



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THREE POEMS *THE MONSTER HE'S BECOME* BY PATRICIA A FLAMING (2021), *RETURNING FAITH* BY LYNETTE GUTWEIN (2011), AND *THEY DON'T KNOW* BY BRIAN E PARDEE (2020)

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Abstract

This research is an analysis of three poems entitled *The Monster He's Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011), and *They Don't Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020). This analysis explains the form and impact of the treatment of violence experienced by women in the three poems. This study also shows how victims of violence resist the acts of violence they receive. The study of these poems is analyzed with feminist theory which focuses on gender-based violence. The results of this study show that victims experience three types of violence, in the form of physical violence, verbal violence and sexual violence. This study shows that there are impacts such as fear, self-doubt, physical injury, distrust to partner and distrust to other people like family and neighbors. Then in this study shows that there is resistance by women such as staying away from the violence zone and staying alive.

Key words: *Gender-Based Violence, Women, Impact, Resistance.*

A. INTRODUCTION

Violence can be committed by or against anyone. Women, men, children, adults and others (Lestari, 2018). However, women and children receive the most violence. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that around 33% of women globally have encountered instances of physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence throughout their lives (Pycroft, 2022). These alarming statistics emphasize the pervasive nature of this issue, underscoring its importance as a fundamental human rights concern. The consequences of violence against women extend beyond immediate physical harm, frequently resulting in enduring psychological distress, compromised health, and limited socio-economic prospects (Mudayana *et al.*, 2023).

There are many cases of violence against women around the world. In Haiti, one of the main concerns is that 40% of reported violent incidents results in

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serious injuries. This emphasizes the need for quick and effective intervention to protect the physical and mental health of victims. According to UN Women (2024), Haiti is of the countries in North America with a high level of violence. Women and children are victims of physical and sexual violence. In the past 12 months, domestic violence reached 36%, while other violence reached 14 percent.

In Asia, violence against women is strongly influenced by the culture that people believe in and is hereditary. India has a strong culture that they still believe in today. The plight of girls is seen as a burden. In India, women begin to be married off by their families at the age of 14 and immediately carry out their duties as a wife. This results in a lot of unpreparedness on both sides. More than 50% of women experience violence and about 43.5% of women experience violence while they are pregnant (Gandhi *et al.*, 2021).

In Indonesia, violence against women stems from a complex web of factors that are intricately connected to cultural norms, patriarchal systems, and unequal power dynamics prevalent in societies (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005). The perpetuation of gender inequality, normalization of violence, and acceptance of discriminatory practices in cultures only serve to worsen the issue at hand. This combination of factors creates an environment where women are systematically marginalized and exposed to different forms of mistreatment.

From the past until now literary works have been a means of expression for many people, from the lower and upper classes. Thus, causing literary works to reflect how the political, social and cultural conditions in a country. Literary works have been widely utilized and have a very large role in the world of education and history. Various types of literary works are presented in various kinds and varieties, so that no one can deny the beauty of literary works. Some people like to read, and choose novels as their preferred works of literature, but some other people prefer to enjoy visuals which can be enjoyed through movies or dramas, and some others just love beautiful words that have deep meaning, and poetry is the choice. Literary works can easily reach anyone, and present fun things in it. So that literary works can be a tool for shaping character and mind for future generations. This issue of gender violence not only occurs in real life but also widely discussed in literary works. There is a lot of violence experienced by women which is described in novels, prose, drama and poetry. This proves that this issue has existed since ancient times and is even worse. In these literary works, on poetry “*The Monster He’s Become*” By Patricia A Flaming (2021), “*Returning Faith*” by Lynette Gutwein (2011) and “*They Don’t Know*” By Brian E Pardee (2020), the topic about gender violence is prominent. In these poems women become an object of abuse by their partner. Some dictions in this poetry make the readers can imagine, feel the violence and the trauma that happen to women in these poems.

Feminists have very deep studies. In several feminist theories, experts explain that the analysis of behavior and the causes of someone committing violence against women is also criticized and included in it (Humm, 2007). In this research, the researcher focuses to analyze the form and impact of violence against women in these three poems. Although there have been many discussions about violence against women, this research will focus on these three poems. This

research aims to complement and support that violence against women is not a trivial issue and should not be ignored.

There are several forms of violence that occur against women. These include physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and economic violence (Ganley, 1998). However, in the poems *The Monster He's Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011) and *They Don't Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020) will focus on three types of violence, namely physical violence, verbal violence and sexual violence.

The resistance carried out by women is a response to the violence they (women) receive. It is the same with the definition of the Feminist Movement, a resistance that rejects the existence of patriarchal domination and all the effects of such domination. In muted group theory, which focuses on women's resistance to violence, oppression, exploitation and gender inequality. This theory explains that women are neglected because of the high social indifference of society to the experiences experienced by women. The experience felt in public and domestic areas that often hurt, hurt and damage women does not receive much special attention.

In this case, it can be understood that the freedom to express injustice and painful experiences does not feel real. Because social and norms seem to silence this freedom (Aziza and Santosa, 2023). The belief that the act of telling or expecting attention from society is just a wishful thinking. Therefore, many women victims of violence are trying to stay in the violence zone. Much bigger concerns such as insults, shame and social criticism are more blaming women for the failure of a household or dating relationship. Worry is not a little hopeless. Many victims of violence decide to end their lives because they are unable to bear all the consequences of whatever action they want to take and feel that dying is the best way to end their suffering.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the titles of the source are *The Monster He's Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011), and *They Don't Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020) three literary works as the main research objects. These three poems focus on gender violence issues which has been chosen by the researcher.

The analysis of these three poems; *The Monster He's Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011) and *They Don't Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020) uses qualitative research which is the most widely used and the most appropriate method for analyzing poetry. Qualitative method is library research that focuses on the writing of the expert, researchers and articles that can contribute to increasing academic knowledge and hopefully can be understood by common people.

The sources of data obtained by quoting several words or stanzas in poem that are related to the issue and theory. In analyzing poetry, it is important to understand the meaning behind every word. Even one word, name, place, or the title of movies, books, dramas and poems can help the researcher to understand

what the poem really wants to convey. A word is important but doesn't mean other poetics elements not really have contributed to this research. In this research, repetition, speaker, and tone must be considered and understood well. So that, the researcher can use the qualitative method on this research to expose the issue about domestic violence, the type of domestic violence, the impacts of domestic violence and the resistance efforts made by women.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Findings

The first subtopic to be discussed is the form and impact of violence that occur to women in three poems; *The Monster He's Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011) and *They Don't Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020). In these three poems identify three types of violence experienced by women, physical violence, mental or verbal violence and sexual violence. In this study, there are impact of violent actions in the form of fear, distrust to their self, to partners and other people and resulting in physical injuries. Then all the suffering gets resistance from each victim in the form of getting out of the violence zone and staying alive. The analysis is carried out using poetic elements and figurative language to understand the content of the poem that the writer wants to convey. In this study, it was also found that each victim has a different way to fight the violence he or she experience

1.1. Form of Violence

Physical Violence

According to Bollen *et al* (1999), violence is a habit of someone who uses their physical body to hurt other people, such as hitting, kicking, slapping and using weapons, resulting in injury, trauma, and even death. This act of violence is done directly to the victim's body, either by using hands, feet or objects that are deliberately thrown and directed violently by the abuser. Physical acts of violence can be seen in the first poem, stanza 3.

*To him she's just an afterthought,
An object to be used,
A service to be rendered,
A shattered ego to abuse.*

The Monster He's Become by Patricia A Flaming (2021)
3rd stanza

Based on the quote from the poem above, it can be understood that women are victims of violence committed by men. Women are no longer considered as human beings, but objects that are used as they please. This gives rise to the understanding that it is natural for violent acts to occur because the perpetrator considers himself to be able to do whatever he wants to something that belongs to them. The use of the word "*abuse*" in the poem shows the violence committed by

the perpetrator. However, if referring to the previous phrase "*a shattered ego*", women as victims have often received violent treatment from the perpetrator.

Verbal / Mental Violence

Verbal violence is based on the habit of not being able to respect others and tends to use words to hurt others. Even though there are no visible injuries, this violence is one of the factors that can cause physical violence to occur. Mental violence can occur even with a change in attitude from the partner. Victims of violence can be more sensitive to every action that occurs around them. This is illustrated in the first poem of the first stanza.

*There was a time he loved her.
Now it's clear there's nothing there.
He walks around so flippantly
With no interest or a care.*

The Monster He's Become by Patricia A Flaming (2021)

1st stanza

The quote above shows a change in the attitude of the couple felt by women. The use of the words "no interest" and "no care" can be interpreted as an attitude that is contrary to what the couple should feel. The use of past tense words makes it even clearer that the situation is changing between them.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is a form of violence that can be experienced by anyone, especially women. Sexual violence is usually coercive, such as sexual harassment, rape and others.

This sexual violence can be seen in the poem to, the first stanza.

*You took away my innocence,
My hopes, my dreams, my youth.
You took from me my very soul.
What could have been, I never knew*

Returning Faith by Lynette Gutwein (2011)

1st stanza

In the quote above, the use of the phrase "taken away" indicates an act of sexual violence. The use of the word "my Innocence" can be interpreted to describe someone who has lost his virginity, such as an act of rape against the victim.

1.2. Impact of Violence

The first impact of violence is fear, this can be seen from the first poem of the 7th stanza.

*But she fears he'll never let her go
And she knows he'll never change.
Promises are made and broken
But his cruelty still remains.*

The Monster He's Become by Patricia A Flaming (2021)
7th stanza

In the quote above, it can be understood that the word "fear" represents what the victim feels. In addition, it can be known that there is restraint carried out by the perpetrator, this certainly worsens the fear that the victim feels. There is no freedom, feeling afraid of everything you want to do, and this shows that women no longer have the space to move and defend themselves, because everything is based on fear. Excessive fear can cause a disease called Anxiety. Anxiety can be experienced by anyone, but people who experience violence and are confined in the violence zone are more susceptible to this anxiety disorder.

The second impact of violence is a loss of trust in their own self, their partner and people around them. This situation shows that victims often think about things that are sometimes not so important, they tend to be more sensitive and look at many things negatively. This can also be shown by the victim who seems to blame himself and questioning what she is doing, whether it is wrong or right. The word "wounds" presents there are physical injury.

1.3. Resistance by the Victim

The first is passive resistance, this can be seen in the first poems of the 8th stanza.

*But time is passing quickly now.
She's in the twilight of her years
And it's her hope and consolation
That her days are numbered here*

The Monster He's Become by Patricia A Flaming (2021)
8th stanza

In the quote above, it can be interpreted that the attitude taken by the victim is passive. This is shown using the phrase "*She's in the twilight*" which can be interpreted as suffering that has been experienced by victims will end as soon as possible which is described by the word "twilight". The victim in this poem is resigned but never gives up, this can be seen from the victim's optimism that the suffering he experienced will end. This attitude, although passive, is still very positive because surviving to stay alive is one way to survive. This is illustrated in the use of the word "*hope*" and the sentence "*that her days are numbered here*" in this quote can be interpreted as the desire and hope to stay alive.

Passive resistance is also depicted in the 3rd poem, the victim only shows the amount of suffering that the victim experienced. The speaker in the poem

seems to explain that there are still many people around the victim who do not know how violence occurs around them, the speaker seems to convey that this condition is very sad, and the suffering continues and is felt by the victim. This can be seen in the repetitive use of *the phrase "they don't know"* and is used in each stanza.

Passive resistance can be seen in the 10th stanza.

*They don't know
About the smiles she forces daily so the pain won't show,
About the fact no one can ever help if they don't know.*
They Don't Know by Brian E Pardee (2020)
10th stanza

In the quote above, it can be interpreted that the victim of violence only expects the help of others, but the condition he experiences is the fact that other people who the victim expects to come to help do not know why the violence occurred. The use of the phrase "smiles she forces daily" can be interpreted as the victim does not have the courage to show the pain she is experiencing; this is also a factor that the environment also does not feel the pain of the victim of the violence.

The second is resistance by getting out of the violent area. Victims who dare to get out of a relationship that is detrimental to women is a form of getting out of the problem at hand. Resisting does not have to be by attacking the perpetrator and doing the same thing as the perpetrator of violence, but it can also be done by exiting, running, and staying away from the zone. The victim who tried to get out of the violence zone is found in the 2nd poem. A victim's desire to get out of the violence zone can be influenced by their loved ones. This is found in the 5th stanza.

*It was for a child that I lived,
Although I rather would have died.
Now, how I thank God for that child?
Because of her, I have survived.*
Returning Faith by Lynette Gutwein (2011)
5th stanza

In the first and 3rd rows, there is the word "child" which can be interpreted as the reason for the victim to survive and get out of the violence zone is his child. This shows that the desire to live and struggle is based on the compassion and responsibility that the victim has. In the 3rd line there is the phrase "thank God for that child" and in the 4th line "because of her, I have survived" this word shows that the desire to give up has been felt by the victim, but the existence of a loved one, namely his own child, makes the victim want to fight and live.

2. Discussion

The analysis with title “Gender-Based Violence in Three Poems *The Monster He’s Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011), and *They Don’t Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020)” discusses how women are treated by men in the domestic and public area which shows the existence of various types of violence, the impact of violence and the form of resistance that victims carry out against the violence. The acts of violence that occur are influenced by the existence of a patriarchal culture and social thinking about violence against women. The first analysis discusses how the form of violence that occurs to women in the three poems. Each poem explains the existence acts of violence against women in the form of physical, verbal, and sexual violence. This is marked using many words that interpret the existence of these acts of violence. In this study, it can be understood that acts of violence occur because men do not want to get rejection and must have control of dominance over women in a relationship. This results in the formation of a sense of right for men to do anything to women, even if it is hurtful or regulating others. Violence includes not only physical but also verbal violence, which threatens a person's mental health. The second analysis discusses the impact of violence.

In this second discussion, it focuses on the consequences of physical violence, verbal violence and sexual violence that occur to women in the three poems. Which resulted a lot of suffering felt by women resulting in mental and physical suffering. In this study, there are several consequences of acts of violence felt by women in the form of deep fear as a manifestation of mental disorders, distrust of themselves, their spouse and family, neighbours and people around them, and the most obvious is the presence of physical injuries. Then the third discussion is in the form of resistance carried out by women as a response that they do as victims. Women as victims in this poem have different ways of resisting. In the first poem, women tend to be silent, do not resist and survive even though they are treated badly by men, but never give up or try to end their lives. In the second poem, women are firm about the actions they experienced by leaving the zone of violence. Then in the third poem, the woman survived and was optimistic about living her life because of the presence of a child she loved. This resulted in an understanding that victims have two types of resistance in the form of getting out of the violence zone and staying alive.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Research on three poems entitled *The Monster He’s Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011), and *They Don’t Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020) which focuses on violence experienced by women. This analysis explains the form and impact of the treatment of violence experienced by women in the three poems which shows physical, mental and sexual violence as well as the impact that occurs in the form of fear, distrust in oneself, spouse and family or neighbors and physical injury. This study also shows how victims of violence resist the acts of violence they receive; this

resistance is in the form of surviving to live and getting out of the violence zone. Each victim has a different response and way to deal with the violence they receive. The study of these poems is analyzed with feminist theory which focuses on gender-based violence. Then it was also found that violence has an impact on victims in the form of fear, loss of trust in themselves, partners, and others.

The research conducted on these three poems entitled *The Monster He's Become* by Patricia A Flaming (2021), *Returning Faith* by Lynette Gutwein (2011), and *They Don't Know* by Brian E Pardee (2020). In this study, the researcher realized that women are often the target of violence because of the dominant patriarchy that regulates, controls, and restricts women to gain freedom. Social conditions such as stereotypes and cultures that have developed also force women to keep their mouths shut and survive in conditions that are already very bad for them personally. For this reason, it is very important for every man or woman to understand that violence must not be tolerated and cannot be allowed. Even though women now have the awareness to fight, it does not mean that the government will continue to ignore this condition. It should be that as the number of victims increases every day, it is also a very important note to improve the current situation.

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