

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Literature is a written works, especially those considered to have artistic or intellectual value. Literature is often characterized by its use of language to convey ideas, emotions, and experiences. Literary works also a reflection of society and culture. A quality literary work is one that is able to make a meaningful contribution to society. From Finley (2017) in the study of Rybakova, Piotrowski, and Harper, it was stated that:

"literature allows us to see people as they really are: complex, good, evil, and sometimes contradictory in their words and actions."

In this regard, literature plays an important role in opening our eyes to the complexity of human beings, showing them in all their goodness, evil, and sometimes contradictions in their words and actions. In literature, characters are portrayed with layers of personality that reveal their good sides, as well as the darkness that may exist in their souls. In addition, literature also shows how humans often act and speak contradictorily, illustrating the complexity and paradox inherent in human life. As such, literature not only holds a mirror up to humanity, but also enriches our understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

Literature is also one of cultural product. In cultural studies, the term 'culture' is defined more as a political entity than an aesthetic aspect. Cultural studies does not focus on culture in a limited sense, such as objects of art or culture considered as a process of spiritual, intellectual and aesthetic development. Instead, culture is understood as the texts and practices of everyday life (Sakt & Cahyo, 2017). This explains that "Cultural studies" is an approach that does not limit the notion of culture to things like art objects or processes of spiritual, intellectual, and aesthetic development. Instead, culture is understood as the texts and practices of everyday life. This approach suggests that culture is not only limited to works of art

or abstract developmental processes, but is also closely related to everyday activities and social interactions, treating cultural phenomena as a complex subject of study and integrated with everyday life.

Literary works formed from a culture are called popular literature. Popular literature itself is the result of a vast entertainment industry. Written fiction constitutes just one facet of this industry, which promotes and distributes popular stories across various mediums such as film, radio, television, periodicals, and books (Rocio Montoro, 2015). It highlights the diverse ways in which stories are received and enjoyed by audiences, recognizing that the entertainment industry is not just limited to the written word, but also includes other media that can bring stories to life in different forms. Since literature reflects society and represents a culture, popular literature is created to fulfill the desires of society, hence it is mass-produced. According to Shoos (2017), in her book affirms that: *"all cultural depictions will exert an impact on our lives."* this shows that cultural products can influence people's understanding of what popular culture represents. This reflects society's desire to understand, address, and advocate for the issue. Thus, authors make literature as a medium to speak out about important issues in contemporary society, making literature a reflection of these issues to represent the voice of the contemporary society, and this is how a work is formed from a culture.

One of the current issues raised in many literary works is the issue of domestic violence. One literary work that raises the issue of domestic violence is Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends with Us*. Colleen Hoover is poised to outperform Stephen King, James Patterson, and John Grisham in book sales for 2022. The figures are astonishing: as per NPD BookScan, her books are projected to have reached approximately 12.5 million copies sold this year alone. Her most recent work, *"It Starts with Us,"* which Atria published in October, achieved an astounding milestone by selling over 809,000 copies in its debut week. Simon & Schuster confirmed that it became the fastest-selling fiction book in the company's history (Stewart, 2022). This shows that Colleen Hoover is one of the most accomplished authors in the book industry in 2022, and her achievements reflect the strength of her storytelling and her unique appeal as a writer. Her success in selling books and

achieving record sales is certainly a remarkable achievement. In this particular novel, Hoover delves into the intricacies of relational violence by narrating the life of her female protagonist, Lily Bloom. Lily, having witnessed her mother's abuse by her father during her childhood, is no stranger to the dark aspects of love. However, she finds herself ensnared in a similar situation when her partner and eventual husband, Ryle Kincaid, inflicts harm on her, echoing the painful experiences of her mother with her father. Aside from the main characters in the novel, there are also peripheral characters in the novel who participate in shaping the representation of this issue in the novel through how they deal with this serious issue. The shaping of the characters in the novel in portraying domestic violence in the novel is very important, because it is important to note that representations of domestic violence in popular culture not only reflect social reality, but can also play a role in shaping society's views on the issue. Therefore, an analysis of the representation of domestic violence in "It Ends with Us" not only provides insight into how fiction treats this issue, but also how fiction can contribute to a broader social dialog about domestic violence.

Domestic violence itself is one of the deep and complex social issues that has become a global concern. It not only affects the individuals involved in the situation, but also reflects underlying power, gender and cultural dynamics. The World Health Organization indicates that between the years 2000 and 2018, in 161 countries, almost one-third, or 30%, of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence from either an intimate partner or non-partner, or both (Navarro et al., 2023). Domestic violence encompasses a range of terms, such as intimate partner abuse, family violence, spouse abuse, physical abuse within marriage, and partner mistreatment, among others. It is characterized not by a single action but rather by a consistent pattern of physical, sexual, and/or psychological actions carried out by a current or former intimate partner. While domestic violence affects individuals of any gender, it is worth noting that women tend to be at a higher risk of sustaining physical injuries or suffering from psychological aftermath (Hornor, 2005). Without the ability to define our interests and participate in the decision-making processes that affect us, women, like other groups in society, are

at the mercy of definitions and decisions made by others (Marshment, 1997). Domestic violence is not a new phenomenon. However, it is often kept as a secret by families or even by the victims themselves (Fitrah Khalbina et al., 2014). In addition, the culture of the community also plays a role in keeping this issue a secret. Domestic violence has distinctive elements. Uniquely, it is related to the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, be it a family relationship or the relationship between the employer and the domestic helper.

The phrase "domestic violence" generally encompasses abusive behaviors within an intimate relationship, encompassing both men and women as potential victims. Although this term is commonly employed and widely acknowledged, it has faced criticism for various reasons, including its gender-neutral nature and its primary focus on physical attacks while neglecting other forms of abuse (Holt et al., 2008). Domestic violence is a significant social problem affecting individuals within intimate relationships, cutting across diverse demographics. It encompasses a range of abusive behaviors, including physical violence, psychological violence, and marital rape violence, each of which can have devastating consequences for victims. The enduring global problem of domestic violence involves the fusion of affection and aggression. Domestic violence is a profound and troubling social issue that affects many individuals in different walks of life. This form of violence includes physical, psychological, and even sexual abuse that occurs within interpersonal relationships, including marital, dating, or other intimate relationships. Domestic violence can have a serious impact on the physical and mental well-being of the victim, and is often difficult to identify or disclose.

The issue of domestic violence is a global issue that is important to pay attention to, therefore the researcher is interested in discussing it in this study, how this issue is represented in *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover as one of a contemporary literary work that formed from a culture. This research will focus on how domestic violence is represented through the narrative text in the novel, through the storyline and characters in the novel. This research will describe how the main male character commit domestic violence against main female character, and how peripheral characters attitude respond to the issue and simplify it. It will

explore This explores how the peripheral character's attitude simplifies the issue of domestic violence by not taking the issue seriously or not making meaningful efforts in addressing domestic violence that occurs to someone around them, and show the attitudes that the issues perceived as "normal" or "natural". This reductionism is an important aspect that highlights how the novel visualizes domestic violence in the context of popular culture, which in turn has the potential to shape society's wider understanding of the issue.

To discuss this issue of domestic violence in the Colleen Hoover's *It ends with us*, this research applies Stuart Hall's concept of representation. Through Stuart Hall's concept of representation, research into the way domestic violence is represented in literary works can provide deep insight into how the issue is understood, interpreted and permeates popular culture. Representation is a production of concepts meaning in the mind through language. It is the relationship between concepts and language that portrays real objects, people, or even events into fictional objects, people, or events into fictional objects, people, or events. Representation means using language to say something meaningful, or to describe a meaningful world to other people (Hall, 1997). Stuart Hall asserts that representation is a fundamental activity that contributes significantly to the creation of emphasizing its profound impact (Kidd, 2015). This emphasizes the importance of representation as a fundamental activity that is instrumental in creating understanding and awareness of its profound impact on culture and society. Representation not only creates images or depictions, but also influences the way we understand, respond to and interact with the world around us. It highlights the power of media, popular culture and language in shaping collective perceptions and influencing the formation of individual and group identities.

1.2 Statement Of Problem

This research aims to investigate how the issue of domestic violence is represented in novels, with a focus on how authors depict and address this issue. Furthermore, this study will also examine the influence of the literary industry on the representation of domestic violence in novels. The research questions posed are:

1. How does domestic violence represented in the novel?
2. How does the peripheral character simplify domestic violence in the novel?

1.3 Research Objective

This research aims to investigate how the issue of domestic violence is represented in novels, with a focus on how authors depict and address this issue.

The research has three main objectives:

1. To examine the portrayal of domestic violence in the novel and its significance in depicting the overall theme of domestic violence.
2. To investigate how peripheral characters contribute to the simplification or distortion of the understanding of domestic violence in the novel.

1.4 Research Significance

1) Theoretical Significance

This research contributes to the field of literary studies by offering a critical analysis of the representation of domestic violence in popular literature. It enriches the theoretical understanding of how societal issues are portrayed and interpreted in literary works, and also becomes The study of how the culture industry influences the portrayal of sensitive issues in literature adds a valuable dimension to cultural studies.

2) Practical Significance

This research adds to the academic discourse surrounding contemporary literature, genre studies, and the influence of the publishing industry on literary

representations. Engaging with such debates is a fundamental aspect of English Literature studies.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

1. Cultural Studies

Cultural Studies is the overarching theoretical framework for this research. It provides a lens through which to analyze the cultural, social, and political contexts that influence the representation of domestic violence in popular literature. Cultural Studies allows us to examine the values, norms, and ideologies that shape the portrayal of domestic violence in novels. Cultural Studies has a history rooted in Marxist thought and German critical theory, initially focusing on aspects of economics and social class. Over time, Cultural Studies developed into a broader discipline that examines culture in various social and political contexts. One of the key milestones in its development was the concept of "culture industry" introduced by Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer in their book "Dialectic of Enlightenment" in 1944.

Cultural Studies continues to examine how culture and media can be used as tools of power and how culture influences worldviews as well as the construction of identities, which are concepts further elaborated in the second text (Luzar & Monica, 2014). Cultural studies has left its mark on academic endeavors across various disciplines, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, and even science and technology. It seems to have permeated all aspects of academia, and discussions about it are widespread (Sardar & Van Loon, 1997). Cultural studies is a discipline that examines various aspects of culture and explicitly assesses moral values in the socio-cultural and political contexts that are inseparable from communal life (Bastra et al., 2020). Raymond Williams's Cultural Studies theory provides an in-depth look at the relationship between culture and society (Storey, 2009). Williams emphasizes that culture is a reflection of the society that created it.

In the context of this research, the representation of domestic violence, through cultural studies will reveal whether this novel opens up space for reflection or even provides an alternative to existing social norms, this theory can also help to decipher the complexity of the representation of domestic violence in literary works and investigate its impact on people's understanding of this issue.

2. Domestic Violence

Domestic violence encompasses various terms, such as wife abuse, marital assault, woman battery, spouse abuse, wife beating, conjugal violence, intimate violence, battering, partner abuse, and more. These terms may be employed interchangeably to address the issue, or a specific term might be chosen to emphasize a particular aspect (e.g., "woman abuse" to underscore that most victims are women). Domestic violence can happen in relationships where the abuser and the victim have a prior connection. It occurs within intimate relationships involving both adults and adolescents. The individuals involved can be dating, living together, married, divorced, or separated. These relationships can involve individuals of various sexual orientations, including heterosexual, gay, or lesbian. Some of them may also share children. Furthermore, these relationships can be of varying lengths, either short-term or long-term. Domestic violence is not limited to one particular type of relationship or group, but can occur in a variety of relationship contexts, including sexual orientation, marital status, or relationship duration.

Domestic violence does not only involve perpetrators and victims but also the people around them. Individual attitudes significantly influence violence against women and also affect the community and institutional responses to violence against women, the occurrence of violence against women, and how women respond to victimization. Attitudes play a substantial role in shaping violence against women and have a substantial influence on "how communities and institutions respond to violence against women, the occurrence of violence against women, and how women react to being victimized" (Flood et al., 2009). In this context, individual attitudes refer to the views and beliefs held by people regarding

the issue of violence against women. Positive attitudes towards women, condemning violence against them, can have a positive impact on preventing and reducing incidents of violence against women. Conversely, negative attitudes or support for violence against women can create room for more acts of violence.

3. Representation (Stuart Hall)

There are three essential requirements for something to be considered a representation. To begin with, if an item serves as a representation of an object, it must symbolize or signify that object. Secondly, if an item functions as a representation, it must be used intentionally for that purpose. This is often referred to as the intentionality condition. Lastly, there's the recognition condition: an item can only be considered a representation of an object if it can be identified as symbolizing that object by someone other than the individual(s) who originally intended it to be a representation of the object (James O, 1999). Further elaboration is needed for each of these conditions, particularly an explanation of what it means for something to symbolize something else.

Stuart Hall asserts that representation is a fundamental activity that contributes significantly to the creation of emphasizing its profound impact (Kidd, 2015). Stuart Hall's theory of representation focuses on how meaning is constructed and conveyed in media and popular culture. Representation plays a crucial role in the creation and sharing of meaning among individuals within a culture. It encompasses the utilization of language, symbols, and visual elements to symbolize or depict various concepts. Nevertheless, this is a complex and intricate procedure, as you will soon come to realize (Hall, 1997). Representation involves the creation of significance through the utilization of language. As Hall suggests, we don't merely find meaning in things; instead, we actively construct meaning by employing systems of representation, concepts, and symbols. The essence of meaning isn't solely rooted in the physical attributes of a sign but also in its symbolic role. It is through the act of symbolizing and representing that a sound or image gains the capacity to communicate meaning (Hall, 1997). In the context of

this research, Hall's framework will be used to analyze how domestic violence is represented in novels, exploring the ways in which authors use language, symbols, and narrative techniques to depict this complex social issue.

1.6 Previous Studies

There are several previous studies related to this research, both from the object of discussion, namely the novel "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover or the theory used, namely Cultural Studies. The first previous research is research by Taria Ayu Lestari, Agnes Setyowati and H. Tetty Yukesti (2019) with the research title "Gender-Based Violence Against The Female Main Character in Colleen Hoover's It Ends With Us.". This study analyzes the novel "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover to reveal the forms and impacts of gender-based violence experienced by the female main character, Lily Bloom. Lily experiences various forms of violence, including child abuse, physical assault, and domestic violence. This research uses descriptive analysis method and theories of gender and feminism. The results showed that Lily managed to overcome these difficulties by improving her finances, living independently, and divorcing from her abusive partner. Internal and external factors supported her efforts to survive. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the importance of awareness of gender-based violence and women's efforts to overcome the problems in the novel. Although it focuses on the novel "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover with the same issue of gender-based violence, this previous research has differences with this research. The first previous study emphasizes thematic analysis in the novel with a focus on the main female character, Lily Bloom, and the steps she takes to overcome the violence she experiences. This research focuses more on analyzing how domestic violence is represented in the same novel, also by Colleen Hoover. The aim is to identify the different types of violence described in the story and how the structure of the story simplifies a complex issue. In addition, the second abstract places this research in a broader social context with an attempt to contribute to the social conversation on the issue of domestic violence.

This research aims to explain and analyze domestic violence against women in the novel *La Barka* by NH Dini. The data in this research is taken from the novel *La Barka* by NH Dini. The data is discussed using literary sociology theory and analyzed using content analysis method. Based on the results of data analysis, it was found that there are several forms of domestic violence against women, namely physical violence, psychological violence, and sexual harassment, as well as factors and impacts that cause acts of oppression against women in the novel *La Barka* by NH. Dini. Broadly speaking, this research can provide valuable insights into how this sensitive issue is represented and interpreted in a literary context. The similarity between the previous research and this research is that they both contribute to understanding the issue of domestic violence in a literary context even though the objects of the novels are different, besides that the approaches applied are different, the previous research used literary sociology as an approach that emphasizes the analysis of social and institutional structures that influence the production, distribution and consumption of literary works while this research uses a cultural studies approach that focuses on representation theory by Stuart Hall which focuses more on the construction of culture, ideology, and power in shaping individual and collective identities using an interpretative and critical approach.

The third previous research is research from Florensia Carliani Mbues and Eko Cahyo Prawoto entitled "Culture Studies in the Novel *Tarian Bumi* by Oka Rusmini." (2020). This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to analyze culture in the novel "*Tarian Bumi*" by Oka Rusmini. The results identified three main values in the novel: trust, morals, and Balinese customs. Trust includes relationships within oneself, with others, and with spiritual aspects. Morals are reflected in the characters' actions in the story, while Balinese customs follow Hindu traditions and Brahmin and Sudra rules. Although both studies examine cultural studies, this third research has different approaches, subjects, and research objectives, this third study focuses on analyzing the culture and values in the novel "*Tarian Bumi*" by Oka Rusmini, with an emphasis on literary aspects and Balinese culture. The aim is to understand values such as beliefs, morals, and customs contained in the work. Meanwhile, the object for the current study is "It Ends With

Us” by Colleen Hoover that oriented towards social, literary analysis, how to recognize the different types of violence depicted in the narrative and how the story structure simplifies complex issues about representation of Domestic Violence in the novel.

The fourth previous studies is research from Winda Dwiastuti and Harumi Manik, entitled “The Simplification Domestic Violence in Colleen Hoover’s *It Ends with Us*.” (2016). This study uses a qualitative research method of close textual reading to examine the peripheral characters in the novel. The analysis evaluates the characters' attitudes towards others and examines their reactions to the issue of domestic violence. The research draws on theories such as the concept of attitude described by Flood, Pease, Taylor, and Webster (2009), as well as Schippers' (2007) notion of hegemonic femininity. The results showed that most of the characters in the novel exhibited a simplified perspective on domestic violence and tended to regard violence as a private and normal phenomenon in marriage. The findings also indicated that the characters' attitudes towards domestic violence were influenced by several factors such as internalized patriarchal norms and perspectives on marriage. This previous research has a great influence on the current study, because the researcher adapts some of the same theories such as Flood's attitude theory, only different in that this study also develops the results of simplifying domestic violence with the theory of radical feminism which will explore how the attitudes of the characters from the novel show the construction of patriarchy which is very influential on the simplification of domestic violence represented in the novel.

The fifth previous studies is research from Marvin Pragkita, entitled “Domestic Violence Portrayed in Colleen Hoover’s *It Ends with Us*.” (2023). This research addresses the psychological issue of domestic violence in Colleen Hoover's novel, *It Ends with Us*. The analysis focused on the domestic violence experienced by Lily Bloom, the main female character in the novel. The discussion includes the cycle of violence and the types of domestic violence experienced by Lily. This research utilizes a psychological approach as the discussion deals with the psychological motivations of the main character. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method because the data in this research is in the

form of words and the analysis is presented descriptively. The difference between the previous study and this study is in the approach. This previous research focused specifically on the novel *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover and used a psychological approach to analyze the experiences of the main character, Lily Bloom. It emphasized on the cycle of violence and the types of violence experienced by the character in the novel. This approach focuses heavily on aspects of character and individual psychology in the context of domestic violence. Whereas the current study takes a broader approach by examining the representation of domestic violence in literature in general. This research explores how domestic violence is represented in literature as a whole, using Stuart Hall's concept of representation as its theoretical framework. It includes an analysis of how physical violence is depicted in the novel, the influence of the relationship between the main characters and the development of domestic violence, as well as the contribution of peripheral characters to the understanding of domestic violence. This research is more oriented towards a broad theoretical analysis and considers the influence of the literary industry on the representation of domestic violence.

