation for being a liar and having an affair with Megan. Men confronted for his lousy behavior would stand his pride and denied the allegation against them, which could lead to brutality (Connell, 2005). Upon his denial, he started to show his dominant side and physically abuse Rachel 'dragging', 'pulls,' and 'straddling his foot.' His abusive is to exhibit a sense of control and fear over Rachel and Anna, which a type of oppressor to think he has power over their victim because they identify themselves as a person who has an absolute command. (Campbell, 2011). Connell has also perceived that men always possessed power over women, using that

power to show their superiority upon others (Connell, 2005). This brings that Tom's violent act is to create fear and a feeling of 'superiority' to the women's character.

The act of violence also considered as a method to 'tame' and show masculinity in the household for a good purpose. According to Connell's research of domestic violence, "Husbands who batter wives typically feel that they are exercising a right, maintaining good order in the family and punishing their wives' delinquency - especially wives' failure to keep their proper place (e.g., not doing domestic work to the husband's satisfaction, or answering back) (Connell, 2005). This statement gives two side point of view to the act of violence in the household, whether it is 'to rehabilitate' or 'to oppressed,' which depends on the motive of the character. In Megan and Scott's cases, Scott's abusive behavior does not include that he is an oppressor because he has a different motive than Tom. Tom's motive uses violence to oppress and manipulate for his profit, while Scott's motive is too controlled, Megan, as an obedient wife means "maintaining good order in the family. Nevertheless, his behavior also included as a sign of domestic violence, as seen in the data below:

“My hand is against his chest and I'm pushing as hard as I can, but I can't breathe and he's so much stronger than I am. His forearm presses against my windpipe, I can feel the blood pulsing at my temples, my eyes blurring. I try to cry out, my back to the wall. I snatch a handful of his T-shirt and he lets go”. (Hawkins, 2015, p.365-366)

The quotation above presents one example of Scott's violence towards Megan to control her as an 'obedient wife.' The story's event is when Scott found out she has a feeling for Dr. Kamal, the therapist. As discussed before that Scott motives are to 'maintaining good order in the family' and as a 'man' for knowing his wife cheated would be resulting in a rage, especially when the nature of men is more temperance because they are treated by the society to be 'rough' and 'tough' (Connell, 2005). On the other side, Megan and Scott's cases could be described as "Barbie" and "Ken," where they are needed and dependent on each other. Scott has to controlled Megan's behavior to become an 'obedient wife' and perform his role as the 'man' and 'husband' in the family. However, even when he threatens Megan, he knew that he needed her to take care of him and maintain his image as 'husband'. It is also the same as Megan, where she needed to keep her image as 'wife' and to satisfy her husband. She needs someone to lean on who loves her and take care of her traumatic experience.

Although Scott does have a temper, he is depicted as a soft person and reflecting on his mistake. As stated, Scott displays his masculinity in domination to 'maintain good family' as his role as a 'man' and 'husband' (Connell, 2005 & Campbell, 2011). His abusive act only temporary and quickly regretting his behavior. He does apologize on his abusive behavior to Megan, as presented below;

"He removes his hand, his face a picture of contrition, of deep shame. That was terrible. I thought. I thought it would be ... Honestly, I don't know what I thought. I'm not sure I was thinking at all. It was wrong. It was terribly wrong of me." (Hawkins, 2015, p.381)

The act of oppression can be regarded in a physical or non-physical way, which it does not always systematic, but it is also non-systematic where the victim always feeling pressed by the tyranny inside an institution. (Lyotard, 1984 & Connell, 2005 &, Foucault, 1997). Therefore, the non-physical or mentality violence can be seen from the data collection below;

"And I can't really be angry with him, because he has good reason to be suspicious. I've given him cause in the past and probably will again. I am not a model wife. I can't Be. No matter how much I love him, it won't be much." (Hawkins, 2015, p.71-72)

The act of oppression also could be viewed as the emotional bonding between oppressors and the abused other. There is a space called a 'trust' between men and women that acts as a foundation for people to grow, learn, and accept each other. However, the passage above shows about Megan and Scott's trust' which in this line shows uncertainty feeling. Emotional repression, between men and women, dominantly represses men because men told to be strong and hold their feelings, which makes them sometimes lack emotion (Connell, 2005). Bartky (1990) discussed the contributor to oppression and acknowledged oppression could occur because of psychological oppression by harsh domination, leading to emotional repression. However, Megan, who repressed her emotion, wanted to reveal the truth above her behavior with the affair. She is depicted as scared, uncertain, and controlled by Scott because of her past behavior, which leads Scott to use violence to tame her. These feelings act as a contributor to Megan decision, which led her to doubt herself as a person and a wife continually. As seen from the author's tone for creating Megan's quotation above; the first line, the

author uncertainly writes Megan's tone, which "I can't really be angry" followed "because he has a good reason" to show fear and sense of control. This second and third line shows a self-blaming behavior in "I've given him cause" and "I am not model wife" followed with a feeling of rejection "No matter how much I love him, it won't be much.". As a woman and a wife, a woman has the dignity to serve and to worship her husband. However, Megan does not consider herself as a loving and faithful wife because of her traumatic experience leaving to death by her boyfriend and accidentally killing her baby.

Megan's being fragile, afraid, and uncertain in the quotation above is considered the act of 'powerlessness.'. Iris Young (1997) given an idea of 'powerlessness' as a lack of decision-making that someone oppressed usually is afraid, disbelief, and falls into a self-blaming personality. This is seen from the quote where she is blaming herself as "not a model' wife and starts to reject herself as a woman. This is very different from Anna, who accepts her feminine side and becomes a responsible housewife, even though she is also depressed.

Moreover, as a dominant person, it is well understood that they have a set of skill to oppress their victim, their value, degree and the allowance to possessed weaponry or non-weaponry to demonstrated their power in a physical or non-physical way (Connell, 2005) as displayed on the quotation below;

"And the mask changes again – now he's wide-eyed innocence, pleading with her: 'I didn't know then, Anna. You have to believe that I didn't know what she was. I didn't know about the baby she killed. I would never have let her look after Evie if I'd known that. You have to believe me." (Hawkins, 2015, p.381)

An oppressor identified themselves to holds power and demonstrated their ability to achieve their goals. As a man depicted in the quotation above, Tom has presented his dominant side by expressive action. He used his facial and body expression to obtain sympathy over Anna, expecting his charm will able to make Anna believe him. The line above depicted the word "mask," which purposely informed the reader that there is something about this expression. Ekman & Wallace's (2003) study about the mask known as "masking personality," which explains it is an ordinary human skill to hide emotion and serve as a coping mechanism to accomplish a goal. Masking plays an essential role for an oppressor or an abuser to play their role; a shifting persona is one method for gaining mercy (Ekman & Wallace, 2003), which described in Tom's expression "wide eyed innocence,

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pleading with her”. Therefore, it leads by nature that men are a natural player because Men must know how to show their masculinity to achieve validation in society, even personally (Connell,2005).

Tom is marked with several soft-attribute dominate women characters in the story and demonstrate the data below;

“One day I was standing there – it was evening and I was coming out of the bedroom and I just stopped, because I remembered. I was on the floor, my back to the wall, sobbing and sobbing, Tom standing over me, begging me to calm down, the golf club on the carpet next to my feet, and I felt it, I felt it. I was terrified. The memory doesn't fit with the reality, because I don't remember the anger, raging fury. I remember fear.” (Hawkins, 2015, p.298)

The line above exposes how Tom uses his skill to dominate others and Rachel. As he portrayed as a manipulator, Tom is very skillful at using 'Gaslighting' to dominate and devalue women's character. The term is gaslighting defined as a manipulation process where the abuser repetitively corrupted the victim to the point where they distrust their memory and perception (Tracy, 2012). It is no surprise in the story that Rachel always felt her memories are being disruptive. The gaslighting concerning Rachel became the 'abuser' and Tom as the 'victim.' She cannot believe her memory because the external force is more dominant than the internal force to determine her memory's accuracy. She cannot believe herself and wavering herself to became the victim of oppression. The reason is that the victim tends to believe that they are wrong, and it is not right for them to speak or ask something for their benefit (Young, 1997). Furthermore, the gaslighting created "fear" and feeling of domination that commenced Rachel's fears that Tom abandons her because of the abusive behavior. In this realization, Tom has succeeded in making Rachel feel oppressed and being his subordinate.

Gaslighting is the primary power of Tom superiority has made the women character to self-blaming and rejecting themselves

“I remembered that so clearly, but it wasn't true. I knew it wasn't true the next morning when Tom turned his back on me when I tried to speak to him. I know it isn't true because he told me how disappointed and embarrassed, he was, that I'd accused Clara of flirting with him, that I'd been hysterical and abusive.” (Hawkins, 2015, p.347)

The use of gaslighting could influence someone to devaluated themselves and created fear as the gateway of domination. As depicted in the line above, the social study by Harris and Maruna (2006) discusses using shaming as an influential power to motivate or devalue others. They described that there are two concepts to dominate others which, social threat concept and personal failure. The social threat concept uses shame as a compelling tool to motivate others to perform the social standard. For example, in Tom's cases, he tried to manipulate Rachel by saying how embarrassed he is in front of his boss's wife about Rachel's behavior. Tom's boss's wife is considered 'superior' and has 'a big influence' than Tom in a hierarchy position. Tom's idea of superiority is to create a sense of guilt to Rachel when she was intoxicated or unconscious with disrupting her memory. That sensation of guilt as she was in an unconscious state is played by Tom to create a new image to make her feel that she has done something terrible and being abusive. Furthermore, the social pressured her to feeling shame about her abusive behavior, because as a wife, this will become a burden for obstructing her husband's career.

Therefore, Rachel's sense of guilt is played by Tom to create an illusion and image to manipulate her memories. In Lyotard (1984), the distribution of power conveyed not only in physical form but also in hidden form, which in this case, Tom's act shows in the data above classified as manipulation. Tom's manipulation started by corrupting Rachel's memory to make her believable as a failure when she was intoxicated. Harris and Maruna (2006) point to this as a personal failure concept that focused on the result of a social threat concept that makes their victim doubt themselves and valued themselves as a failure. It is added by Connell (2005) and Young (1997), who acknowledge that oppression always drives their victim for unable to believe themselves and accept the domination as their fault. In this case, domination through domestic violence viewed as "the victim accepted the abusers' definitions of themselves as incompetent and helpless" (Connell, 2005). Tom's practice of manipulation it is by 'decreasing' his victim 'confident' and 'image,' he manipulated Rachel as being 'abusive' and 'hysterical' towards him. Therefore, Tom's manipulation seen in order; first, he played with Rachel state of mind "She was drunk" or unconscious; two, he played with his expression: facial and body expression to add how disappointed he was. Third, he can turn a lie into a fact, and convincing Rachel that she has made "another" mistake will give her a sense of failure.

It is proven as shown on the next line about Tom's affirmation can persuade Rachel that she has done something terrible;

"I felt isolated in my misery. I became lonely, so I drank a bit, and then a bit more, and then I became lonelier because no one likes being around a drunk. I lost and I drank and I drank and I lost. I liked my job, but I didn't have a glittering career, and even if I had, let's be honest: women are still only really valued for two things – their looks and their role as mothers. I'm not beautiful, and I can't have kids, so what does that make me? Worthless." (Hawkins, 2015, p.112)

The passage above portrayed how manipulation included as emotional abuse. By Tom's manipulation, Rachel has become a self-blaming and self-sabotage person. Her core develops to the point of doubting herself and perceives herself as worthless. This devaluation is a process of men domination over women, where Tom explicates his dominant side by manipulating and devaluing women (Connell, 2005). He demonstrated his emotional abuse through power, shame, and authority as his method to dominate women characters, which also shown in the quotation below how emotion played an essential role to women oppression in the story;

"Ah, Rach, don't be like that. Don't you remember? You all sad, because Daddy's died, and just wanting someone to come home to, someone to love you? I gave you all" (Hawkins, 2015, p.389)

Emotional abuse is one of the methods of oppression that displayed in the quotation above. This passage reveals how Tom's masculinity started to take over to make his victim feel dependent on him. He centered himself as the person that Rachel needed in his life when her father died. In social and gender equality perspective discussion about fatherhood is culturally believed that women are closed to their father because as a father "To make sure that daughters grow up in a world that offers young women security, freedom, and opportunities to fulfill their talents is a powerful reason for many men to support gender equality" (Connell, 2005). Moreover, in Rachel cases, when her father died, she would fall into a belief where she needs a father's love and needed someone who can be a father figure in her life, which was Tom. However, this ideology and emotion used by Tom to dominate Rachel, to make her attached and dependent on him, because it means a full

control to her over his need.

This also depicted in Anna's cases for her emotional abuse, as it is shown in the quotation below;

"It was obvious from the moment I opened the door to him that it was going to happen. I'd never done anything like that before, never even dreamed of it, but there was something in the way he looked at me, the way he smiled at me. We couldn't help ourselves – we did it there in the kitchen, up against the counter. It was insane, but that's how we were. That's what he always used to say to me. Don't expect me to be sane, Anna. Not with you". (Hawkins, 2015, p.303)

This quotation demonstrated how Tom is manipulating Anna through her greed and ideas. In Anna's cases, her personality is pretty and career woman makes her greed a certain ideal life such as living in a luxurious house and polished furniture, which became her sole reason why she became a state agent. She admitted when she met Tom they fall in love with others by Tom's gentle gesture. However, she does not recognize that Tom is manipulating her to satisfying his sexual needs. He created an 'illusion' and 'image' and showed his masculine side to melt women's hearts. Reflecting the other victim where they get sway into a sweet fantasy about them if they are together. Anna with her greed blinded by his action and began their affair.

The women character oppression being represented by Rachel how she admitted how she was dominated by Tom in a physical and non-physical way inside the story, as shown in the quotation below;

"You lied to me,' I say and he turns to face me, surprised 'You told me everything was my fault, You made me believe that I was worthless. You watched me suffer, you---'" (Hawkins, 2015, p..380)

The manipulation, abuse, and violence experienced by the women character represented by Rachel in the quotation above. She confirmed that she devalued as being 'worthless' and 'being blamed' for everything that she has never done. From the quotation above, her experience being worthless means that she also admitted Tom's physical and non-physical violence. Rachel also claimed that she is being lied and manipulated to make her feel suffered.

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Furthermore, in *The Girl on The Train* the oppression also occurred in gender role and gender inequality between men and women;

“I told myself that I wouldn’t do it again, not after last time, but then I saw him and I wanted him and I thought, why not? I don’t see why I should have to restrict myself, lots of people don’t. Men don’t.” (The Girl on The Train, 2015, Pg. 72)

Gender inequality portrayed by Megan's idea over "men" who have superiority over women upon constructing their image. Connell's (2005) idea of men superiority defined men as "power holder," where it is excluded women for gaining power or even making a decision upon power. It is also involved in their sexual relationship. In the quotation above, Megan argued about women's intimate relationship and affair very contrast with men. She thought it is not fair to women because men have privilege, viewing and collecting women as objects without ruining their image. In contrast, women who practice possession, collecting men, are considered the edge of women's careers. Brumberg (1993) talked about women's image in society standard described elegant and mannered women is the standard of the norm. Therefore, women have always been restricted and controlled by society and will considered 'bad women' if their behavior and image do not look good.

In Rachel's cases, she addresses how Tom expectation over women and how women should be in his criteria;

“Do you have any idea how boring you became, Rachel? How ugly? Too sad to get out of bed in the morning, too tired to take a shower or wash your fucking hair? Jesus. It’s no wonder I lost patience, is it? It’s no wonder I had to look for ways to amuse myself. You’ve no one to blame but yourself.” (Hawkins, 2015, p.380)

Tom's expectation over women has made himself as a person who immerses in hegemonic culture. According to the quotation above, Tom expects women to twenty-four hours ready to satisfy his need. He mentioned about Rachel's behavior as boring and unready, while the context showed in their own house. The decision to wear makeup or dress code in their comfort zone should be considered an individual right. Home is supposed to be a safe place from the external forces that may be considered a burden, such as culture expectation or workplace. In addition, Home is supposed to be a shelter for a person to lower their guard and expectation; however, if this right violated, there will be instability in the household. Like men, men are highly valued in

society and very like to keep their possession in good appearance, especially women (Johnson,1997). It is added by Connell (2005), which she also argued that "Men gain a dividend from patriarchy in terms of honor, prestige and the right to command."

In Rachel and Tom's household, Tom's personality defined as 'authoritarian masculinity' type. Connell described this personality as "The 'authoritarian' type was masculinity particularly involved in the maintenance of patriarchy: marked by hatred for homosexuals and contempt for women, as well as more general conformity to authority from above, and aggression towards the less powerful". (Connell, 2005). It fitted to Tom's personality where, authoritarian depicted by claiming a validation of being powerful, violent, aggressive, and view women as his subordinate.

In Anna's case, she portrayed how women and men role of taking care of a household is different and exhausting for women;

“Still, when we were finally done and she was playing happily by herself, I let myself cry for a minute. I allow myself these tears sparingly, only ever when Tom's not here, just a few moments to let it all out. It was when I was washing my face afterward when I saw how tired I looked, how blotchy and bedraggled and bloody awful, that I felt it again – that need to put on a dress and high heels, to blow-dry my hair and do my make-up and walk down the street and have men turn and look at me” (Hawkins, 2015, p. 302)

The quotation above depicted men's and women's role inequalities in taking care of the household. Women in nature structured by society as a 'subordinate' for men because of their 'feminine' and 'soft natured' personality (Connell, 2005 & Campbell 2011). Including "An employed father claimed authority in the family, and a housebound mother did the child care and managed the family's emotional life." (Connell, 2005)It viewed as a duty for them to take care of the household emotionally, such as sexual need and satisfaction for their husbands, including childcare. However, men on the other side construct by society as masculine and strong, which Connell (2005) argued: "men naturally do not take care of infants the child care". It is because child care is considered 'feminine' work field and a job for a lady to take care of because women acknowledged being more sensitive than men because of 'emotion' and 'care'. Men believed that they are not sensitive to feeling and practical when it comes to illustrating their ideas because they expected to be 'head of the family' and 'serving' by their children and wife.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is concluded that women characters experienced gender oppression through physical and mental violence. The female characters are abused by the male character using violence such as dragging, hitting, and stepping, while the mentally abuse shows by manipulating, gaslighting, and shaming. The violence leads the women character into distrust themselves and a major of self-blaming behavior that makes them blind to the truth of their oppression. It is because the male character, specifically Tom has 'authoritarian masculinity' that secures him "feeling 'superior' than the women character. The power makes him misuse his authority as a 'man' and 'husband' in the household (Connell, 2005). Moreover, Tom concluded to be manipulating the women's character because he viewed women as subordinate and an object of sexual desire, which sees that he is having an affair with Anna and Megan (Connell, 2005 & Campbell, 2011 & Selden, 2013).

On the other side, gender oppression can be concluded through gender roles and inequality. The data showed that women's characters argued about men's behavior in the household. In Anna and Tom's cases, it concluded that Tom does not feel responsible for child care and prefers to go out with his 'army friend', while her wife Anna has to take care of the child. It is because the division of child care is considered feminine work and Tom's superiority makes him lack of sensibility and responsibility to do the work, as their gender role is assigned. In Megan's case, she argued that men never have to worried about their image, while women do not. She argued over men have a special privilege because men are constructed by society as 'tough' and 'masculine,' which they do not have to worry about their sexual relationship. In contrast, women have to worry because of their image being conservative by society and always perceive as 'feminine,' 'elegant' and 'mannered.' The perception affects women to be objectified and restricted by society because when women do not act like a lady, it would endanger the women's future, but not when it is men.

Suggestion

This study expected to contribute further studies about women's oppression in literary analysis. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the gender oppression and the aspect of oppression represented inside a novel through a core oppression finding, context analysis. This study also expected an additional reference for an English Literature student, especially for those interested in gender oppression and women violence using R.W Connell's 'Hegemonic Masculinity' theory. For suggestion, the study of woman oppression in *The Girl on The Train* is still very minimum for an object of study, and clearly, this study can be developed well for the further researcher. The researcher hopes that more research will conducted upon the same issues and literary work.

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