



## **MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNALIZED PATRIARCHAL NORMS IN TAYLOR JENKINS REID'S *THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO* (2017): FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**

**Ainul Chairunnisa<sup>1</sup>, Muhd. Al Hafizh<sup>2</sup>**

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Universitas Negeri Padang

email: [ainul.chairunnisa@gmail.com](mailto:ainul.chairunnisa@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

Male domination manifests patriarchal practices that navigate societal expectations on women. Through patriarchal societal norms, women become socialized into patriarchal structure. Because of the oppression and discrimination that has been maintained by patriarchal norms, it causes women to have internalized patriarchal norms. In the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* (2017) by Taylor Jenkins Reid, the issue of compulsory heterosexuality, male domination and internalized patriarchal norms are being explored. This research used qualitative approach, focusing on the interpretation of human experiences and perspective by using feminist literary criticism. The analysis uses patriarchy and feminist theory by Catharine A. Mackinnon, Julia Kristeva and Sylvia Walby, and compulsory heterosexuality theory by Adrienne Rich and Judith Butler. This research found four forms of internalized patriarchal norms. The internalized of patriarchal norms causes women being the subject of domestic, power and law abuse, and discriminations from patriarchal society. By using "Four Faces of Resistance" by Eric S. Knowles and Jay A. Linn, Abjection and Semiotic by Julia Kristeva, Subversion of Norms by Judith Butler and Lesbian Continuum by Adrienne Rich, this research also finds five form of resistance. Women demonstrate the resistance to challenge how patriarchal norms are manifested through internalized patriarchal norms.

**Key words:** male domination, compulsory heterosexuality, internalized patriarchal norms, abjection, resistances

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Patriarchy structures social practices and regulates hierarchical position of men which privileges men as a group and exploits women as a group. Patriarchy is commonly defined as a male-dominated hierarchal structure that values and places men in a culturally and socially higher status than women. Based on this traditional understanding of patriarchy, masculinity and femininity are described

<sup>1</sup> English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on September 2024

<sup>2</sup> Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



in opposition to one another by assigning provider roles in public settings for men while women are confined to nurturing roles in private settings (Ayala & Murga, 2016).

Male domination manifests patriarchal practices that navigate societal expectations on women. In patriarchal relation, women have normalized expectations in gender, while also consciously understanding themselves as gendered and sexualized objects (Nash, 2020). Through patriarchal societal norms, women become socialized into heterosexuality (Rich, 1980). As women are forced to serve men's needs and be in marriage, society prescribes women to "choose" heterosexual relationships solely to do their maternal job, including the physical force of marriage. As a result, heterosexuality has the compulsory status which is not merely considered as sexual preference or act, but it becomes an institution that organizes life (Seidman, 2003).

It is likely because of patriarchal norms, women are expected to fulfill their gender roles that revolve mainly in the domestic area, while also controlling them to present solely as objects. Within the patriarchal system, compulsory heterosexuality causes women to be perceived as compliant in heterosexual relationships while also providing women less security in their agencies. Women who do not conform to patriarchal norms of being in heterosexual relationships are more prominent to discrimination than women who enter into heterosexual relationships (Fraser, 2018)

Because of the oppression and discrimination that has been maintained by patriarchal norms, it causes women to have internalized patriarchal norms which shifts the way women perceives, comprehends, appreciates and evaluates the world around them. When women continuously conform to patriarchal norms, it sustains a patriarchal system (Rana, 2021). As a result, women could not acknowledge that they have been oppressed to express themselves and their desires because the internalized patriarchal norms restrict them to identify critically the domination that is exercised by men.

The *Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* is the second debut novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The novel first released in 2017 and brings out patriarchy and compulsory heterosexuality themes that are experienced by the female character. The novel describes the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood actress, who lives her life by having multiple marriages to men in order to fulfill the societal expectations of glamorous Hollywood stars. At the age of 79, Evelyn gives a final interview to unknown journalist, Monique Grant, to ghostwrite her autobiography and tell the truth about her ambitions, friendships, and forbidden love. However, as men dominate her life throughout her journey as a Hollywood actress, Evelyn Hugo is having a hard time with her emotions and her relationship with men which indicates her struggle with her sexuality because of the internalized patriarchy that influenced her life.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, qualitative research is used as the technique of data analysis. Qualitative research focuses on analyzing social reality by recognizing

factors, such as one's positioning, gender, race, sex, ethnicity and class as an analytical approach. It emphasizes the depth of human experiences and perspectives by offering insight that quantitative research may overlook (Phillips, 2023, p. 1). In order to analyze the data, the researcher collects the data by using close reading techniques to collect quotations from the novel to find forms of internalized patriarchal norms and the resistance to internalized patriarchal norms. Furthermore, the researcher will categorize the data into respective categories in finding the forms of the internalized patriarchal norms and the resistance towards the internalized patriarchal norms.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Research Findings**

#### **1. Forms of Internalized Patriarchal Norms**

##### **1.1 Male Domination**

Male domination refers to how male exercise their power and authority on women by oppressing them. Male dominance over women manifests through the control of house and reproductive works, domestic violence, and women's body and sexuality (Rich, 1980). In this novel, Evelyn experiences how male domination controls her body and sexuality which can be seen in the following quotation.

The first weeks of my marriage to Don had been nearly blissful. We bought a house in Beverly Hills and had it decorated in marble and linen. We had pool parties nearly every weekend, drinking champagne and cocktails all afternoon and into the night. Don made love like a king, truly. With the confidence and power of someone in charge of a fleet of men. I melted underneath him. In the right moment, for him, I'd have done anything he wanted. He had flipped a switch in me. A switch that changed me from a woman who saw making love as a tool into a woman who knew that making love was a need. (p. 73)

The quotation above reveals how men exercise their power through women by controlling their body and sexuality to pleased men. It can be seen in the phrases "The first weeks of my marriage to Don had been nearly blissful. We bought a house in Beverly Hills and had it decorated in marble and linen. We had pool parties nearly every weekend, drinking champagne and cocktails all afternoon and into the night" which explain how Don gives Evelyn a luxurious wedding in order to impress Evelyn as a romantic husband. Men use marriage as tools to exert their power by controlling women's sexuality. However, it leads Evelyn to change the way she sees herself in sexual relationships. The domination of men's power over women affects sexual relationships as it will lead to unequal power relationships and constraints women in all aspects of their life.

According to Mackinnon (1989) patriarchal power could manifest in relationships as it asserts the dynamic on how men are decision makers and women are expected to be supportive and subservient towards the choice. When men exert their power through marriage, it leads to unequal power relationships

that could lead from exploitation to violence. Within the marriage, women are left with the responsibility for childbirth and childcare. In this novel, two months after their wedding, Evelyn is forced to end her career as Don demanded her to have children but she got abused by him, as can be seen in the following quotation:

“I think you have gotten the wrong impression here, Evelyn,” Don said. “And how is that?” He came right up into my face. “We are not equals, love. And I’m sorry if I’ve been so kind that you’ve forgotten that.” I was speechless. “I think this should be the last movie you do,” he said. “I think it’s time for us to have children.” His career wasn’t turning out the way he wanted. And if he wasn’t going to be the most famous person in his family, he surely wasn’t going to allow that person to be me. I looked right at him and said, “Absolutely. Positively. Not.” And he smacked me across the face. Sharp, fast, strong. It was over before I even knew what happened, the skin on my face stinging from the blow I could barely believe had come my way.” (p. 76)

It can be seen from the phrase ““I think this should be the last movie you do,” he said. “I think it’s time for us to have children.” His career wasn’t turning out the way he wanted. And if he wasn’t going to be the most famous person in his family, he surely wasn’t going to allow that person to be me. I looked right at him and said, “Absolutely. Positively. Not.”” that Evelyn is demanded to engage solely in household labor and putting her career aside as Don asserts his dominance and power over their marriage. As a Hollywood actress who is at the peak of her career after marrying a famous actor, Evelyn is being threatened and degraded by Don as he takes out his frustration on Evelyn because his career is falling over slowly. Since Evelyn has become a wife, she is expected to have children sooner. However, Evelyn refuses to take Don’s request and leads her to endure the abuse as Don takes out his frustration on her. It implies that when women are restricted to marriage they are burdened with the responsibility to have children. If women refuse to engage in the responsibilities of having children, they have to endure the harassment of being less obedient to their husbands.

## 1.2 Women’s Subordination

The subordination of women is exercised through exploitation of domestic labors that leads to unequal division of labor. Women perform more domestic work than men because it is a form of determination for men. However, the production of domestic labor by women is exploited by men because men have the possession of the labor power (Walby, 1990).

“On the day we shot the final good-bye, where Diane and Frank kiss one last time on the beach, Don and I woke up in our rented bungalow, and he told me to make him breakfast. Mind you, he did not ask me to make him breakfast. He barked the order. Regardless, I ignored his tone and called down to the maid. “If you’re not going to be the kind of wife who is going to make me breakfast, you can at least know how I like it.” He escaped to the



bathroom. I was bothered but not entirely surprised. I had quickly learned that Don was only kind when he was happy, and he was only happy when he was winning. I had met him on a winning streak, married him as he was ascending. I was quickly learning that sweet Don was not the only Don.” (p. 74)

From this quotation, it can be revealed that women are expected to perform domestic works for her husbands when they are in marriage. It can be seen in the phrase “If you’re not going to be the kind of wife who is going to make me breakfast, you can at least know how I like it.” on how in order to support her public image, Evelyn is expected to perform domestic works and maintain a perfect household as what is expected from her as a wife. As men have power over labor works, women are forced to perform domestic work. Although she refuses to do domestic work, along with her lack of interest in doing so, she is regarded as an inattentive wife. It implies that Evelyn is compelled to undertake domestic work not because of her own decisions, but due to societal expectation and the way her husband pressures her. Another subordination that is experienced by Evelyn is shown in quotation below:

““Sunset’s dropping me, aren’t they?” “Don wants you out of the studio. Ari’s planning to loan you out to MGM and Columbia.” “And then what?” “And then you’re on your own.” “Well, that’s fine. I can do that. Celia’s freelance. I’ll get an agent, like her.” “You can,” Harry said. “And I think you should try, but . . .” “But what?” “Don wants Ari to blackball you from getting an Oscar nod, and Ari’s agreeing to it. I think he’s gonna loan you out and purposefully put you in flops.” (p. 134)

In this novel, Don controls Evelyn’s professional decisions and earnings which causes her to lose her job which is emphasized by the phrase ““Don wants Ari to blackball you from getting an Oscar nod, and Ari’s agreeing to it. I think he’s gonna loan you out and purposefully put you in flops.”. Evelyn faces double standards in professional settings as her professional achievements are devalued by the male counterparts. As Walby (1990) has stated, in patriarchal relations in paid work, women’s work is often devalued by patriarchal structures. This quotation shows that although Evelyn is financially independent due to her career as a Hollywood actress, she is at risk of patriarchal subordination.

Furthermore, the subordination of women was also enforced in various branches of the state, such as the judiciary, police and legal system, where women are not represented in the decision making position and legitimize gender inequality (Walby, 1990). In this novel, Evelyn receives her divorce paper which contains the controls over Evelyn’s assets and her agency. However, the divorce agreements only favors men, enabling Don to dictate her financial ability while allowing him to discuss their marriage publicly, as can be seen in the following quotation:

““You should read through it, have a lawyer read through it. But there’s essentially one big highlight.” “Tell me.” “You get the house and your money and half of his.” I looked at Harry as if he was trying to sell me the Brooklyn Bridge. “Why would he do that?” “Because you are forbidden to talk to anyone at any time about anything that happened during your marriage.” “Is he also forbidden?” Harry shook his head. “Not in writing, no.” “So I can’t talk, and he can blab all over town? What makes him think I’ll go for that?” Harry looked down at the table for a moment and then back up at me, sheepish.” (p. 133)

It can be seen from the phrase ““Why would he do that?” “Because you are forbidden to talk to anyone at any time about anything that happened during your marriage.” “Is he also forbidden?” Harry shook his head. “Not in writing, no.” on how the divorce paper prevents her from revealing the truth about her marriage in order to maintain Don’s public image and power as the divorce agreement restricts her financial independence by controlling her assets. The control over her assets indicates how the patriarchal state ensures women’s subordination by restricting women’s financial freedom and causing them to remain economically dependent on their husbands and vulnerable.

According to Mackinnon (1989), law has become a mechanism in legitimizing and perpetuating male power in creating an unequal legal system toward women. Evelyn faces legal silencing as the result of how the legal system prioritizes male perspective and interest, which prevents her from speaking about the details of her marriage to anyone. Because of how the legal system reflects the way male power dynamics sustain legal bias, Evelyn is struggling to challenge the legal barriers as she is left with limited resources to challenge the legal structures. It implies that due to patriarchal structures, the legal system favored men by allowing them to control family assets while reinforcing subordination of women, both economically and socially.

### 1.3 Objectification of Women

The objectification of women refers to the invalidation of women as mere sexual objects and desire which reduces women’s autonomy (Rich, 1980). In patriarchal relation, women’s bodies are the subject for male desire and consumption which perpetuates the commodification of women’s bodies, exploitation, and diminishes women’s autonomy and agency over their own sexuality (Walby, 1990)

“By the time I was thirteen, I was five foot eight, with dark, shiny brown hair, long legs, light bronze skin, and a chest that pulled at the buttons of my dresses. Grown men were watching me walk down the street, and some of the girls in my building didn’t want to hang out with me anymore. It was a lonely business. Motherless, with an abusive father, no friends, and a sexuality in my body that my mind wasn’t ready for.” (p. 43)

“Look what I do to these poor boys, I thought. And yet also, Here is my value, my power. So when he dumped me—because he was bored with me, because he’d found someone else more exciting—I felt both a deep relief and a very real sense of failure. There was one other boy like that, whom I took my shirt off for because I thought I had to, before I started realizing that I could be the one doing the choosing.” (p. 43)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that women encounter objectification ever since they hit puberty. This can be seen by the phrase “There was one other boy like that, whom I took my shirt off for because I thought I had to, before I started realizing that I could be the one doing the choosing.” which emphasize how the objectification and sexualization of women invalidate women’s autonomy and consent over their body. In patriarchal society, sexuality often serves as ways to privilege male pleasure in terms of sexual relation. It perpetuates sexual objectification and exploitation of women as women’s bodies are commodified as sexual objects (Mackinnon, 1989). The unwanted sexualization that is experienced by Evelyn causes her feeling vulnerable with her body and sexuality as it leaves the early impression on Evelyn that women’s bodies are meant to be the subject for male desires. It also causes the lack of agency for women over the sexualization that they experienced from men as they have become prominent subjects for male desire.

Furthermore, Rich (1980) stated the objectification of women manifested into commodities that is consumed by men. Pornography becomes a prominent source of sexual commodity that is consumed by male which depict women as objects of sexual desires and dehumanize women’s individual emotions and personality.

““I want to show you screwing because you love it.” His eyes were wide and excited. He was creatively enthralled. I always knew Max was a little lascivious, but this was different. This was a rebellious act. “Think about it. Sex scenes are about love. Or power.” “Sure. And the purpose of the love scene next week is to show how much Patricia loves Mark. How much she believes in him. How strong their connection is.” Max shakes his head. “I want it to show the audience that part of the reason Patricia loves Mark is because he makes her orgasm.” I felt myself pulling back, trying to take it all in. It shouldn’t have felt so scandalous, and yet it absolutely was. Women have sex for intimacy. Men have sex for pleasure. That’s what culture tells us.” (p. 256)

It can be seen that Evelyn’s body is being exploited to portray sexual scenes in order to depict women’s sexuality through male voyeuristic gaze. In the following phrase ” I felt myself pulling back, trying to take it all in. It shouldn’t have felt so scandalous, and yet it absolutely was. Women have sex for intimacy. Men have sex for

pleasure. That's what culture tells us.", it emphasized how as Evelyn navigates her career through Hollywood, she becomes aware of the way the entertainment industry commodifies and exploits women by valuing them for their physical appearance and sexual appeal, rather than their talent and intelligence. Although Evelyn has been recognized as a talented actress, her talents are being exploited through sexualization of her body.

Mackinnon (1989) emphasized how pornography reinforces a culture of sexual objectification and sexual exploitation of women as it is being commodified for male consumption. It shows that women's bodies and sexuality are treated as sexual commodities for men as women portrayed as natural sexual prey for men. As a result, patriarchal society perpetuates the objectification and sexualization of women by treating them as commodities which causes women to have less autonomy, dignity, and agency over their own sexuality.

#### 1.4 The Social Expectation of Heterosexual Relationship

The social expectation of heterosexual relationships revolves on the expectation of traditional gender roles, male dominance and control over women's bodies, and cultural expectations on how men and women behave in relationships (Rich 1980). In this novel, Evelyn is compelled to heterosexual relationship by marrying multiple times in order to fulfill societal expectations.

"I had never made much money before, and now I was making as much as Ernie after he was promoted to key grip. So I asked him if I could pay for acting classes. I'd made him arroz con pollo that night, and I specifically didn't take my apron off when I brought it up. I wanted him to see me as harmless and domestic. I thought I'd get further if I didn't threaten him. It grated on my nerves to have to ask him how I could spend my own money. But I didn't see another choice." (p. 47)

It can be seen from the phrase "I had never made much money before, and now I was making as much as Ernie after he was promoted to key grip. So I asked him if I could pay for acting classes. " which shows how heterosexual marriages control women through financial dependencies. From the quotation above, it can be seen that after Evelyn marries Ernie she is able to get her own paychecks. However, as she dreamed of being a Hollywood actress, in order to improve her acting talent she has to pay for acting classes but she is unable to do so unless she serves her husband first. As stated by Walby (1990), marriage creates the idealization of heterosexual relationships as norms. Although women are able to make their own income, they can not exercise their autonomy unless they get approval from their husband beforehand.

According to Rich (1980), society forces women to engage in heterosexual marriage in order to align with patriarchal expectations. Being in heterosexual marriage has compulsory status for women. However, if women refuse to align with compulsory heterosexuality it causes women to be stigmatized and marginalized as they deviate from societal norms.



“Fortunately, painting me as some woman who couldn’t keep a husband sold more papers—for a longer period of time—than outing me. I’m not saying the gossip columnists printed what they knew to be a lie. I’m simply saying they were all too happy to believe the lie I was selling them. And of course, that’s the easiest lie to tell, one you know the other person desperately wants to be true. All I had to do was make sure that my romantic scandals felt like a story that would keep making headlines. And as long as I did that, I knew the gossip rags would never look too closely at Celia.” (p. 180)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Evelyn’s public persona is created in order to align with social expectations of heterosexual norms. It can be seen in the phrase “Fortunately, painting me as some woman who couldn’t keep a husband sold more papers—for a longer period of time—than outing me.” which indicates that Evelyn has to navigate her relationship with men as society puts expectations on her as she lives in a patriarchal society. It also indicates how there is cultural control in enforcing the patriarchal notion on how women are portrayed as promiscuous because of how their unstable relationship with men are scandalous. Mackinnon (1989) emphasized how through the construction of cultural norms, patriarchy often devalues women’s experience by defining the ideal femininity of women that is solely centered around male experiences and perspective. Evelyn’s public image in the way her relationship with men is considered scandalous for Hollywood society, indicates how patriarchal power enforces the narrative of what is normal and desirable in controlling women’s relationships.

““I slept with Mick because I wanted to protect our careers, mine and hers. And that was more important to me than the sanctity of our relationship. And I slept with Harry because I wanted a baby, and I thought people would get suspicious if we adopted. Because I was afraid to draw attention to the sexlessness of our marriage. And I chose that over the sanctity of our relationship. And when Max Girard had a good idea about a creative choice in a movie, I wanted to do it. And I was willing to do it at the expense of the sanctity of our relationship.”” (p. 265)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Evelyn’s public persona is created in order to align with heterosexual norms. Her marriage to men served as a way to sustain her Hollywood career which was surrounded with powerful men. This is emphasized through the phrase “““I slept with Mick because I wanted to protect our careers, mine and hers. And that was more important to me than the sanctity of our relationship. And I slept with Harry because I wanted a baby, and I thought people would get suspicious if we adopted.”” which shows how her marriage solely exists for the purpose to fulfill societal expectations and secure her public image. The way Evelyn sustains her marriages is a response to compulsory heterosexuality. Evelyn’s romantic desire to Celia St. James that she kept hidden from the public reflects how non-heterosexual relationships are marginalized by society. Evelyn’s

marriage emphasized how compulsory heterosexuality constraints Evelyn's life choices as she is forced to align with patriarchal expectations.

## 2. Forms of Resistance

### 2.1 Reactance

Reactance is described as a response towards the way someone perceives threats which leads them to exercise their autonomy and reject the threat (Knowles & Linn, 2003). In this novel, Evelyn proposes that Celia St. James hides their relationship by dating men in order to preserve their public images and careers. However, Celia refuses Evelyn's proposal to date men which can be seen in the quotation below:

“Celia went along with the plan like a put-upon spouse, agreeing to whatever I wanted because it was easier than fighting with me. But now, with the suggestion of going on a date, I'd gone too far. I knew I'd gone too far. That was the point, sort of. “You need to listen to me,” I said. “You need to listen to me.” She slammed the lid of the grill shut and gestured to me with a pair of silver tongs. “I'll go along with any of your little tricks that you want. But I'm not getting on board with either of us dating.””(pg.165)

The quotation above shows that Celia rejects Evelyn's proposal because she receives it as a threat to her freedom to live by her own integrity. It can be seen by the phrase “Celia went along with the plan like a put-upon spouse, agreeing to whatever I wanted because it was easier than fighting with me.” which explained how Celia has been navigating their secret relationship and living a lie at the expense of Evelyn's request. Celia had endured years of hiding their relationship in order to maintain a public image. However, Celia starts feeling emotionally exhausted by the idea of continuing to fake their relationship by dating men which is shown in following phrases “I'll go along with any of your little tricks that you want. But I'm not getting on board with either of us dating.”.

### 2.2 Distrust

Distrust arises from the perception that a proposal, offer, or messages to change is driven by motives (Knowles & Linn, 2003). In this novel, Celia questions Evelyn's motives on the way she keeps insisting to hide their relationship for longer periods of time by having relationships with men.

“Celia, angry, picked up my pack of cigarettes and lit one. “So that's what you want to do? You want to spend every second of our lives trying to hide what we really do? Who we really are?” “It's what everyone in town is doing every day.” “Well, I don't want to.” “Well, then you shouldn't have become famous.”” (p. 166)

Based on the quotation above, Celia perceives Evelyn's plan to hide their relationship for longer periods of time as a way of protecting Evelyn's career and public image over her emotional being. It was emphasized through phrases "So that's what you want to do? You want to spend every second of our lives trying to hide what we really do? Who we really are?" which spiked Celia's distrust and led her to frantically resist Evelyn's plan. Celia considered Evelyn's true intentions as self-satisfaction which focused solely on Evelyn's career and public image. Evelyn invalidates Celia's emotional exhaustion of continuously hiding their relationship which amplifies Celia's distrust and emotional betrayal.

Furthermore, the distrust between Celia and Evelyn leads to conflict in their relationship. Celia could no longer compromise her values and emotional well-being despite any potential benefits that she could gain from maintaining her public image. It can be seen from the following quotation:

"“You didn't do a goddamn thing for me,” she said, her chest turning red in splotches, her cheeks burning. “You did it for you. You did it because you can't stand the idea of not being the most famous woman on the planet. You did it to protect yourself and your precious fans, who go to the theater over and over just to see if this time they'll catch a half frame of your tits. That's who you did it for.”” (p. 182)

From this quotation, it can be seen that Celia's distrust over Evelyn caused their relationship to decline. The emotional turmoil that Celia experienced throughout their relationship has left Celia feeling betrayed and undervalued.

### 2.3 Scrutiny

Scrutiny refers to carefully and thoughtfully examining the proposal of change. It emphasizes how each point on the proposal itself is evaluated more thoroughly, including questioning the logic, intentions, and the outcome of the proposal itself (Knowles & Linn, 2003). In this novel, Celia thoroughly examined and questioned the plan that Evelyn offered and insisted on making their relationship visible for the public. It can be seen from following quotation:

"“What would you like to do, Celia? Maybe I should call over to Sub Rosa myself? Call the FBI directly? I can give them a quote. ‘Yep, Celia St. James and I are deviants!’ ” “We aren't deviants.” “I know that, Celia. And you know that. But no one else knows that.” “But maybe they would. If they tried.” “They aren't going to try. Do you get that? No one wants to understand people like us.” “But they should.” “There are lots of things we all should do, sweetheart. But it doesn't work that way.”” (p. 166)

This quotation reveals that Celia questions whether it is necessary to date men solely to maintain the public image. Celia scrutinized Evelyn's assumption that they are deviants for being in relationships with each other. It can be seen from the phrase “We aren't deviants.” “I know that, Celia. And you know that. But no one

else knows that.” “But maybe they would. If they tried.” that Celia critically questions Evelyn’s justification of how they are deviants in front of everyone.

#### 2.4 Inertia

Inertia refers to a state of neither refusing or accepting the proposer or the proposal, but remaining unchanged rather than resisting change (Knowles & Linn, 2003). Inertia emphasizes the tendency of resisting to change and maintain the status quo because of the discomfort that is associated with changes. In this novel, Celia make her final decision by rejecting Evelyn’s offer and remains to stay on her dignity.

““This is not a life, Evelyn,” she said. She opened the door and walked past me. I almost fell, so much of my weight had been resting on the very door she had just flung open. But I caught myself and followed her down the stairs. “Yes, it is,” I said. “This is our life. And we’ve sacrificed so much for it, and you can’t give up on it now.” “Yes, I can,” she said. “I don’t want to do this anymore. I don’t want to live this way. I don’t want to drive an awful brown car to your home so no one knows I’m here. I don’t want to pretend I live by myself in Hollywood when I truly live here with you in this house. And I certainly don’t want to love a woman who would screw some singer just so the world doesn’t suspect she loves me.”” (p. 182)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Celia’s inertia is caused by her reluctance to change the way her and Evelyn have managed their relationship as she prefers to deal with the discomfort than facing uncertainty of a new secret relationship strategy. It can be seen from the phrase ““I don’t want to pretend I live by myself in Hollywood when I truly live here with you in this house. And I certainly don’t want to love a woman who would screw some singer just so the world doesn’t suspect she loves me.””. Celia is no longer able to deceive the public by dating men as it becomes overwhelming for her and adding more emotional strain that leads her to firmly reject Evelyn’s plan.

#### 2.5 Subversion of Norms

Butler (1990) emphasized the alternative performance of gender expression could disrupt the social construct of binary gender and heteronormative expectations. The subversion of norms challenges the seeming naturalness of gender expectations and sexual orientations. Heteronormativity, which is embedded by gender normativity, could be subverted in order to challenge the norms and create new identity. By refusing to conform traditional gender norms, and recognizing non-heteronormative relationship, it exposed the limitations of existing norm and creates inclusive understandings of gender and sexuality. In this novel, Evelyn and Celia’s relationship indicates how they subvert heteronormative norms and social expectation that is imposed on them in patriarchal society.



““Do you love him?” she asked. “Don? “Who else?” I thought about it. I had loved him once. I’d loved him very much. But did I love him anymore? “I don’t know,” I said. I walked over and sat down on the bed. “It’s hard to say I do or don’t love him or to say that I’m with him for one reason over another. I love him, and a lot of the time I hate him. And I’m with him because of his name but also because we have fun. We used to have fun a lot, and now we still do sometimes. It’s hard to explain.”” (p. 110)

It can be seen from repeated questions that Celia asks Evelyn, such as ““Do you love him?””, “Is it all for publicity? Are you just in it to be an Adler?”, “What, then?” which emphasized how Celia gives reassurance to Evelyn to reveal her complex feelings toward Don. This marked the beginning of their emotional intimacy that is experienced by Evelyn. From the quotation above, it can be seen that Evelyn gets support and understanding from Celia’s companionship which marks the existence of their relationships as ways to subvert heteronormative norms. For Evelyn, she can share her vulnerable feelings with Celia because Celia’s support allows her to express herself and gives deeper understanding of herself which she does not get when being in a relationship with men.

The concept of abjection refers to how the subject expels from what is considered threatening in order to maintain a coherent identity (Kristeva, 1980). By being abject, it creates a new identity that has been excluded in order to maintain social order. The process of abject is internalized by the individual and it shapes individual identities and desires. In the context of this novel, non-heterosexual desires that Evelyn, Celia, Harry, and John have are abjected from heterosexual norms as their identities are considered as impure and deviant.

“Celia and I spent our nights together in this apartment. Harry spent his nights with John at their place. We went out to dinner in public, the four of us looking like two pairs of heterosexuals, without a heterosexual in the bunch. The tabloids called us “America’s Favorite Double-Daters.” I even heard rumors that the four of us were swingers, which wasn’t that crazy for that period of time. It really makes you think, doesn’t it? That people were so eager to believe we were swapping spouses but would have been scandalized to know we were monogamous and queer?” (p. 228)

It can be seen from the phrase “Celia and I spent our nights together in this apartment. Harry spent his nights with John at their place. We went out to dinner in public, the four of us looking like two pairs of heterosexuals, without a heterosexual in the bunch.” which indicates how both Evelyn and Celia’s relationship and Harry and John’s relationship indicates the abjection of symbolic order of heterosexual norms. The way their relationships are kept in hiding as it leads to the feeling of alienation indicates how patriarchal norms repress non-heteronormative identities. According to Kristeva (1984), semiotic exists as a way to disrupt symbolic order. Evelyn and Celia’s relationship, along with Harry and John’s relationship can be implied as semiotic disruption on symbolic order of heteronormativity. Their

relationship serves as rejection toward symbolic order of heteronormativity because of how their relationship exist outside the constraints of patriarchal order of sexuality.

## 2. Discussions

The analysis of the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* (2017) discusses how patriarchal norms are internalized into various aspects of life in women, range from household area, legal system, workplace, and sexuality through the overt control of male domination along with the social expectation that is created by patriarchal society. The first analysis discusses how patriarchal norms are internalized in women's lives in several forms, such as male domination, subordination of women, objectification of women, and social expectations in heterosexual relationships. Based on the analysis, patriarchal norms are internalized by exerting male power through every areas of women's lives, which leads the enablement of patriarchal norms as forms of control and power over women's bodies and agencies. It resulted on how women are vulnerable targets of domestic violence, objectification, unequal legal systems, and social expectations. In order to be released from internalized patriarchal norms, resistance are being shown. The second analysis discusses how resistance towards internalized patriarchal norms are exercised through reactance, scrutiny, distrust, inertia, and subversion of norms in order to be released from the internalized patriarchal norms. Based on the analysis, resistance on internalized patriarchal norms are exercised by carefully examining the enforcement of internalized patriarchal norms, being abject from patriarchal practices, and subverting from existing norms. By showing resistance, women challenge the impact of internalized patriarchal norms in limiting their agencies, bodies and choices as they find alternate ways in refusing patriarchal norms that enforced social expectations on them and controls their lives.

## D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the main characters in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* (2017) experienced several forms of internalized patriarchal norms that manifest compulsory heterosexuality including male domination, women's subordination, objectification of women, and dominant display of heterosexual relationship. This internalized patriarchal norms constrains women's action as they became vulnerable to domestic abuses, unequal legal system, and oppressions from patriarchal society. This research also found that the main characters show their resistance towards internalized patriarchal norms. They show their resistance through reactance, distrust, scrutiny, inertia, and subversion of norms. They demonstrate the resistance to challenge internalized patriarchal norms that has been embedded through manifestations of patriarchal norms.

As a result, it can be concluded that patriarchal norms are internalized in women's life which caused them compelled to patriarchal norms in order to fulfill societal expectations. By showing the resistance, women are able to challenge challenge the patriarchal norms which internalized sexuality, legal system, abuses,

and oppression by showing resistance that emphasized on the challenge toward the constrains of patriarchal norms.

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