

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST STUDY OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AND WOMAN'S RESISTANCE IN "THE
YELLOW WALLPAPER" AND "SWEAT" SHORT
STORIES**

THESIS



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"SWEAT" SHORT STORY**

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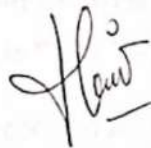
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ABSTRACT

Farhana. Q. H. (2024). *Compare and Contrast Study of Domestic Violence and Woman's Resistance in "The Yellow Wallpaper" and "Sweat" Short Stories*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M. Hum.

This study explores how domestic violence and woman's resistance are portrayed in Zora Neale Hurston "Sweat" and Charlotte Perkins Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper" using feminism theory. It focuses on two main questions: (1) What kinds of domestic violence the female characters face in both of the stories; (2) How they resist the abuse and oppression.

This research uses a qualitative method, analyzing the texts to understand the stories in detail. The data were gathered by identifying different types of violence and examples of resistance in the stories. A feminist lens was then applied to explore how these elements reflect the larger societal norms and patriarchal systems of the time.

The results show that in "Sweat", Delia resists her abusive husband, Sykes, by enduring his cruelty with strength and independence. Her practical actions lead to her eventual freedom when Sykes's own cruelty leads him to his death. In contrast, in "The Yellow Wallpaper", the narrator's resistance is more psychological and symbolic. Her mental breakdown is a way of fighting back against the societal and marital restrictions she faces, but it also shows the harmful effects of that oppression she faces.

This study concludes that both of the stories highlight the struggles of women living under patriarchal systems and show their strength and resilience in the face of abuse and oppression.

Keywords: domestic violence, women's resistance, intersectional feminism, oppression, gender roles

ABSTRAK

Farhana. Q. H. (2024). *Studi Perbandingan dan Kontras Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga dan Perlawanan Perempuan dalam Cerpen "The Yellow Wallpaper" dan "Sweat"*. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Dosen Pembimbing: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M. Hum.

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana KDRT dan perlawanan perempuan digambarkan dalam Cerpen "Sweat" karya Zora Neale Hurston dan "The Yellow Wallpaper" karya Charlotte Perkins Gilman dengan menggunakan teori feminisme. Penelitian ini berfokus pada dua pertanyaan utama: (1) Jenis KDRT apa yang dihadapi tokoh perempuan dalam kedua cerita tersebut; (2) Bagaimana mereka melawan kekerasan dan penindasan.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, yaitu menganalisa teks untuk memahami cerita secara rinci. Data dikumpulkan dengan mengidentifikasi berbagai jenis kekerasan dan contoh perlawanan dalam cerita. Kemudian, pendekatan feminis diterapkan untuk mengkaji bagaimana elemen-elemen ini mencerminkan norma-norma masyarakat dan sistem patriarki yang lebih luas pada saat itu. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam "Sweat", Delia melawan suaminya yang kasar, Sykes, dengan menahan kekejamannya dengan kekuatan dan kemandirian. Tindakan praktisnya akhirnya membawanya pada kebebasan ketika kekejaman Sykes sendiri membawanya pada kematian. Sebaliknya, dalam "The Yellow Wallpaper", perlawanan narator lebih bersifat psikologis dan simbolis. Gangguan mentalnya merupakan cara untuk melawan pembatasan sosial dan perkawinan yang tidak sehat yang sedang dihadapinya, tetapi juga menunjukkan efek berbahaya dari penindasan itu sendiri.

Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kedua cerita tersebut menyoroti perjuangan perempuan yang hidup di bawah sistem patriarki dan menunjukkan kekuatan serta ketahanan mereka dalam menghadapi penindasan.

Kata kunci: kekerasan dalam rumah tangga, perlawanan perempuan, interseksional feminisme, penindasan, peran gender

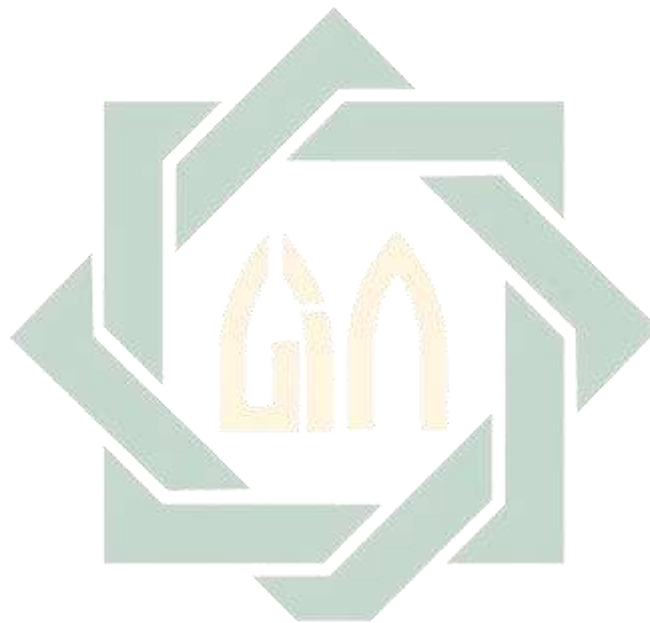
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the problem of the study, the significance of the study, the scope, and the delimitation of the study.

1.1 Background of Study

Throughout the long recorded history, a lot of women have experienced various types of violence and oppression by men, one of the most often happens is the violence that occurs in a family which is domestic violence. An environment that tends to be patriarchal is the beginning of problems that often cause violence against women. It means that the culture of the society plays a big role in this phenomenon. The violence that occurs in the household contains something specific. The specificity lies in the relationship between the abuser and the victim, namely a family relationship or occupational relationship.

Domestic violence can come in several forms including physical, emotional, economic, and psychological violence. Domestic violence experienced by women triggers women to form a resistance to escape and cope with the shackles of abusive relationships in the household.

Social problems mentioned above are often used as the basic idea or issue in literary works. One of the social problems is domestic violence. Two of the authors who raise the issue of domestic violence are Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Zora Neale Hurston. In her prose entitled "Sweat" (1926), Zora Neale Hurston tells about the domestic violence experienced by Delia. In this story, as a wife, Delia was experiencing various violence from her abusive husband (Sykes), for instance, economic, physical, and psychological abuse (both verbal violence and passive-aggressive) in her marital relationship. On the other hand, Charlotte Perkins Gilman portrays another form of domestic violence in her famous masterpiece entitled "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892). In this story, the author (unnamed wife) was experiencing a different kind of domestic violence. Because of her mental illness, her husband, who was a doctor, restricted her movements. As a result, the wife felt confined and imprisoned physically, mentally, emotionally, and intellectually. Those abuse and violence are like nightmares for us as a woman, and they can happen anywhere, including in public areas like marts, schools, office, and the worst part is, that it also can happen in our homes, the places that should be our shelter for the cruel world. However, every human being performs their kind of resistance differently to cope and counteract their circumstances. In this case, those resistance actions come from the oppression that the main characters the victims got from their abusive husbands.

Before this study of domestic violence and women's resistance is conducted, some studies have been conducted to gather information about the

following issues in literary works. For instance, the study about women's oppression entitled "Oppression on Women as Portrayed in "Celia, a Slave" and "Woman at Point Zero": a Comparative Literature" written by Iveraliza Jalaluddin (2015). This comparative literature study focused on the same social issue, which is the oppression of women in two novels, the differences and the similarities between both of the subjects.

Dea Yanudita Restu Kinanti (2019) in her thesis entitled "Woman's Struggles Against Patriarchal Domestic Violence As Seen Through Celeste In Moriarty's Big Little Lies" This study applies a feminist approach to reveal oppression against women and how they fight against it. There are several theories used in this study, including character and characterization theory, patriarchal theory, domestic violence theory, and feminist theory.

The next similar study was written by Maitun (2018) in her thesis entitled "The Wife's Depression in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's The Yellow Wallpaper". In this study, the researcher focused on the main character's depression the what are the main reason behind it by using historical criticism that explores the main character's behavior.

Another related study was conducted by Noviana & Tomy (2019) in the journal article entitled "Woman Violence and Resistance in Sweat Short Story by Zora Neale Hurston: Feminist Approach". The researcher used a feminist approach to analyze the problem in the short story. The findings stated that Delia resisted her husband Sykes and Delia's behavior was contradicted by patriarchal norms.

The last study that the researcher found is this comparative study journal article written by Mashbahah Baroroh and Linusia (2018) entitled "A Comparison of Types of Domestic Violence in Zora Neale Hurston Hurston's "Sweat" And In Sandra Cisneros's "Woman Hollering Creek". The researcher focuses on the characters' psychological conditions and the extrinsic elements applied in the stories. As a result, the researcher found two types of domestic violence in both of the stories, which are physical abuse and emotional abuse. The researcher also found the difference in responses that the victim gave in the stories. In sweat, the victim tends to provide silent treatment to the abusive husband and then give a movement to fight him back. On the other hand, the victim in Woman Hollering Creek tends to make a lot of effort to get away from his toxic husband by asking for help from other characters in the story.

Although considerable studies have been conducted to analyze the domestic violence and women's resistance found in literary works, there are no studies that compare and contrast the domestic violence and women's resistance in "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Most of the studies that compare both of those short stories are usually only concerned with the oppression against the main characters in the stories and do not analyze the resistance that the main characters performed to fight against the abuse they experienced. Hence this study is focused on the types of domestic violence, and the types of women's resistance found in the short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. This study will be conducted by using the feminism theory to

find and examine the types of domestic violence and women's resistance found in both stories. The researcher choose "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman because those stories focus on women's struggles against domestic violence and patriarchal oppression, but they approach these themes in different ways. "Sweat" explores the experiences of a black working class woman in the rural south, while "The Yellow Wallpaper" depicts the struggles of a white middle class woman in a restrictive marriage. By analyzing these contrasting context, the researcher could explore how factors like race, class and gender shape women's experiences of abuse and resistance. These works also highlight the resilience and agency of women, which aligns with the feminist lens applied to the research.

This study aims to compare and contrast the domestic violence the main characters experienced and the resistance that the main characters performed in the short story entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman by using feminism theory that focused on analyzing the types of domestic violence and woman's resistance occurred on both of the short stories also find the similarities and differences on both of them. Based on Lois Tyson in his book entitled "Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide", feminism deals with the way how the political, economic, social, physical, and psychological oppression of women are being undermined or reinforced in the form of literature (Lois Tyson, 2006). Simply, we can say that feminism is concerned with the patriarchal ideology. A patriarchal ideology

brings up the gender stereotype that women are meant to be the slaves of men while men hold primary power and predominate in each aspect.

The researcher is interested in conducting this study because there are many types of domestic violence that women can get in their families. It is not only physical abuse and verbal abuse. Extreme jealousy and possessiveness can also be forms of domestic violence (Sukmawati. B., 2014). The raised of awareness is very expected from the reader after reading this work because violence against women is the most terrible thing experienced by women in this entire world. Analyzing the types of resistance that the main characters used in both of the two stories is also interesting for the researcher because Delia in "Sweat" and The Unnamed Wife in "The Yellow Wallpaper" have different personalities. The way how they handle their oppression because of the domestic violence that they suffer is, of course, exciting to investigate.

1.2 Problems of the Study

This study has two main goals as mentioned below:.

1. What kinds of domestic violence the female characters face in "Sweat" and "The Yellow Wallpaper" short stories?
2. How do they resist the abuse and oppression in "Sweat" and "The Yellow Wallpaper" short stories?

1.3 Significance of Study

This research is expected to contribute to the literature field, especially in Feminism theory. The research goals are to find the types of domestic violence

and women's resistance discovered in the short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman also compares and find the contrast of the abuse and resistance found in both of the selected stories. The researcher will analyze it based on feminism theory. From the result, the researcher expects that this research can give additional findings on the domestic violence and women's resistance found in literary works from the previous studies. The last thing is, that the researcher hopes that from this research, the reader can gain more knowledge and get a deeper understanding of the types of domestic violence and women's resistance found in literary works. The awareness about domestic violence is also very expected from the reader after reading this work because violence against women is the most terrible thing experienced by women in this entire world.

1.4 Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This research will use the short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman as the data source. The researcher will limit this research only to the types of domestic violence and women's resistance found in the short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and compare the abuse and the resistance found in both of the selected stories.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Family : The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia (2016) defines the family as the smallest unit of society

consisting of the head of the family and several people who gather and live in a place under one roof in a state of interdependence (Wirarti, 2018)

2. Toxic Relationship : A toxic relationship is an unhealthy relationship in which one party feels unsupported, humiliated, or attacked (Tierney & Fox, 2011)



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CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter explains several theories that are related to the main issues of "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Two of the short stories portray how woman are treated unfairly by their husbands, therefore the feminism theory is the right theory to analyze these two short stories.

2.1 Feminism

A patriarchal mindset is a mindset that considers women and men as human beings who have differences and are not equal. Differences create stereotypes about men and women. A man is required to have a brave nature, have a strong body, and not cry easily, while a woman must be motherly, gentle, and sensitive. However, it is not inherent in women and men; along with the development of the era, the mindset will undoubtedly develop, and women have begun to break down the shackles that have ensnared them.

In a book entitled "The Future of Feminism" (2011), Walby stated that feminism is an awareness of systematic injustice for women in various sectors of life and conscious actions by women and men to change this situation. Feminism contains three critical concepts, including:

- a. Feminism believes that there is no difference in sex, which is against the existence of hierarchical positions that lead to superior and inferior positions between the sexes.

- b. feminism is an acknowledgment that in society, there has been a -cultural construction that is detrimental to women
- c. feminism challenges differences that confuse sex and gender so that women are made into separate groups in society.

2.1.1 Intersectional Feminism

Intersectional feminism is a branch of feminist theory that focuses on how different forms of discrimination and oppression overlap or intersect to create unique experiences of individuals, especially women. This concept highlights that gender inequality cannot be fully understood without considering other factors like race, class, sexual orientation, disability, and more (DeFelice, K. A., & Diller, J. W., 2019).

Intersectional feminism acknowledges that women don't experience oppression in the same way. For instance, a black woman might deal with sexism, while a working class woman might deal with sexism and economic inequality.

These layers of oppression combine to create unique struggles. Early feminist movements often focused on the experiences of white, middle-class, heterosexual women, ignoring the unique challenges faced by women from other backgrounds.

Intersectional feminism addresses this gap by including marginalized voices.

Intersectional feminism aims to ensure that feminism is inclusive and represents all women, especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination. It

recognized that oppression is shaped by cultural, social, and historical contexts.

For example, the challenges faced by women in a rural area may differ from those faced by women in an urban setting.

2.2 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is any act against a person, especially a woman and a child, which results in physical, sexual, psychological, and neglect of the household, including threats to commit acts, coercion, or illegal deprivation of liberty within the scope of the household (Fluryet al., 2010). Simply, we can say that domestic violence is a form of crime that occurs in the household which is committed by the husband to his wife or vice versa by the wife to her husband.

The forms of domestic violence can be classified into the following:

a) Physical violence

Any kind of act that can hurt or destroy a victim physically, such as murdering, slapping, kicking, strangling, burning with cigarettes, dousing with acidic liquids, hitting, pulling hair, hurting using sharp objects, and firing weapons, are included in the category of physical violence (Dea Y. R. K., 2019). It can also escalate to more extreme actions, like strangling, pouring acid, stabbing, or even killing someone. Using weapons to threaten someone is also considered physical violence. These actions can cause visible injuries, long-term health problems, or even death. Often, physical violence is used to dominate and intimidate victims, creating a cycle of fear and control. As Dea Y. K. R. (2019) explains, physical violence is the most obvious form of domestic abuse, but its effects go beyond physical wounds, often leading to deep psychological trauma.

b) Psychological Violence:

Most of us consider our relationship to be violent when our partner has hurt us physically, such as slapping, hitting, and so on. The fact is not like that. 80% of cases of domestic violence are psychological violence. Psychological violence includes insulting, commenting intended to demean and injure the wife's self-esteem, forbidding the wife to hang out, threatening in the form of returning the wife to her parents, threatening divorce, overly criticizing, separating the wife from children and others and also having an affair (Rochmat Wahab, 2010).

Psychological or emotional violence is less obvious but it is just as harmful as physical violence. Threats of abandonment, emotional blackmail, and constant criticism are other ways abusers manipulate and demean the victims of their sense of identity and self-worth, causing deep, lasting psychological harm. Infidelity is another form of emotional abuse that can cause profound pain and betrayal in a relationship. As Rochmat Wahab (2010) points out, psychological abuse often goes unnoticed because it doesn't leave any physical scars on the victim's body, but it significantly impacts the victim's mental health and overall well-being.

c) Sexual Violence:

The assumption that rape cannot occur in a legal marriage has no empirical basis. There have been many cases of rape in the household that have resulted in injuries, even the death of the wife. It can be said that there has been sexual violence in the household if the spouse forces into sexual activity without her consent, the husband isolates the wife from her inner needs, forces sexual activity when the wife does not want to, the wife is sick or menstruating, forcing the wife to become a prostitute and so on (Milda Marlia, 2007).

Sexual violence in domestic relationships is often considered a taboo subject, even though it happens frequently. These actions can cause physical harm, emotional trauma, and, in severe cases, even death. Sexual violence destroys trust and personal boundaries in a relationship, adding to the victim's emotional pain. As Milda Marlia (2007) explains, this type of abuse robs the victim of her dignity, autonomy, and sense of self. The trauma often leaves long-term scars on the victim's mental and physical health.

d) Economic Violence:

Economic violence is a form of abuse that doesn't always get the attention it deserves. It involves actions that limit a victim's financial independence, such as controlling access to money, stopping them from earning an income or forcing them to work in unfair conditions. For instance, an abuser might forbid the victim from working outside the home or let them work but take all their earnings for themselves.

It can also include refusing to pay for basic needs like food, clothing, or medical care, or purposely ruining the victim's chances of keeping a job. This kind of abuse forces victims into financial dependence, making it even harder for them to leave the relationship. As Dea Y. R. K. (2019) mentioned economic control is a powerful way for abusers to maintain dominance and trap victims in cycles of dependence and poverty.

2.3 Woman's Resistance

According to Fotaki & Pullen (2024), women's resistance theory in feminism focuses on how women stand up to and fight against patriarchy. It emphasizes their strength, determination, and the many ways they resist oppression in different situations. Here are the main types of resistance women use, as highlighted by feminism:

a. Psychological resistance

Women often fight back against oppression by staying mentally strong and holding on to their sense of self and value, even when society tries to limit them. They usually do this by refusing to accept labels or stereotypes that try to diminish them, staying true to their beliefs, or finding ways to feel empowered even in difficult situations. This kind of resistance isn't always loud or visible, it can be as simple as believing in their worth, dreaming of a better future, or quietly pushing boundaries.

b. Cultural and Social Defiance

Cultural resistance includes breaking through norms and expectations in society. This type of resistance underlines the solidarity among females as they gathered their movement to confront cultural narratives that do them wrong or try to make them remain silent.

c. Educational Empowerment

Education is a powerful tool that women can use to resist any oppression.

Women that empowered by knowledge can assert their autonomy and value in society.

d. Everyday Acts of Resistance

Resistance often happens in human daily life through small and seamless movements. Those small and seamless acts can be meaningful to the attempt to break through their toxic circumstances such as creating a community that consists of people who have experienced similar experiences, sharing thoughts, and taking small actions to oppose the patriarchal system.

e. Legal and Institutional Challenges

Women fight back by using the law to stand up for their rights and challenge unfair rules. They work to change systems and laws that keep gender inequality in place, showing their ability to navigate and reshape these structures which are not fair for them.

f. Resistance Through Art and Literature

Art and literature give women a way to share their stories and push back against societal norms. By producing art, they can explore ideas of strength,

identity, and resilience, showing and sharing their struggles in a creative, meaningful, and powerful way.



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CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains the method the researcher used to conduct this study. The researcher used the compare and contrast method to analyze and investigate the main issues found in "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

3.1 Research Design

This study used compare and contrast methods to analyze and investigate the main issues found in "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Different from the comparative study which only focuses on finding the similarities between two literary works that are being compared, the compare and contrast study provides not only similarities but also differences in two literary works (Saputri et al., 2022).

3.2 Data Collection

3.2.1 Research Data

The researcher used two short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. E-books are the main sources that the researcher uses. Additionally, the researcher also gets the supporting data from books, journals, papers, and a lot of previous studies that are related to this thesis.

3.2.2 Data Source/Subject of the Study

The researcher used two different types of sources which are primary sources and additional sources. The primary sources in this thesis are the main characters' words, sentences, phrases, and actions also the narratives in both of the stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. For the additional sources, the researcher gathered data from books, journals, papers, and a lot of previous studies that are related to this thesis.

3.2.3 Research Instrument

The main instrument to collect and analyze data in this thesis is the researcher herself. The researcher began by observing the data, after collecting the data, analyzing the data, and then comparing and contrasting the data which aim to find the similarities and differences found in the data. In conducting this thesis, the researcher also used instruments in the form of e-books of "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman short stories, journal articles, and various websites.

3.2.4 Data Collection Technique

To collect data, the researcher has taken several steps mentioned below:

1. The first step that the researcher did was to carefully read the short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman intensively to get a deep understanding of the issue that will be discussed.

2. After that, the researcher highlighted the important points in the stories such as the main characters' words, sentences, phrases, and actions also the narratives in both the stories.
3. After that, the researcher linked the issue in both of the short stories to the theory.

3.2.5 Data Analysis Technique

1. After getting the data, the next step that the researcher did was identifying the selected data in both of the stories in the form of the character's utterance or the narrator's explanation.
2. After choosing the data, the researcher identified the selected data and analyzed the types of domestic violence and women's resistance found in both stories based on feminism theory.
3. After analyzing and classifying the domestic violence and women's resistance found in short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, the researcher compared and found the contrast between the abuse or the domestic violence and the woman's resistance found in both of the stories.
4. Finally, the researcher concluded the study based on the findings of the steps above, to find the types of domestic violence and women's resistance discovered in both of the stories and also compare and explain the contrast between the abuse and the defense mechanism found in them.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter discussed the analysis of the objectives of the study. Firstly, the researcher explored how the main characters were being oppressed in the short stories "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and the types of domestic violence found in both of the stories. Secondly, the researcher provided a brief analysis of women's resistance found in both of the stories.

4.1 Domestic Violence

4.1.1 Domestic Violence in "Sweat"

Zora Neale Hurston is an American anthropologist and writer. One of her most popular masterpieces is a short story entitled "Sweat" which was first published in 1926. In this story, as a wife, Delia was experiencing various violence from her abusive husband (Sykes), for instance, physical, economic, emotional, and psychological abuse in her marital relationship.

a. Physical violence in "Sweat"

Physical violence is any kind of act that can hurt or destroy a victim physically (Dea Y. R. K., 2019). "Sweat" portrays physical violence as the prominent form of domestic violence that Delia as the main character suffered. Sykes, Delia's husband uses his physical presence and other objects to intimidate and harm his poor wife, as explained in the quotation below.

"She lay awake, gazing upon the debris that cluttered their matrimonial trail. Not an image left standing along the way. Anything like flowers had long ago been drowned in the salty stream that had been pressed from her

heart. Her tears, her sweat, her blood. She had brought love to the union and he had brought a longing after the flesh. Two months after the wedding, he had given her the first brutal beating.” (Hurston, 1926, p.2)

The quotation above tells about Delia’s night after her husband scared him with a whip that looked like a snake. The narrator mentions that Delia’s love is already gone since a long time ago. Her husband who was the one who was supposed to protect her from harm, instead became the one who physically abused her since the beginning of their marriage.

““He sho' aint,” Walter Thomas chimed in. "It's too bad, too, cause she wuz a right pritty lil trick when he got huh. Ah'd uh mah'ied huh mahseff if he hadnter beat me to it.”

Delia nodded briefly at the men as she drove past.

"Too much knockin' will ruin any 'oman. He done beat huh 'nough tuh kill three women, let 'lone change they looks," said Elijah Moseley. “ (Hurston, 1926, p.3)

The quotation above is also proof that Sykes often physically abuses Delia. The villagers know that Sykes often beats Delia which makes her appearance change drastically from the beautiful woman she used to be to the thin and shabby woman she is now.

Not only often beat her wife, but Sykes also puts her wife in danger by placing a rattlesnake in her wife’s home as in the quotation below.

“Look in de box dere Delia, Ah done brung yuh somethin'!”

She nearly fell upon the box in her stumbling, and when she saw what it held, she all but fainted outright.

"Syke! Syke, mah Gawd! You take dat rattlesnake 'way from heah! You gottuh. Oh, Jesus, have mussy!"

"Ah aint gut tuh do nuthin' uh de kin'--fact is Ah aint got tuh do nothin' but die. Taint no use uh you puttin' on airs makin' out lak you skeered uh dat snake--he's gointer stay right heah tell he die. He wouldn't bite me cause Ah knows how tuh handle 'im. Nohow he wouldn't risk breakin' out his fangs 'gin yo' skinny laigs." (Hurston, 1926, p.6)

Although that snake didn't actually bite her, Sykes's action was really dangerous for Delia. The venomous snake could actually kill her immediately. It was a form of attempted murder which is also a form of domestic violence.

From a feminist lens, Sykes's physical violence shows how men in patriarchal systems use force and fear to control women. Even though Delia is the one who earns the money and supports the household, Sykes tries to dominate her by using intimidation and physical violence.

b. Economic violence in "Sweat"

Domestic economic violence is any act described as threatening or limiting the financial freedom of the victim. This violence also includes restricting the victim from working to make money, allowing her to work to be exploited (Dea Y. R. K., 2019). The case in "Sweat" story is Delia as a wife was being economically exploited by her husband, Sykes. As the quotation below.

"Looka heah, Sykes, you done gone too fur. Ah been married to you fur fifteen years, and Ah been takin' in washin' for fifteen years. Sweat, sweat, sweat! Work and sweat, cry and sweat, pray and sweat!" (Hurstun, 1926, p.2)

From the quotation above, we can tell that as a husband, Sykes never provided for Delia, either materially or non-materially. After fifteen years of marriage, Delia worked very hard to provide for herself and her husband. She worked as a washerwoman for white people to meet her daily needs.

In the journal article entitled "Economic Violence Against Women: A Case in Turkey" (Alkan et al., 2021) economic violence forms in exploitation

which is taking advantage of a partner's financial resources for personal benefit without consent. In "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston, Delia explicitly mentions that she as a wife is the one who provides basic needs which are food, and pays for the house during a confrontation with her toxic abusive husband as the quotation below.

"What's it got to do with you, Sykes? Mah tub of suds is filled yo' belly with vittles more times than yo' hands is filled it. Mah sweat is done paid for this house and Ah reckon Ah kin keep on sweatin' in it." (Hurston, 1926, p.2)

From the quotation above we can tell that Sykes contributed nothing to the household that it should be the husband's obligation to provide for his family. The journal article entitled "Economic Violence Against Women: A Case in Turkey" (Alkan et al., 2021) also explained that economic violence can cause several consequences, including mental and physical damage due to stress and lack of financial resources as the quotation below.

"She was young and soft then, but now she thought of her knotty, muscled limbs, her harsh knuckly hands, and drew herself up into an unhappy little ball in the middle of the big feather bed. Too late now to hope for love, even if it were not Bertha it would be someone else. This case differed from the others only in that she was bolder than the others. Too late for everything except her little home. She had built it for her old days, and planted one by one the trees and flowers there. It was lovely to her, lovely." (Hurston, 1926, p.3)

Not only did his zero contribute to the household that harmed Delia economically in this story, but Sykes also used Delia's money to provide for his mistress named Bertha as in the quotation below.

“Bertha had been in town three months now. Sykes was still paying her room rent at Della Lewis’--the only house in town that would have taken her in. Sykes took her frequently to Winter Park to "stomps." He still assured her that he was the swellest man in the state.

"Sho' you kin have dat lil' ole house soon's Ah kin git dat 'oman outa dere. Everything b'longs tuh me an' you sho' kin have it. Ah sho' 'bominates uh skinny 'oman. Lawdy, you sho' is got one portly shape on you! You kin git anything you wants. Dis is mah town an' you sho' kin have it." (Hurston, 1926, p. 5)

The quotation above mentions that Sykes spent Delia’s money on his mistress, Bertha. He paid for Bertha’s room for three months in town, he also paid for Bertha’s needs and bought her everything she wanted from the store and still degraded and humiliated Delia for her job as a washerwoman. The last economic violence that Sykes does to Delia is as he attempts to take over Delia’s house away by using a snake to kill Delia as the quotation above. Sykes plans to get Delia out of the house, take over the house that Delia got from her hard work as a washerwoman, and use the house to live with her mistress, Bertha.

From a feminist perspective, Sykes’s behavior reflects how men in a patriarchal system use money and control to dominate women. Sykes refuses to contribute financially to the household that he built with Delia, spends Delia’s money that she earned with sweat, tears, and blood on his mistress, and plans to take over the house that Delia earned to live in with his mistress. This shows how he tried to undermine Delia’s independence and keep her powerless.

c. Psychological Violence in “Sweat”

Psychological violence includes insulting, commenting intended to demean and injure the wife's self-esteem, forbidding the wife to hang out,

threatening in the form of returning the wife to her parents, threatening divorce, overly criticizing, separating the wife from children and others and also having an affair (Rochmat Wahab, 2010). In “Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston psychological Violence is a significant form of abuse that Sykes did toward his wife, Delia. This type of violence is depicted through Sykes's actions in this story, namely intimidating, demeaning, and manipulating Delia, which creates an environment of fear and psychological distress for Delia.

"Well, Ah'm glad you does hate me. Ah'm sho' tiahed uh you hangin' ontuh me. Ah don't want yuh. Look at yuh stringey ole neck! Yo' rawbony laigs an' arms is enough tuh cut uh man tuh death. You looks jes' lak de devvul's doll-baby tuh me. You cain't hate me no worse dan Ah hates you. Ah been hatin' you fuh years."

The psychological violence that appears most often in this story is verbal abuse and gaslighting as we can see in the quotation above. Sykes always degrades Delia about her skinny appearance, her job which he considers despicable and hypocritical, and other hateful speech which is very inappropriate for a husband to say to his wife who should love each other.

Delia's husband also used psychological tactics to control and intimidate Delia. He constantly threatened Delia that he would kick her out of the house and physically harm her if Delia didn't obey him. These threats, even when not followed through, show how psychological abuse often comes with the fear of being physically hurt. Constant intimidation like this makes Delia stressed and feel unsafe, and of course, it also affects her mental well-being as the quotation below.

“She went to sleep and slept until he announced his presence in bed by kicking her feet and rudely snatching the covers away.

"Gimme some kivah heah, an' git yo' damn feet over on yo' own side! Ah oughter mash you in yo' mouf fuh drawing dat skillet on me."
 Delia went clear to the rail without answering him. A triumphant indifference to all that he was or did." (Hurston, 1926, p.3)

The quotation above informs that Sykes threatened Delia that he would physically harm her if she fought him again. The scene takes place after Delia fights Sykes by threatening him with a frying pan after Sykes scares her with a snake. Rahmawati (2024) stated in her journal article that Verbar Abuse can have serious psychosocial effects on women, which can lead to mental well-being issues such as depression, anxiety, and dependence on an addictive substance.

The other manipulation through fear that Sykes does towards Delia is when he brings a rattlesnake into Delia's home knowing that Delia is scared of snakes. As we can see from the quotation below.

"Naw, now Syke, don't keep dat thing 'roun' heah tuh skeer me tuh death. You knows Ah'm even feared uh earthworms. Thass de biggest snake Ah evah did see. Kill 'im Syke, please."
 "Doan ast me tuh do nothin' fuh yuh. Goin' roun' trying' tuh be so damn asterperious. Naw, Ah aint gonna kill it. Ah think uh damn sight mo' uh him dan you! Dat's a nice snake an' anybody doan lak 'im kin jes' hit de grit." (Hurston, 1926, p.6)

The snake that Sykes brought to their home symbolizes the fear and control that as an abusive man, Sykes used to maintain his power over his poor wife. The quotation above also reflects the theory that Heather L Dye (2019) stated in her journal article that psychological violence is just as destructive as physical violence.

Another emotional abuse that Sykes did to Delia is the disrespect he did through the affair he committed with his mistress, Bertha. As we can see from the quotation below.

“Just then Delia drove past on her way home, as Sykes was ordering magnificently for Bertha. It pleased him for Delia to see.
 "Git whutsoever yo' heart desires, Honey. Wait a minute, Joe. Give huh two bottles uh strawberry soda-water, uh quart uh parched ground-peas, an' a block uh chewin' gum."
 With all this they left the store, with Sykes reminding Bertha that this was his town and she could have it if she wanted it.” (Hurston, 1926, p.5)

Sykes openly cheated on Delia and made zero effort to hide his sin with Bertha is a clear sign of emotional abuse that humiliated Delia deeply and also damaged her emotionally. Shrouf and Weigel (2018) in their journal article entitled *Infidelity's aftermath: Appraisals, mental health, and health-compromising behaviors following a partner's infidelity* mentioned that being cheated on can lead to emotional distress and trauma, negative self-perception or low self-esteem and trust issues.

Sykes and Bertha's affair was made worse by Sykes' actions in using Delia's hard-earned money as a washerwoman to finance his affair. Delia worked hard day after day to meet the household's needs but her husband used the money for Bertha and wanted to take over the house that Delia had built with her money. Sykes' behavior showed how he did not appreciate Delia's existence as his wife. This certainly worsened Delia's situation and mental state, she felt imprisoned in her toxic household.

From a feminist perspective, Sykes's degrading behavior shows how men in patriarchal systems use emotional and psychological abuse to control and hurt

women. Delia worked hard to support their home meanwhile Sykes treated her like she didn't matter and didn't deserve respect. By openly cheating with Bertha, Sykes uses her as a tool to hurt Delia even more, making her feel worthless as both a wife and a human.

4.1.2 Domestic Violence in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

The short story entitled *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, published in 1892, tells the story of a woman, the wife of a doctor, who suffers from depression after giving birth. In accordance with the medical treatment at that time, the husband took the wife to a resting place so that she could rest completely, but the wife felt imprisoned physically, psychologically, emotionally, and intellectually. Under the stressful state of being constantly in the room upstairs, the wife, who was very imaginative and creative, began to focus her attention on the wallpaper in her room.

a. Psychological Violence in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

In *"The Yellow Wallpaper"* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, there are several types of domestic violence found, but the most prominent type is psychological and emotional abuse. These several types of violence portray the patriarchal control and societal norms in the 19th century which people believed that men were naturally better than women, so men were the ones who took control. This system kept men in charge while forcing women to stay at home, do household work, and remain in lower position in society (Chalak et al., 2016).

The first evidence of psychological violence in this story is the way John, the narrator's husband, was very adamant about limiting his wife from various

activities that he thought could worsen his wife's mental condition. Even though his wife believed that positive activities such as writing books, and meeting friends or family could cure her illness, John strictly forbids his wife from doing so. He even told his sister to watch his wife at home when John was not there. As we can see from the quotation below.

“So I take phosphates or phosphites whichever it is, and tonics, and journeys, and air, and exercise, and am absolutely forbidden to "work" until I am well again. Personally, I disagree with their ideas. Personally, I believe that congenial work, with excitement and change, would do me good.” (Gilman, 1892, p.2)

As we all know the narrator was experiencing postpartum depression after giving birth to her child, there is a study conducted by Maniou & Tsitsis (2019) that examined postpartum depression during COVID-19, where the study produced a theory that isolation and loneliness can increase risk of postpartum depression for mothers who have just given birth, increase emotional instability, increase anxiety, cause bonding problems with babies, and also cause long-term mental health problems. Through the theory from the research journal above, we can conclude that John's actions in curing his wife by excessively limiting his wife's activities and prohibiting his wife from socializing can worsen his wife's mental health and cause long-term mental health problems in the future.

Another form of psychological abuse that John did to his wife is gaslighting. John constantly ignored and underestimated his wife's feelings which caused his wife to doubt her reality. When his wife complained about the wallpaper in the room that makes her anxious and overthinking, John ignored his wife's complaints by admitting that his wife should fight her thoughts and not be

influenced by unimportant things. When his wife suggested that doing her hobby like writing will help make her feel better, John also rejected the suggestion saying that writing can worsen his wife's condition. As we can see from the quotation below.

“Personally, I believe that congenial work, with excitement and change, would do me good. But what is one to do? I did write for a while inspite of them; but it does exhaust me a good deal-having to be so sly about it, or else meet with heavy opposition. I sometimes fancy that in my condition if I had less opposition and more. society and stimulus but John says the very worst thing I can do is to think about my condition, and I confess it always makes me feel bad.” (Gilman, 1892, p.2)

“I suppose John never was nervous in his life. He laughs at me so about this wall-paper! At first he meant to repaper the room, but afterwards he said that I was letting it get the better of me, and that nothing was worse for a nervous patient than to give way to such fancies. He said that after the wall-paper was changed it would be the heavy bedstead, and then the barred windows, and then that gate at the head of the stairs, and so on.” (Gilman, 1892, p.3)

From the quotations above, we can tell that John never validated his wife’s feelings. Unvalidated feelings of depressed people can result in increased feelings of worth like the narrator felt in the story, increased anxiety and depression, and development of shame (Restoration Counseling Atlanta, n.d.)

“I meant to be such a help to John, such a real rest and comfort, and here I am a comparative burden already! Nobody would believe what an effort it is to do what little I am able to dress and entertain, and order things.” (Gilman, 1892, p.3)

Because of her husband’s actions that invalidated her feelings, the narrator often felt like she was a burden to her husband, she felt like her thoughts and feelings didn’t matter, she also felt hopeless and trapped in that mansion physically and psychologically. She also could not express herself further because

no one really listened and validated her words and feelings. The only thing that could channel the narrator's heart was writing which was forbidden by her husband so she continued to write in secret. Invalidation kept the narrator stuck in a cycle of depression and made it harder for her to heal. In “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the narrator’s feelings are ignored so often that she eventually loses her sanity. Similarly, people who experience constant invalidation can feel lonely and unable to ask for help. This shows how important it is to listen to others, validate their emotions, and create a safe space where they feel understood and supported.

Another thing that is interesting in this short story is the symbolism of the narrator's imprisonment in “the yellow wallpaper”. The wallpaper in the room itself is the symbol of the narrator’s imprisonment. The pattern that is chaotic and stressful reflects the narrator’s mind. She often talked about the women trapped behind the wallpaper which depicts the figure of the narrator as a woman who is trapped and feels imprisoned in her marriage as in the quotation below.

“I really have discovered something at last. Through watching so much at night, when it changes so, I have finally found out. The front pattern does move and no wonder! The woman behind shakes it! Sometimes I think there are a great many women behind, and sometime only one, and she crawls around fast, and her crawling shakes it all over. Then in the very ' bright spots she keeps still, and in the very shady spots she just takes hold of the bars and shakes them hard. And she is all the time trying to climb through. But nobody could climb through that pattern it strangles so I think that is why it has so many heads.” (Gilman, 1892, p.8)

The narrator feels trapped in her marriage because her husband, John, dismisses her feelings, treats her like a child, and makes all her decisions while pretending it is for her own good. During the 19th century, marriage often worked this way,

restricting women's independence and freedom to make choices for themselves (Chalak et al., 2016).

4.2 Comparing and Contrasting The Domestic Violence Found in Two Short Stories

Both of the short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman explore the same main theme which is domestic violence experienced by both of the main characters as a wife in the stories. Below a table of the similarities and differences of domestic violence found in both of the stories.

Table 4. 1
Similarities and Differences of Domestic Violence Found in Two Short Stories

Similarities	Differences	
	"Sweat"	"The Yellow Wallpaper"
Themes of domestic violence	Delia suffers from three types of domestic violence which are physical violence, economic violence, and psychological violence	The Narrator, only suffers from emotional or psychological violence
Male oppression	Sykes continuously made fun of Delia's hard work and pain, showing no sympathy for what she was going through	John ignored his wife's concerns about her mental condition, thinking that, as a doctor, he knew what was best for his wife
Isolation	Delia was emotionally isolated from Sykes and endured his cruelty alone in silence	The Narrator in "The Yellow Wallpaper" was emotionally and physically isolated in the mansion, cut off from socializing, writing, and doing anything she enjoys

Similarities	Differences	
	“Sweat”	“The Yellow Wallpaper”
Psychological impact	Sykes emotionally abused Delia with his evil words, manipulation, and cheating, gradually tearing her mental down	In “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the narrator’s husband not only limits her physical freedom but also attacks her mental well-being by dismissing her concerns and insisting that she’s imagining things, especially her fears about the wallpaper. This made her psychological breakdown worse.
Gender roles and expectations	Delia is expected to be passive and obedient so that Sykes, her husband, can easily manipulate her	The narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” is expected to be obedient to her husband for the sake of her mental health, which ends up getting worse.
Impact of gender and power dynamics	In the “Sweat” short story, Sykes as a husband thinks that he has the right to dominate Delia simply because he is the man of the house and the head of the household	John takes advantage of his wife’s mental condition to control everything for her
The cultural context and Settings are different	The story takes place in the rural South and Focuses on the oppressed Black women as the main character	This story is set in a middle-class home in the 19th century

a. Themes of Domestic Violence

Both of the stories focused on the woman as a wife who suffered from domestic violence in their abusive household. Both of the wives suffered from their husbands’ toxic behavior which had a significant impact on their mental state. In “Sweat” short story, the main character, Delia suffers from three types of domestic violence which are physical violence, economic violence, and

psychological violence. Delia's husband, Sykes regularly belittled her and physically abused her for example threatened Delia with a snake, pushed her away, and threw away her laundry, he also used Delia's money for her mistress, Bertha. Meanwhile in "The Yellow Wallpaper" short story, the main character, The Narrator, only suffers from emotional or psychological violence from her controlling husband, John. John isolated and controlled his wife intending to cure his depressed wife. On another hand, John's action was a form of oppressive control and it worsened his wife's mental health.

b. Male Oppression

Both of the husbands in the stories took control over their wives and represented a patriarchal power structure that limits the freedom and well-being of their wives. In both of the stories, the men ignored or belittled the women's needs and feelings. Sykes continuously made fun of Delia's hard work and pain, showing no sympathy for what she was going through. In "The Yellow Wallpaper", John ignored his wife's concerns about her mental condition, thinking that, as a doctor, he knew what was best for his wife. Both men refused to listen to their wives and instead imposed their own will on them, believing that they had the right to control their wives' lives.

c. Isolation

Both of the wives in the stories were being isolated by their husbands. Delia was emotionally isolated from Sykes and endured his cruelty alone in silence. The Narrator in "The Yellow Wallpaper" was emotionally and physically isolated in the mansion, cut off from socializing, writing, and doing anything she

enjoys. This isolation is a way for both men to control the women, preventing them from connecting with the outside world or exploring their thoughts and feelings.

d. Psychological Impact

Both of the wives in the stories experienced further psychological impacts due to the violence they experienced by their husbands. Sykes emotionally abused Delia with his evil words, manipulation, and cheating, gradually tearing her mental down. In “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the narrator’s husband not only limits her physical freedom but also attacks her mental well-being by dismissing her concerns and insisting that she’s imagining things, especially her fears about the wallpaper. This made her psychological breakdown worse.

e. Gender Roles and Expectations

Both stories also display unfair gender roles for women. Women are expected to be obedient to their husbands. Delia is expected to be passive and obedient so that Sykes, her husband, can easily manipulate her. Meanwhile, the narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” is expected to be obedient to her husband for the sake of her mental health, which ends up getting worse.

f. Impact of Gender and Power Dynamics

In the “Sweat” short story, Sykes as a husband thinks that he has the right to dominate Delia simply because he is the man of the house and the head of the household. Meanwhile in “The Yellow Wallpaper”, John takes advantage of his wife’s mental condition to control everything for her. He also uses his position as a husband and doctor who according to society has more capacity to care for his

sick wife, but John's way of caring for his wife such as isolating his wife, forcing his wife to rest ends up worsening his wife's mental condition, trapping her both physically and emotionally.

g. Cultural Context and Settings

In “Sweat” short story, the story takes place in the rural South and Focuses on the oppressed Black women as the main character. Not only did she have to deal with her abusive husband, but Delia also had to face the bitterness of life lived by a minority. She became a washerwoman for a white family. Her toughness made her strong enough to fight alone to survive without relying on anyone but herself. Meanwhile, "The Yellow Wallpaper" short story, this story is set in a middle-class home in the 19th century, when women were required to be submissive, obedient, and dependent on men. The narrator's mental health condition is also a reason that worsens the violence she experiences so that she is often not taken seriously and underestimated by her husband and the people around her.

4.3 Woman's Resistance

4.3.1 Woman's Resistance in “Sweat”

By using feminism theory, Zora Neale Hurston in her short story entitled “Sweat” portrays Delia's resistance as an abused woman against the patriarchal oppression and abuse committed by Sykes, her husband. Delia's story highlights feminist ideas of taking back control, standing up to male dominance, and reshaping traditional gender roles through her strength and determination to

survive. Her actions show different ways she resists both societal pressures and personal abuse, demonstrating her courage to fight back and reclaim her life. Here are the types of women's resistance found in "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston.

a. Psychological Resistance & Everyday Acts of Resistance in "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston

The first form of psychological resistance that Delia faces in the story is her determination to maintain her self-worth. She remained proud to do her job as a lower-class woman, namely a washerwoman, to continue to support her household every day. As a wife, she worked and became the provider of the family, this caused Delia to live without depending on a man, namely her abusive husband, Sykes as the quotation below.

"What's it got to do with you, Sykes? Mah tub of suds is filled yo' belly with vittles more times than yo' hands is filled it. Mah sweat is done paid for this house and Ah reckon Ah kin keep on sweatin' in it." (Hurston, 1926, p.2)

The quotation above reflects how Delia had a strong belief in her values and her determination to maintain what she had achieved. By remaining mentally strong, she resisted Sykes' attempts to abuse her. Based on a journal article entitled "Patriarchal Hegemony: Investigating the Impact of Patriarchy on Women's WorkLife Balance" written by Adebayo & Alabi (2021) Economically independent working women have the potential to be less vulnerable to patriarchy in the household. However, this does not necessarily protect women from domestic violence. Women who support their families are also often expected to fulfill their traditional domestic roles. Just like Delia, she works to meet the needs

of the household but still fulfills the demands of her domestic role as a wife at home.

The next form of psychological resistance that Delia did towards the domestic violence she suffered is her refusal to be intimidated as the quotation below.

“She seized the iron skillet from the stove and struck a defensive pose, which act surprised him greatly, coming from her. It cowed him and he did not strike her as he usually did.

“Naw you won’t,” she panted, “that ole snaggle-toothed black woman you runnin’ with ain’t comin’ heah to pile up on mah sweat and blood. You aint paid for nothin’ on this place, and Ah’m gointer stay right heah till Ah’m toted out foot foremost.”

“Well, you better quit gittin’ me riled up, else they’ll be totin’ you out sooner than you expect. Ah’m so tired of you Ah don’t know whut to do. Gawd! How Ah hates skinny wimmen!”” (Hurstun, 1926, p.2)

When Sykes tries to scare her with a whip that looks like a snake, Delia doesn’t give in. Her calm yet firm resistance is seen in the quote above. She threatens Sykes with a pan to defend herself and shows her resilience and refusal to let fear control her. This highlights her ability to remain calm and self-respectful even in the face of threat. Delia’s psychological resistance in Zora Neale Hurston’s “Sweat” shows her inner resilience and ability to maintain her identity in the midst of it. Through her composure, defiance, and determination, she resists her abusive husband Sykes’ attempts to harm her and get her out of the house, eventually regaining control of her life.

The climax of Sykes’ downfall was when his evil actions backfired on him. Sykes brought home a rattlesnake and placed it in Delia’s house so that Delia was afraid of it and would leave the house with the aim of Delia dying from the spread of venomous snakes. He tried to get rid of Delia from the house so that he

could live in the house that Delia had worked so hard to build with Bertha, his mistress. Fate says otherwise, the snake that Sykes brought himself bites him until he lies stiff. Delia who knew this refused to intervene and continued to watch from a safe distance. She let Sykes, her abusive husband, die from the rattlesnake bite. As we can see from the quotation below.

“She lay there. “Delia. Delia!” She could hear Sykes calling in a most despairing tone as one who expected no answer. The sun crept on up, and he called. Delia could not move—her legs were gone flabby. She never moved, he called, and the sun kept rising.

“Mah Gawd!” She heard him moan, “Mah Gawd fum Heben!” She heard him stumbling about and got up from her flower-bed. The sun was growing warm. As she approached the door she heard him call out hopefully,

“Delia, is dat you Ah heah?”

She saw him on his hands and knees as soon as she reached the door. He crept an inch or two toward her—all that he was able, and she saw his horribly swollen neck and his one open eye shining with hope. A surge of pity too strong to support bore her away from that eye that must, could not, fail to see the tubs. He would see the lamp. Orlando with its doctors was too far. She could scarcely reach the Chinaberry tree, where she waited in the growing heat while inside she knew the cold river was creeping up and up to extinguish that eye which must know by now that she knew.”

(Hurstun, 1926, p.9)

This moment is important from a feminist perspective because Delia chooses not to protect Sykes, letting the consequences of his toxic masculinity and evil behavior. Her indifference at this crucial moment represents the final resistance of her oppressive marriage.

4.3.2 Woman’s Resistance in “The Yellow Wallpaper”

The narrator’s resistance in “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman can be analyzed through various types of resistance, emphasizing her struggle against patriarchal oppression and her journey to reclaim her autonomy

and identity. Here is the classification of women's resistance in "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

a. Psychological Resistance

The narrator in the short story entitled "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman resisted by secretly writing in her journal, she did this to maintain her sense of self despite her husband's restriction on any mental activity. As we can see in the quote below.

"I don't know why I should write this. I don't want to. I don't feel able. And I know John would think it absurd. But I must say what I feel and think in some way it is such a relief! But the effort is getting to be greater than the relief." (Gilman, 1892, p.5)

This silent determination to the very strict rules made by her husband is a form of psychological resistance. By writing, the narrator can maintain her reality and identity in a condition that is very mentally isolating. As mentioned in a journal article written by Nahdah & Assa'diy (2024) writing expressively is effective in reducing levels of anxiety and depression.

As the story progresses, the narrator's focus on the wallpaper symbolizes her mental struggle. When she imagined a woman trapped behind the wallpaper, the woman actually reflects the narrator who was imprisoned and trapped in the limitations of a patriarchal society and her marriage that did not support her in healing from her postpartum depression after giving birth. The climax of the story where she describes the woman behind the wallpaper tearing the paper and successfully escaping from the wall is a symbol of the narrator's success in

breaking free from the shackles of domestic violence and social limitations. As quoted below.

“And then I said it again, several times. Very gently and slowly, and said it so often that he had to go and see, and he got it of course, and came in. He stopped short by the door.

"What is the matter?" he cried.

"For God's sake, what are you doing! " I kept on creeping just the same, but I looked at him over my shoulder.

" I've got out at last," said I,

" in spite of you and Jane? And I've pulled off most of the paper, so you can't put me back! "

Now why should that man have fainted? But he did, and right across my path by the wall, so that I had to creep over him every time!" (Gilman, 1892, p.10)

Through this action, the narrator shows her rejection of norms that oppress women, showing her determination and will to maintain her identity. This is in line with feminist ideas that criticize how the patriarchal system suppresses women's freedom and self-expression (Anjani, 2024).

b. Cultural and Social Defiance

The narrator's attraction to yellow wallpaper in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a symbol of rebellion against societal expectations. She challenged the cultural narrative of women's fragility by rejecting the domestic role imposed upon her. The act of tearing off the wallpaper symbolizes freedom from the norms that have limited her.

"In spite of you and Jane? And I've pulled off most of the paper, so you can't put me back!" (Gilman, 1892, p.10)

The quote above is a metaphor for rejecting the cultural imprisonment of women. In the 19th century where the story is set, the Cult of Domesticity emerged as the dominant ideology governing women's roles. This ideology

focused on women's need to be submissive, pious, pure, and devoted to the home and family. This ideology not only isolated women's freedom but also made women increasingly dependent on men (Study.com, n.d.)

c. Educational Empowerment & Everyday Acts of Resistance

Education is a powerful tool that women can use to resist any oppression. Women that empowered by knowledge can assert their autonomy and value in society. Although the narrator in this story had very limited access to formal education or knowledge, her actions in continuing to write a journal for the sake of her sanity can function as an alternative form of intellectual freedom.

“I think sometimes that if I were only well enough to write a little it would relieve the press of ideas and rest me.” (Gilman, 1892, p.3)

As quoted above, writing becomes a medium for the narrator to see the norms of society, vent her frustrations, and develop her awareness of the circumstances that oppress her. The narrator's act of writing secretly and her vision of the figure trapped in the wallpaper also reflected a small act of resistance that she did every day. This act, although invisible and subtle, was also an effort to not remain silent about her condition that she was isolated and controlled by her husband, it was also a form of the narrator's attempt to reach the reality that oppresses her.

4.4 Comparing and Contrasting The Woman’s Resistance Found in Two Short Stories

The short stories “Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston and “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman portray the struggles of women in

oppressive environments. Both stories delve into themes of resistance, but they present these struggles differently in terms of several things mentioned below.

Table 4. 2
Similiarities and Differences of Woman's Resistance Found in Two Short Stories

Similiarities	Differences	
	"Sweat"	"The Yellow Wallpaper"
Resistance as a central theme besides domestic violence	Delia, in the "Sweat" short story, resists quietly but strongly	In contrast, the narrator in "The Yellow Wallpaper" resists more mentally and symbolically
The symbolism of the environment	In "Sweat", the snake represents Sykes' cruelty and how it eventually leads to his downfall	The wallpaper represents the narrator's mental struggles and symbolizes how trapped she feels
Silencing woman's voice	Sykes completely disregards Delia's suffering and continues to abuse her without any guilt in his chest	John dismisses his wife's understanding of her own mental health, treating her struggles as unimportant and stopping her from doing anything creative and meeting other people that are considered stimulating activities
Taking control and power	In "Sweat", Delia shows strength and control over her life through her hard work and determination	Her mental breakdown is her way of fighting back, but it also shows how badly oppression can harm a woman's mental condition.
Tragic Endings	When Sykes is bitten by a rattlesnake, Delia doesn't help him, despite the difficulty of the situation. This decision marks her emotional and physical freedom from his control	In the end, she believes she has freed the woman trapped in the wallpaper, but this is actually a sign of her mental collapse, the ripped wallpaper symbolizes her breakthrough towards the isolation committed by her controlling husband.

a. Resistance as a Central Theme Besides Domestic Violence

Both of the main characters in the stories resist their oppressive situations, but they do it in different ways. Delia, in the “Sweat” short story, resists quietly but strongly. She endures Sykes’ abuse while holding onto her dignity, and in the end, she stands up for herself meanwhile Sykes’ actions lead him into his downfall. The narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” resists by fixating on the wallpaper, which becomes her way of rebelling against being trapped by her marriage and losing her independence. Delia’s resistance in “Sweat” comes from her independence and practical mindset. Even though Sykes tries to control her, she quietly endures his abuse and outlasts him, finally gaining freedom when his cruelty causes his death. Her resistance reflects feminist values of strength and self-reliance, as she holds on to her home and her dignity. In contrast, the narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” resists more mentally and symbolically. Her descent into madness becomes her way of fighting back against the strict gender roles and medical treatments that suppress her identity. However, while her actions are rebellious, they leave her powerless instead of setting her free.

b. The Symbolism of the Environment

The Settings in both stories have symbolic meanings. In “Sweat”, the snake represents Sykes’ cruelty and how it eventually leads to his downfall. The hard work of washing clothes shows Delia’s strength and ability to endure. In “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the wallpaper represents the narrator’s mental struggles and symbolizes how trapped she feels, showing her quiet rebellion against the restrictions of her marriage and society.

c. Silencing Woman's Voice

Both of the stories show how patriarchy silences women and ignores their experiences and existence. In the "Sweat" short story, Sykes completely disregards Delia's suffering and continues to abuse her without any guilt in his chest. In "The Yellow Wallpaper", John dismisses his wife's understanding of her own mental health, treating her struggles as unimportant and stopping her from doing anything creative and meeting other people that are considered stimulating activities. Feminism highlights how this silencing helps men stay in control while taking away women's independence.

d. Taking Control and Power

In "Sweat", Delia shows strength and control over her life through her hard work and determination. Despite being in an abusive marriage, she stands her ground, keeps the home that she earned by her hard work, and survives. On the other hand, in "The Yellow Wallpaper", the narrator has no real control over her life. She can only resist by writing her journal and resisting in her mind because she's physically trapped and has no freedom. Her mental breakdown is her way of fighting back, but it also shows how badly oppression can harm a woman's mental condition.

e. Tragic Endings

In the "Sweat" short story, Delia's resistance is clear and empowering. After years of abuse from her toxic husband, Sykes, she finally stands up for herself. When Sykes is bitten by a rattlesnake, Delia doesn't help him, despite the difficulty of the situation. This decision marks her emotional and physical

freedom from his control. The story ends with Delia embracing her independence, showing her resistance through survival and empowerment.

On the other hand, the ending of “The Yellow Wallpaper” is much sadder and more complicated. The main character, confined to a room by her husband for her mental health, is gradually consumed by her oppressive situation. In the end, she believes she has freed the woman trapped in the wallpaper, but this is actually a sign of her mental collapse, the ripped wallpaper symbolizes her breakthrough towards the isolation committed by her controlling husband. Her actions show her desperate attempt to regain control, but in the end, they reveal that her oppression has pushed her to the edge. Instead of achieving a clear victory like Delia, the narrator’s form of resistance is tied to madness and escaping reality, which highlights the limits of her ability to fight back against the societal and medical systems that keep her trapped.



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CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents conclusions and suggestions based on study results and discussions. The conclusion deals with domestic violence and women's resistance found in short stories entitled "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston and "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, as well as the comparison and contrast of both of the topics.

5.1 Conclusions

Zora Neale Hurston is an American anthropologist and writer. One of her most popular masterpieces is a short story entitled "Sweat" which was first published in 1926. In this story, as a wife, Delia was experiencing various violence from her abusive husband (Sykes), for instance, economic, physical, and psychological abuse in her marital relationship. Those kinds of abuse that Delia experienced are very likely to happen to women in real life, even in this modern era where patriarchy is something that has been fought for a long time.

The short story entitled The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, published in 1892, tells the story of a woman, the wife of a doctor, who suffers from depression after giving birth to her second child. In accordance with the medical treatment at that time, the husband took the wife to a resting place so that she could rest completely, but the wife felt imprisoned physically, psychologically, emotionally, and intellectually. Under the stressful state of being constantly in the room upstairs, the wife, who was very imaginative and creative, began to focus her attention on the wallpaper in her room.

Both “Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston and “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman explore the devastating effects of domestic violence on women. These short stories expose how patriarchal systems use various forms of abuse to control women, while also showing the different ways the main characters resist their oppression.

In “Sweat”, Delia experiences multiple forms of abuse from her husband. He physically harms her, emotionally manipulates her with insults and cruelty, exploits her financially by taking advantage of her hard work, and even endangers her life by bringing a rattlesnake into their home to intimidate her. Meanwhile in “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the narrator endures emotional and psychological abuse from her husband, John. He dismisses her thoughts and feelings, isolates her under the pretense of treating her postpartum depression, and enforces strict control over her life. This treatment worsens her mental state, symbolized by her growing obsession with the yellow wallpaper in the room where she is confined.

Delia resists in a strong and practical way. Despite Sykes’ abuse, she remains independent by working hard to support herself and refusing to give in to his control. In the end, she does not intervene as Sykes’ own reckless actions lead to his death, which frees her from his oppression. In another hand, the narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” resistance is more symbolic and internal. She secretly writes to preserve her sense of identity and begins identifying with a woman she imagines trapped in the wallpaper. By tearing down the wallpaper, she tries to break free from the control of her husband and societal expectations. However, her resistance leads to a mental breakdown, highlighting the tragic consequences

of her confinement. Both stories reveal how domestic violence impacts women differently, but they also emphasize the strength and resilience women display, even under oppressive circumstances.

5.2 Suggestions

For future researchers who want to delve deeper into this study, it is recommended to explore the theme of psychological oppression and mental health in domestic violence. This theme allows for a detailed analysis of how the psychological manipulation and emotional abuse experienced by women affect their mental wellbeing and influence their strategies for resistance. By examining these aspects, researchers can uncover the mental and emotional toll that domestic violence imposes on women, as well as their inner strength in coping with such oppression.

For instance, in “Sweat”, Delia endures years of psychological abuse from her husband, Sykes, in addition to physical economic violence. Her endurance and resilience can be analyzed as forms of psychological strength that allow her to navigate her oppressive circumstances. Similarly, in “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the narrator’s descents into madness reflects the devastating consequences of psychological oppression. Her mental breakdown can be studied as a response to the dismissive and controlling behavior of her husband, John, and the societal norms that strip women of autonomy.

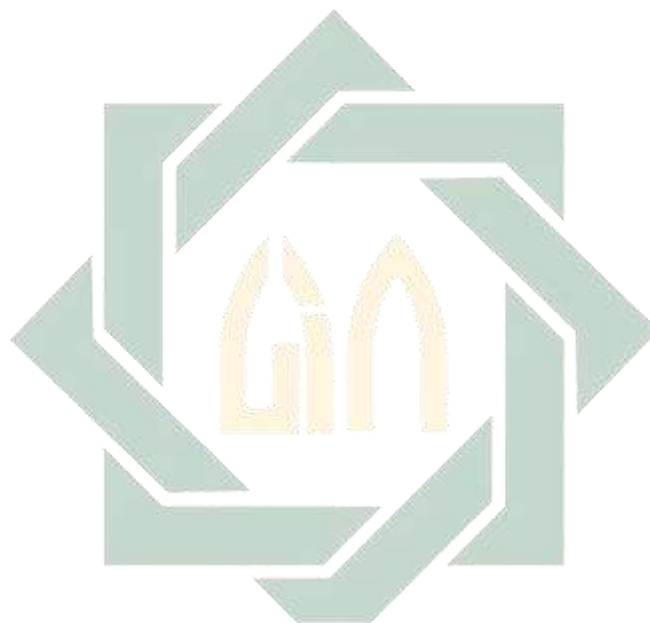
Future researchers could also consider using psychological theories, such as Freudian psychoanalysis or trauma theory, to better understand the characters’ mental states and coping mechanisms. For example, such frameworks could help

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