

**THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S RESISTANCE IN WALKER'S**

***THE COLOR PURPLE***



**A THESIS**

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain

A Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES**

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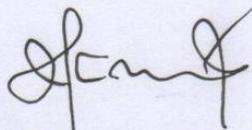
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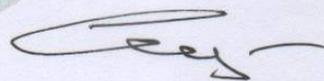
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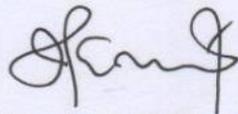
**THESIS**  
**THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S RESISTANCE IN WALKER'S**  
***THE COLOR PURPLE***

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup>  
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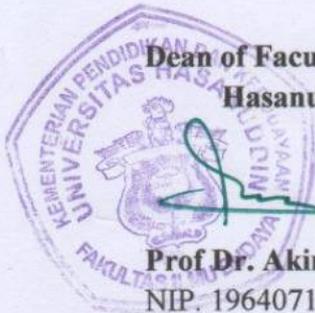
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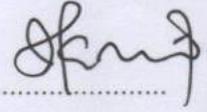
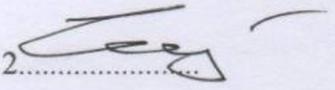
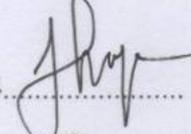
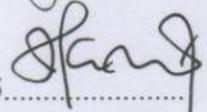
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Today, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **NUR AWALIYAH AMIR** (Student No. F21116513) entitled, **THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S RESISTANCE IN WALKER'S *THE COLOR PURPLE***, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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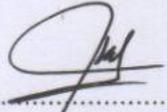


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The thesis by NUR AWALIYAH AMIR (No. F21116513) entitled, **THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S RESISTANCE IN WALKER'S *THE COLOR PURPLE***, has been revised as advised during examination on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners.

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Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya tidak terdapat karya yang ditulis atau diterbitkan orang lain kecuali sebagai acuan atau kutipan, dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

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Yang menyatakan,



Nur Awaliyah Amir



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I would like to express my infinite gratitude to my beloved parents. To my father Drs. Muh. Amir J. M.Si and my mother Fatmawati Sanusi, I dedicated this thesis for both of you. Thank you for bringing me into the world. For their greatest love, support, and pray. May Allah give them the best of all the best.

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Makassar, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
The writer,

**Nur Awaliyah Amir**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>COVER</b> .....	i
<b>APPROVAL LETTER</b> .....	ii
<b>LEGITIMASY</b> .....	iii
<b>AGREEMENT</b> .....	iv
<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	vi
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	vii
<b>ABSTRAK</b> .....	ix
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	x

### CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study .....	1
1.2 Identification of Problems .....	3
1.3 The Scope of Problem .....	4
1.4 Research Question .....	4
1.5 Objective of Study .....	4
1.6 Significance of Study .....	5

### CHAPTER II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study .....	6
2.2 Structuralism Approach .....	8
2.3 Feminism .....	15
2.4 Feminist Literary Criticism .....	18

### CHAPTER III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodological Design .....	21
3.2 Method of Collecting Data .....	21
3.3 Method of Analyzing Data .....	22
Procedure of Research .....	23



## CHAPTER IV. ANALYSIS

4.1 The Structural Aspects of The Novel <i>The Color Purple</i> .....	24
4.1.1 Character .....	24
4.1.2 Plot .....	37
4.1.3 Setting .....	42
4.1.4 Theme .....	46
4.2 The Kind of Women’s Resistance In The Novel <i>The Color Purple</i> .....	47
4.3 The Women’s Resistance Described In The Female Characters Celie and Sofia .....	52

## CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion .....	55
5.2 Suggestion.....	55
Bibliography .....	57
Appendixes .....	60
1. Synopsis of Novel <i>The Color Purple</i> .....	60
2. Biography of Alice Walker.....	62



## ABSTRAK

**Nur Awaliyah Amir.** 2020. *The Analysis of Women's Resistance in Walker's **The Color Purple***. (Dibimbing oleh **Herawaty** dan **Abidin**)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis perlawanan perempuan di dalam novel *The Color Purple* dengan menganalisis masalah bentuk perlawanan yang terjadi di dalam novel, dan sejauh mana perlawanan perempuan digambarkan melalui karakter wanita di dalam novel ini.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme yang membahas aspek-aspek intrinsik. Aspek intrinsik tersebut menekankan kajian pada unsur-unsur seperti karakter, plot, setting, dan tema. Isu penelitian adalah perlawanan perempuan terhadap penindasan yang dilakukan oleh laki-laki sehingga penulis menggunakan teori feminisme dalam menganalisis permasalahan yang dihadapi tokoh-tokoh perempuan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan penulis adalah kualitatif dan menjelaskan hasil penelitian yang diperoleh secara deskriptif.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa tokoh-tokoh perempuan melakukan perlawanan secara aktif dan pasif untuk melawan berbagai bentuk penindasan yang mereka alami. Hal tersebut berupa pelecehan seksual dan kekerasan secara fisik. Perlawanan perempuan dijelaskan dalam tindakan sebagian tokoh-tokoh perempuan yang akhirnya terbebas dari masalah yang mereka hadapi.

**Kata Kunci:** *perlawanan, wanita, pendekatan strukturalisme, novel The Color Purple*



## ABSTRACT

**Nur Awaliyah Amir.** 2020. *The Analysis of Women's Resistance in Walker's **The Color Purple***. (Supervised by **Herawaty** and **Abidin**)

The purpose of this study is to analyze women's resistance in the novel *The Color Purple* by analyzing the problem of the form of resistance that occurs in the novel, and the extent to which women's resistance is depicted in the female characters in this novel.

This study uses a structuralism approach that discusses intrinsic aspects. This intrinsic aspect emphasizes the study of elements such as character, plot, setting, and theme. The research issue is women's resistance to oppression by men, so the writer uses the theory of feminism in analyzing the problems faced by female characters. The research method used by the writer is qualitative and explains the research results obtained descriptively.

The results of this study indicate that the female characters take active and passive resistance against various forms of oppression they experience. It takes the form of sexual harassment and physical violence. Women's resistance is explained in the actions of some female characters who are finally free from the problems they face.

**Keywords:** *Resistance, Women, Structuralism Approach, Novel The Color Purple*



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of a background of the study, identification of problems, the scope of problem, research questions, objective of the study, and significance of the study.

#### 1.1 Background of The Study

Literary work is not merely a muse-reading but also the medium of the authors to convey their idea to the reader. It can reflect the author's view of various tendencies that happen in her/his environment. The things that depicted can be the social stature, the relationships among society, or in simple cases, it portrays the relationship between men and women. The bond of the two sexes becomes the realm of one of literary critic called literary feminist criticism. It seeks to unearth the implication of the sexes' (men and women) involvement in literary creation. Broadly, Feminist literature critics care about how women and men are written about and how both write. Thus, as the first step to do critic we primary tend to know how the relationships between women and men are. This critic becomes interesting to do since the problem of relationships between women and men are very close and crucial in our daily life.

The interactions between women and men demand one side to be more superior and they have been proven that the winner is men. Society then formed and socialized about various functions and positions that proper to men and

he case is what the critic's name gender. Gender discourse depicts men men differently in a diverse setting. It raises binary the way men and



women look like and behave. There is a dichotomy that characterizes men and women; masculine and feminine. As feminine, women are described as weak, weepy, emotional, passive, and mindless, yet men as masculine are considered to be strong, powerful, and wise (Fakih, 2013:8). In due course thus gender differences lead to inequality that adverse one party who is in this case, women. Because society conveys women as emotional or irrational, it causes that women cannot perform to be leaders, it puts women in an inferior position. Conversely, men with their rational virtue are measured worthy to lead, so they have more power and a more decisive role in the social processes.

One of them is a novel entitled the novel of *The Color Purple* written by Alice Walker genres describing a lot of gender problems between men and women. The Color Purple tells a narrative of a young woman named Celie who struggles for her own survival throughout the traditional gender conventions of the novel where female characters are dominated by male characters and racial discrimination against colored people in the United States. However, Celie and other female characters in the novel are still assumed to perform certain alternative efforts to withstand the oppression portrayed in the story. Based on this belief, the present writer would like to explore deeper on the matter of resistance performed by female characters in *The Color Purple*. The writer would like to look at how these female characters utilize their capacity to survive in an environment of male domination in society and to deal with women's oppression.



The illustration of female figures in the novel *The Color Purple* focuses on  
with women's oppression to survive in a society dominated by men and

against patriarchal ideology. The same study was also carried out by some previous researchers describing women's resistance against the established patriarchal culture of construction. Similar conditions occur a lot in the surrounding environment and become a conversation in the community. The role of women in facing social life and various violence experienced both from the family environment and from other people. Gender perspectives and gender injustice are interesting issues that are expressed and become interesting events to tell.

Based on previous considerations, the writer is interested in analyzing the problem of feminism perspectives contained in the novel *The Color Purple* to find out its relevance to the reality that occurs in society and how the resistance of women described in the novel *The Color Purple* the problem of women's resistance in *The Color Purple* novel is an interesting phenomenon in providing descriptions and contributions in the discourse of feminism and literature.

## 1.2 Identification of Problems

After reading describing the background, the writer would like to identify some problems, such as:

1. The women's struggles in freeing themselves from male oppression.
2. The cruel treatment of male characters to female characters in the novel *The Color Purple*.

The kinds of women's resistance in the novel *The Color Purple*.

The women's resistance is described through the image of some characters in the novel *The Color Purple*.



### 1.3 The Scope of Problem

According to identification of problems, the writer restricts the scope of the research in the problems of the things that got the resistance and describes women's resistance through the image of some characters that related to focus discussions.

### 1.4 Research Questions

Based on the background described above, the formulation of the problem in this study is:

1. What kinds of women's resistance does the novel *The Color Purple* present?
2. To what extent is women's resistance described through the image of Celie and Sofia?

### 1.5 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objective of the research are :

1. To indicate the kind of women resistance presented in *The Color Purple*.
2. To elucidate the women's resistance described through the image of Celie and Sofia in the novel *The Color Purple*.

### 1.6 Significance of The Study

After doing this, the results of this study are effective in giving  
ice to readers in the community. The significance of this study is that the  
this paper is to examine that how the female characters present the



women's resistance in the novel and how the women's resistance is described through the image of some characters in the novel *The Color Purple*.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is literature review of the analysis of the novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. It relates to the issue of women's resistance in the literary works and one of these is the same object novel is *The color purple* by Alice Walker.

#### 2.1 Previous Study

The object used in the study is unexpectedly popular that people seem to be especially fond of them and ultimately adopt them as the main objects of analysis. Studies related to women's resistance and the novel *The Color Purple* have been examined by several researches. Those researches relate to this study of women's resistance which has been done by Ery Agus Kurnianto (2016) and Virgi Marlany Ibnatul Karimah (2017), and one of the research related the same novel by Hamdiana Said (2015).

The first is research conducted by Ery Agus Kurnianto (2016) entitled *Women Resistance Toward a Discourse of The Queen of Household In Paramaditha Intan's Short Stories*. The conclusion of the analysis on the two short stories was that a female character presented in these short stories was representing the women's voice that had been silenced by a cultural system of patriarchal construction. Texts were employed by the author to resist against a myth of women as the queen of the house 'proposed' by the patriarchal

ty.



Another research was conducted by Virgi Marlany Ibnatul Karimah (2017) entitled *The Main Character's Resistance to Patriarchal Ideology In A Golden Web Novel*. She focused to explain the main character resistance that is experienced by the main character Alessandra Gilliani in the novel *A Golden Web* by Barbara Quick, and how the resistance of the main character to patriarchal ideology. The conclusion of this research the main character portrayed as the feminist that fought the discrimination toward women at her time. Some forms discrimination is subordination where women viewed and placed as inferior in society, it creates the limitation for them to get education. And marginalization where women cannot chose their job freely they just can do the job at some kind of job such as noon and house wife.

The research of the novel *The Color Purple* was also done by Hamdiana Said (2015) entitled *The Analysis of Gender Inequality Towards Main Female Character in The Color Purple By Alive Walker and Firdaus in Woman at Point Zero By nawal El- Saadawi (A Comparative Study)*. This thesis focuses on describing the kind of gender inequality experienced by the main character, and the similarities and differences of gender inequalities forms which are experienced by the main female in *The Color Purple* By Alive Walker and Firdaus in *Woman at Point Zero* By nawal El- Saadawi by using a comparative study.

This study has similarities and differences. The similarities are two of the research above take the main characters and also raise the problem of women's

which is associated with the theory of feminism as the main object. of the theses above uses the same object as the writer's research, but the



writer focuses on feminism, especially women's resistance, while the thesis above focuses on a comparative study, especially gender inequality.

## 2.2 Structuralism Approach

Generally, there are some approaches used in analyzing literary works. Yet students most often choose approaches such as structuralism approach, psychological approach, sociological approach, and genetic structuralism approach. The writer chooses the Structuralism approach because this approach is more effective to analyze the object of this thesis.

The structuralism approach is an approach used to analyze literary works that build on the work itself. Jean Peaget stated in Dwi Susanto (2016: 90) that structuralism contains three main points. The first is an overall idea (wholeness), in the sense that the parts or elements conform to a set of rules that determine the intrinsic good overall structure and its parts. The second idea of transformation (transformation), structure it undertakes transformation procedure that constantly allows the creation of new materials. The third idea of the regularity of the self (self-regulation) does not require things outside of themselves to maintain the procedures of transforming the structure was autonomous from the reference to other system. It can be explained through an example that in one building, a building must have a buffer and roof pillars. Stanchion can't stand firmly without constituted by the foundation, and the foundation will not be useful to the well if

o roof, walls, and poles. Then that elements can be said that a building if  
g is complete, as well as a literary works.



The structuralism approach is an intrinsic approach namely discussing the work on the elements that build literary works from within. This approach examines literary works as autonomous works and is independent of social background, history, author biography and everything that exists outside of literary works (Satoto, 1993: 32). The structuralism approach tries to describe the interrelationship and function of each element of literary work as a structural unity which together produces a total meaning (Teeuw, 1984: 135).

So it can be concluded that the structuralism approach is an approach in the science of literature that works by analyzing the structuralism elements that build literary works from within, as well as looking for the relevance of these elements in order to achieve unanimity of meaning.

The important thing to analyze is to see the structure in literary work because it can be interpreted as the formation of materials and component parts into interesting forms. These elements can be used to identify, to assess, and to describe the functions and relationships between elements in the novel, and it is also the central focus on the literary text itself. In the intrinsic approach, there are several intrinsic elements such as character, plots, settings, and themes.

## 1. Character

Character is one of the important elements in a novel. The characters have their own characteristics, which are absolutely needed to distinguish them from other characters. “Characters are the people in the text, they are part of the life that you meet as you read, you might dislike, admire or sympathize with them” (Marsh, 1995:26).



Richard Gill (1995:127) wrote in his book *Mastering English Literature*, “a character is a person in literary work and characterization is the way in which the character is created.” This is important to distinguish between character and characterization.

Characters in any story could be divided into many kinds. Based on the role in the novel, characters are classified into major character and minor character. Major character is the character that has big role in the story. The character is also called as a central character or main character. Major character is the most important character in the story. Minor characters are also called the supporting character in a story. The frequencies of this character are rarely and only appear when he or she has relation with the major character. Moreover, it is less important those of main. Based on the importance in the story, characters are divided into protagonist and antagonist characters. According to Altenberd and Lewis in Nurgiyantoro (1995:178) explains that the classification of character is based on the character’s role and its function, as follows:

1. Protagonist is the character which the reader admires to sometimes is called the hero or heroine in the story, usually someone who has good attitude. The character is the personification of norms and values which are ideal for the reader. Protagonist shows something which agrees with the reader’s view and hope.
2. Antagonist is the character who opposes the protagonist, sometimes called the enemy of the protagonist. It is the character that causes the conflict in the story.



So, the character has some role to clarify the story and can show the expression of the literary works. The character is an extremely important thing in understanding the story.

## 2. Plot

Plot is a sequence of events in a story that has a causal relationship in which the plot is built by the characters in the novel. Plot has an important element that should be known, they are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement.

The plot structure is the beginning, middle, and the end of the story. Abrams (1990: 226) stated that the other of a unified plot, Aristotle pointed out, is a continuous sequence of beginning, middle, and end. The beginning initiates the main action in a way which makes us look forward to something more; the middle presumes what has gone before and requires something to follow; and the end follows from what has gone before but requires nothing more; we feel satisfied that the plot is complete.

Besides, one of the most prevalent theories for a universal plot structure comes from German novelist Gustav Freytag in 1863. He considered plot a narrative structure that divides a story into five parts such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement.

### a. *Exposition*



The exposition is where the characters and setting are established. During the start of the novel, the conflict or main problem is also introduced. In this

part, the authors will introduce the main character, the arrangement of the story scenes, and the relationship between the characters in a story.

*b. Rising Action*

The rising action of a plot is the series of events that build up and create tension and suspense. This tension is a result of the basic conflict that exists and makes the story interesting. In this part of the author or story maker will bring up parts in a story that could pose a problem.

*c. Climax*

The moment of peak tension in a story in other words, what everything else builds up to. In this part is the culmination of the problem faced by the characters. Their conflict comes in the complex situation and problem is in the top difficult condition.

*d. Falling Action*

The distinction of the climax and the resolution in which subplots and mini-conflicts are resolved. In this part also the character in the story will be faced in a final determination that will be experienced, success or failure is a determination of the character in the story.

*e. Denouement*

The wrapping up of the whole story runs in the end of the story. In this section explains how the fate of the character in the story is whether the ending is happy, bad, or hanging.



rough the explanation above, the writer concludes that the plot is a structure of stories from beginning to end that are presented by the

author to better help the reader for identifying the problems that occur during the story.

### 3. Setting

Settings are information about the space, time, and atmosphere of events in a literary work. Other background definitions are intrinsic elements in literary works that include space, time, and the atmosphere that occurs in an event in a literary work. Or it could also be a background, namely all information, channeling instructions related to space, time, and atmosphere. The setting includes the description of the geographical location, the busyness of the actor/figure, and the time of event, the religious, seasonal, moral, intellectual, and social environment of the actor. The setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and a social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of an episode or scene within a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place (Abrams, 1988:172)

Setting is divided into three parts, setting of place, setting of time, and setting of atmosphere. Setting of place is where the character or actor experiences the events in the story and location which is appeared in the story. Setting of time is connected with the action in the story and the time at which events or events occur in the story. Setting of atmosphere is the atmosphere of the event in a literary work as a Gill (1995: 107) said :



Setting is a broad word; it covers the place in which author presented the social context of the character such as their family, friend and class, their culture, belief and rules of behavior that give identity to a society, the

particular locations of events, the atmosphere, mood and feel that all above elements create.”

From the explanation above, setting is often a real place but may be a fictitious city or country within our own world; a different planet; or an alternate universe, which may or may not have similarities with own universe. The physical environment includes the time and the weather of the story.

#### 4. Theme

Theme is the main idea in a story. Theme of a story can be seen from moral value, social value, psychological value, etc. If we read a story thoughtfully, we ought to be able to formulate its theme, its underlying idea, perhaps we can even go so far as to say its moral attitudes, its view of life, its wisdom.

Nurgiyantoro (1995:71) said that a theme of a literary work always relates with the meaning of life. Furthermore, Perrine in *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense* states that:

“The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life that is stated or implied by the story. Sometimes the theme of a story is explicit stated somewhere in the story, either by the author or by one of the characters.” (1974:107)

In short, the theme of the story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. In some stories, the theme is unavoidable. Nurgiyantoro (1995:83) said that a literary work always as a major themes and the minor themes. Major



re emerged explicitly in the most part of a literary work, while the minor  
ly emerges in a certain part of a literary work the minor theme always

support the major theme and the minor theme depends on how many theme that can be gained from a literary work.

The writer understands that the theme is a general topic that is supported by several main ideas in the story. The theme is not clear in the story but the theme can be determined by understanding the story with the storyline that was created by the author.

### 2.3 Feminism

The women who received unequal treatment have happened a long time ago, and people who thought that women being treated unfairly; they create the ideology against the unfair treatment or disadvantages situation to liberate women. They call it feminism. Many thinkers or feminists define feminism differently.

Feminism is the consciousness from the form of the adverse treatment such as oppression, and exploitation that happened to women in some aspect of life, including with doing a movement to change that situation. As it stated by Bashin and Khan (1986:2):

“Feminism is an awareness of patriarchal control, exploitation and oppression at the material and ideological levels of women’s labor, fertility and sexuality, in the family, at the place of work and in society in general, and conscious action by women and men to transform the present situation.”

Meanwhile Osborne (2001:8), feminism as a way of looking at the world, women occupy from the perspective of women. It has as its central focus point of patriarchy, which can be described as a system of male authority, oppresses women through its social, political and economic institutions.



Feminism is concepts, studies, and social movement that aim to change the subordinate status of women in society that prioritizes the male perspective. People who put the interests of men over women's interests is the definition of a patriarchal society (Suwastini 2013: 198).

From those definitions it can be concluded that feminism is a movement based on the idea of the effort to raise awareness of the inequality and oppression of women in society, as well as the conscious actions committed by both men and women to change that situation. The purpose of feminism is the equality in gender interrelation. In the wide term means that feminism is a women movement that rejects everything that marginalized, subordinated by the dominant culture (patriarchy) in field politic, economy, and social (Ratna, 2013: 184).

Hook (2000: 7-8) states before women could change patriarchy they should change their self, they should raise their consciousness. They should aware that they are being discriminated, exploited, and victimized by sexism. Moreover, women should learn about the system (patriarchy) that oppresses them how it becomes standardized and how it become exist. Through the consciousness they gain their strength to fight patriarchy. It can be concluded that women should have consciousness to fight patriarchy and discrimination toward women.

In the patriarchal society exist gender; it is a social's belief that sexes (man and woman) are different. Gender invokes binary of women and men in numerous ways such as image, positions and role, which all put women in the bad means.



98: 72-73) says, patriarchal society uses rigid gender role to ensure that re passive (affectionate, obedient, responsive, and sympathetic, cheerful,

kind, friendly) and men are active (strong, aggressive, curious, ambitious, full of plans, responsible, competitive).

Thus gender concepts become the crucial critics of feminist for questioning women's oppression. Ritzer (1991: 248) summoned three divisions' gender concepts that feminist used; gender difference, gender inequality and gender oppression.

1. The central theme in gender-difference theories is that women's inner physics life is different from men. For example, they examine the values of womanhood and femininity as the reason why men and women experience the social world differently and they focus on the marginalization of women and why it is that women are being defined as the other in patriarchal societies.
2. Gender inequality theories identify that, not only are women's location and experience of social structures different from those of men, but they are also unequal to men.
3. Gender oppression theories argue that women are not equal to men and that women are actively oppressed, subordinated, and abused by men;

In a general sense, feminism is an ideology that drives women to reject patriarchal culture that have marginalized, subordinated, and degraded the position of women in the political, economic, and social life. Feminism grew as a movement and an approach that tries to change the existing structure because it has been regarded to cause inequality towards the female gender (Nugroho, 2008:



Through its emergence feminism develop into various theories. Each theory sees the root of women's oppression in patriarchal and gender from a different view. But all share one common goal: the liberation of all women from oppression.

## 2.4 Feminist Literary Criticism

Feminist literary criticism is grounded on the belief that men are not only dominating the field of social, political, economic, but also science. Therefore, to liberate women from science's oppression feminist scholars then agreed to conduct a study in which woman is the core of it. Thus, the study is now known as women's study. Women study in relation to the study of literature has two to examine women as a writer and a woman as a character in a literary work.

Feminist scholars noticed that over hundred years of literary theory has been subordinating women writers by disregarding their. Accordingly, literary feminist, criticism is a critique that embraces a new view, which emphasizes awareness of woman's cases either as a writer or as a character in the story. By the specific sense, feminist literature research is an attempt to understanding die status and role of women as reflected in literature (Endraswara, 2008:146).

Benstoc et, al (2002: 153) listing the targets that may be analyzed amid literary feminist criticism either focuses on the cases of women as a writer or as a character in a literary work.



s of women and representations of female experiences in texts written by  
of either sex (women or men).

2. Women writers including the specific qualities and concern of female authorship and the creation of a female tradition or canon.
3. Women readers, focusing on the role of gender plays in reception of literary texts and the emergence of a distinct female readership.
4. Language, attempting to define a distinctly feminine mode of writing.
5. Literary form, particularly the relationship between literary genre and gender.
6. Publication noting the impact of the publishing system on the production and consumption of texts by women.

In addition, there are many modes of criticisms that can be applied. Each has its own field of problems and goals. Djajanegara (2003:28) delineates some mode of critic in feminist criticism, two of them are Gynocritic and Critique of ideology. Gynocritics is concerned with the study of women as a writer, their subject of study arc history, styles, themes, genres and structure of writing produced by women writers. Meanwhile, Critique of ideology focuses on literary test. It is concerned with women’s authorship and the representation of women's condition within literature; including the depiction of fictional female characters. It offers readings of texts which consider the images and stereotypes of women in literature.

Furthermore, Djajanegara (2003:51) outlines things that are worth in studying feminist approach; First, identifying one or several prominent female characters in a literary work then seeking their position in society. This section

uncover the intention of female characters’ life. Second, examining the racters, especially male characters that have a relationship with a female



character who is observed. By using feminist literary criticism, critics generally will figure out how female characters in literary work behave and act.

So, feminists literary criticism thinks that female writers and female main characters have things that should be looked at to express feminism itself. The female characters are something that must be observed more carefully, as well as the male characters involved with them in the process of telling literary works.



## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the author wants to explain the method used in analyzing *The Color Purple*. Analysis of literary works will be complete with accurate methods. This method consists of methodological design, data collection methods, data analysis methods, and research procedures.

#### 3.1 Methodological Design

The methodology is a study of method in doing this research. The methodology is related to the system of methods used in particular area of study that approaches to ethical problem-solving. The methods are commonly used in the research are Qualitative and Quantitative research. In this thesis, the writer uses qualitative research methods in analyzing the analysis of women's resistance in Walker's *The Color Purple*. It is important in analyzing the literary work to explain the method clearly in order to show the aim of the research that it is accepted scientifically.

#### 3.2 Method of Collecting Data

Data Collection is an important aspect of any type of research study. To meet the above objectives, the writer uses a literature study collecting data. This literature study is a method of data collection in the writing process, which focuses on references as a source of research information. The data collected as

material was dividing into two categories according to their position and e, the primary data, and secondary data.



## 1. Primary Data

Primary data is the main data as the object of study in research. The primary data hold the position as the focus of the study and serves as a reference in the search for the reality of society. The primary data in this research is *The Color Purple*, a novel by Alice Walker.

## 2. Secondary Data

Secondary data supporting the analysis theoretically is obtained from books, a website, and some other sources with related theories, reviews, or explanations of any aspect of the novel. This secondary data is done through library research where the writer tries to get information by reading references, such as books, writings, journals, articles, and some other useful printed sources related to the problems in this research. Then the writer begins to analyze the occurrence of comparison characters and takes note during the read of fiction.

### 3.3 Method of Analyzing Data

The technique of the data analysis that is used is descriptive. The writer makes some interpretations of the novel dealing with the character from the major character which the researcher wants to analyze using the resistance theory approach. The technique of data analysis in this study takes the following steps to the data analysis, they are:

1. Reading Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* many times, browsing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.



2. Identifying the problems and to list the data, collecting some supporting data from other references related to the topic.
3. Taking the important notes of important data, both primary and secondary data
4. Arranging the data into several parts according to its classification, occupying the classification into several chapters,
5. Marking the conclusion of the analysis that has already done in the former chapter.

### 3.4 Procedure of Research

In doing this analysis, the writer uses certain way. They are:

1. Reading the primary data or the novel itself accurately and trying to understand it.
2. Writing down the important thing related to the main problem, which found in the novel.
3. Limiting the focus of research, formulating and classifying them based on the objective of research.
4. Gathering data kind of women resistance is founds is *The Color Purple* and to what extent is women resistance described.
5. Analyzing data by using descriptive method.
6. Writing down the results of analyzing data including the results of the analysis data.



## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer describes the structural aspects of the novel *The Color Purple*, mentions the kind of women's resistance in the novel, and describes women's resistance in the female characters Celie and Sofia in the novel.

#### 4.1 The Structural Aspects of The Novel *The Color Purple*

In analyzing these structural aspects, the writer describes the intrinsic elements that build this novel such as characters, plots, settings, and theme. The following is the detail explanation of the novel.

##### 4.1.1 Character

Novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker has some characters, namely Celie, Nettie, Alphonso, Mr. Albert, Shug Avery, and Sofia. The major characters are Celie and Nettie. While, the minor characters are Alphonso, Mr. Albert, Shug Avery, and Sofia.

##### *a. Major Character*

##### 1. Celie

Celie is the main character in this novel. She is an obedient and patient girl. She never against and always obeyed everything his parents wanted. Celie was not treated like a child by her stepfather in her family. She always gets unfair treatment, for example she is not sent to school like Nettie who got the opportunity to go to school. She is considered to only be able to take care of work and she has worthy of a household even though she is too young to get



“Well, he say, real slow, I can’t let you have Nettie. She too young. Don’t know nothing but what you tell her. Sides, I want her to sit some more schooling. Make a school teacher out of her. But I can let you have Celie. She the oldest any way. She ought to marry first. She ugly. He say. And she clean. And God done fixed her. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ say how old she is? He say, she near twenty.” (Walker, 1982 : 17- 18).

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Celie has never against and accepted all of her stepfather's decisions. She never envied to Nettie even though her father's treatment was very different. She received all the treatment even though it was very hard for her. Celie can only rely on God because she believes God will always help and be with her.

Celie was married at a very young age. As a wife, Celie has no other profession except just at home taking care of children and doing housework. The cruel treatment that was received from her father in the past, continues to her husband's treatment of her.

“Harpo ast his daddy why he beat me. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ say, couse she my wife. Plus, she stubborn. All women good fo—he don’t finish. He just tuck his chin over the paper like he do. Remind me of Pa.” (Walker, 1982 :32).

Celie is a person who is innocent and resigned to what happened to her. The misery she felt while living with her father continued. She only accepted her husband patiently.

Apart from being patient, Celie is a responsible person. After her mother died, she was the one who always looked after her younger sister (Nettie). She

let her sister be treated rudely by anyone. This can be seen through confession in the quotation:



“ I keep hoping he fine somebody to marry. I see him lookig at my little sister. She scared. But I say I’ll take care of you. With God help.” (Walker, 1982 :13).

The quotation above shows Celie's affection for Nettie because she always wants to make her happy. After their mother died, of course they lost love because with the love of a mother who was able to give them happiness. Celie could feel how Nettie had lost that important figure. That is why Celie not only acts as a sister who loves her sister but also wants to replace a mother who is loyal to protect and accompany her younger sibling.

On the other hand, however Celie is only at home and has never known school, Nettie admits that Celie is actually a smart girl.

“But Pa, Nettie say, crying, Celie smart too. Even Miss Beasley say so. Nettie dote on Miss Beasley. Think nobody like her in the world.” (Walker, 1982 :19).

The quotation above shows that Celie never realized that she had advantages behind her obedient attitude and received bad treatment from her stepfather. Nettie always shares about new things she got at school with Celie. Nettie believes that Celie can understand the problem of school lessons even though she is only at home. Celie's desire shows that she wants to know many things even though she never knew school.



“The way you know who discover America, Nettie say, is think bout Columbus. That what Columbus sound like. I learned all about Columbus first grade, but look like he the first thing I forgot. She say Columbus come here in boats call the Neater, the Peter, and the Santomareater. Indians so nice to him he force a bunch of ‘em back home with him to wait on the queen.” (Walker, 1982 : 19).

In the quotation above, it can be seen that Celie is always there for her beloved sister. Celie is always with her sister in any situation, both happy and difficult. Celie who never envies to Nettie and Nettie who always share lessons at school with her sister.

Celie always suffered in her life, but she never complained to anyone. She relied only on God. For Celie God is the only friend of her life who always accompanies her whenever and whatever happens to her. In every letter, Celie always mentions the word God (Dear God). This shows that Celie is very close to God. This belief is seen in the quotation:

“She ast me bout the first one Whose it is? I say God’s. I don’t know no other man or what else to say. When I start to hurt and then my stomach start moving and then that little baby come out my pussy chewing on it fist you could have knock me over with a feather. Don’t nobody come see us. She got sicker and sicker. Finally she ast Where it is? I say God took it. Kill this one too, if he can.” (Walker, 1982 : 12).

According to the quotation above , Celie thinks everything that happens to her is the willing of God. However the child that she was born disappeared because it had been sold by her stepfather but Celie thought that God had taken it. Sorrow for Celie who could not see her child, but she was sure that God took care of her children and would bring them back someday.

## 2. Nettie

Nettie is kind and loving. She really loves his sister Celie and she always help Celie from his stepfather's rude treatment. Nettie always dares to er wishes to her stepfather when she felt she was being treated unfairly.



She felt that Celie was never given the opportunity to get her rights while she always got better. Nettie will give in to Celie's happiness. This can be seen through her decision to give up for her sister to marry with her boyfriend because that is the only chance for Celie to be separated from her stepfather.

“Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ finally speak, clearing his throat. I ain't never really look at the one he say. Well, next time you come you can look at her. She ugly. Don't even look like she kin to Nettie. But she'll make the better wife.” (Walker, 1982 : 18).

Nettie must forget Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and dare to feel disappointment because the one she loves must marry her own sister. She gave it up because she had greater affection for Celie. She even always prays for Celie to live happily with her husband.

Nettie who always gets the opportunity to be educated and school has made herself able to face everything without fear. She dared to leave home because she could not live with her stepfather. Nettie went looking for a place where could make peace. Nettie finally joined a missionary group called the American and African Missionary Society. She always traveled to various countries as a missionary. In the various countries she has visited, Nettie has had many new things that are very different from what she has been through. New things she found encouraging her to send letters to Celie incessantly. The contents of the letters that she wrote were to always encourage Celie to be brave and not be afraid.



Nettie never forgets her sister Celie, this shows that she is not selfish. Though she has had a new better life, she still always remembers Celie and

also worries about her. Finally, after completing her assignment as a missionary, Nettie came home to visit Celie. Nettie's presence again brought great happiness to Celie.

“Dear God. Dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear people. Dear Everything. Dear God. Thank you for bringing my sister Nettie and our children home.” (Walker, 1982: 249).

The quotation above illustrates that Nettie's presence made things change. Celie's suffering for years has resulted in happiness with the presence of Nettie.

Nettie is brave in making decisions and being brave enough to take the risk means she is not a coward. Her courage is what changes everything because she will stand against anyone who dares to stand against her sister. Nettie's presence was not alone because she came with Celie's two children who were sold by her stepfather first. She introduced Celie to a missionary named Samuel who had raised her two children named Adam and Olivia. Samuel and his wife also helped Nettie so she could become a missionary.

“After while, she say Celie. I say Nettie. Little bit more time pass. Us look round at a lot of people knees. Nettie never let go my waist. This my husband Samuel she say, pointing up. These our children Olivia and Adam and this Adam's wife Thasi, she say. I point up at my peoples. This Shug and Albert, I say. Everybody say Pleased to Meetcha. Then Shug and Albert start to hug everybody one after the other. Me and Nettie finally get up off the porch and I hug my children and I hug Tashi. Then I hug Samuel.” (Walker, 1982 : 250).



Nettie is struggling and attentive. The family life that she left behind of her stepfather's abuse can be rebuilt. However she has become part of a new family in America, she still remembers her family especially Celie.

She always tried to have a relationship with Celie through the letters that she sent and finally she managed to get back together into a whole family.

### *b. Minor Character*

#### 1. Alphonso

Alphonso is Celie and Nettie 'stepfather. He is a bossy man and all his wishes must be fulfilled. Every Alphonso's decision must be carried out and his children must ask for his approval in making a decision. All decisions to send to school, marry, and everything to treat children is arranged by him without interference from others including his wife. He is a very authoritarian figure. This can be seen in the quotation:

“Well, he say, real slow, I can't let you have Nettie. She too young. Don't know nothingbut what you tell her. Sides, I want her to git some more schooling. Make a school teacher out of her. But I can let you have Celie. She the oldest any way. She ought to marry first.” (Walker, 1982 : 17).

Based on the quotation above, Alphonso is the determinant of the future of his two children. Even though the treatment towards the children is unfair, the decision must be obeyed. His children have to accept that, especially Celie who gets unfair treatment.

Alphonso has a big and strong body that makes Celie feel afraid to against. He is cruel and irresponsible. Celie felt this when she was raped by her stepfather.



“First he put his thing up gainst my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then : grab hold my tittics. Then he push his thing inside my pussy. When that urt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying you bette shut up and git used to ” (Walker, 1982 : 11).

The quotation above shows that Alphonso is not only cruel but also very vile. He not only hurts his daughter by committing disgrace, also destroys the future and life of his daughter, Celie.

Alphonso is so selfish, he only thinks of himself without thinking of others who are harmed by him. He will do whatever it takes to fulfill his wish however he must sacrifice his family (his child). His selfishness was clearly illustrated when he wanted to marry off Celie to Nettie girlfriend. He thinks Nettie is too young to marry and Celie deserves it. In this quotation:

“But I can let you have Celie. She the oldest any way. She ought to marry first.” (Walker, 1982 : 17).

The quotation above illustrates that Alphonso never makes his children happy. Alphonso's decision to marry off Celie to Nettie's boyfriend is a very disappointing thing for Nettie. Nettie who has been dating with Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ ultimately unable to be together because of the wishes of his parents. Alphonso never thought about this, because he think all his decisions had to be carried out without having to think about the risks.

Alphonso is heartless. He was not satisfied to treat Celie unfair. After raping his own daughter then he gave his daughter to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ who had never met Celie before. Celie must marry someone that she doesn't love. The Marriage arranged by Alphonso for Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Celie. According to the quotation:



He say, let me see her again. Pa call me. Celie, he say. Like it was'nt nothing. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ want another look at you. I go stand in the door. The sun shine in my eyes. He's still up on his horse. He look me up and down.” (Walker, 1982 : 20).

This quotation shows that Alphonso really does not have the slightest affection for his child. He let Celie get married without thinking that one day Celie will be happy or not, and she has to live with people doesn't love her. But on the other hand, by marrying Celie that is happiness for him, only for himself.

## 2. Mr. Albert (Mr. \_\_\_\_\_)

Mr. Albert is cruel and likes to dictate. He is abandoned by his wife because of his rude attitude until finally married with Celie because of Alphonso's coercion. Every wish must be fulfilled by the wife and also his children. They also have to work hard to eat. This is made clear in the quotation:

“Harpo, she say. Harpo the oldest boy. Harpo, don’t let celie be the one bring in all the water. You a big boy now. Time for you to help some.” (Walker, 1982 : 28).

Harpo is the eldest son of Mr. Albert who has grown up but he never pays attention to Harpo. He is always busy with his own business. Mr. Albert's children don't feel his parents' affection. Harpo was married and has a lot of problems with his wife can't confide his problems to his father because Mr. Albert didn't respond to Harpo.

“Harpo want to know what to do to make Sofia mind. He sit out on the porch with Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. He say, I tell her one thing, she do another. Never do what I say. Always backtalk. To tell the truth, he sound a little proud of this to me. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ don’t say nothing. Blow smoke.” (Walker, 1982 : 42).



Mr. Albert is selfish. He never cared about what happened in his family. His wish is the most important thing and must be achieved. As a father, he was in full power because no one dared to oppose him.

Mr. Albert has a fat and old body. He already has 4 children from his marriage to his first wife, Shug Avery. After his wife left him, Celie who had to take care of the four Mr. Albert's children meanwhile he was never home. He spends his time outside and getting drunk.

Mr. Albert treats his wife very unwise, like a maid because he often hits and behaves arbitrarily. whatever the desires of him must be obeyed without opposition. the presence of a wife for him only as a satisfaction of lust and all his desires. Mr. Albert never sympathized and thought about the feelings of a weak woman.

“Harpo ast his daddy why he beat me. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ say, Cause she my wife, Plus, she stubborn. All women good for he don't finish. He just tuck his chin over the paper like he do. Remind me of pa. Harpo ast me, How come you stubborn? He don't ast How come you his wife? Nobody ast that. I say, just born that way, I reckon. He beat me like he beat the children.” (Walker, 1982 : 30).

The quotation above shows violence Mr. Albert to his wife. He could not appreciate the presence of a wife for him. A wife is no different from a child for him. When he thought he had to do whatever his father ordered her to do. Even hitting he did not hesitate. This arbitrariness Mr.albert looks a very cruel attitude women, in this case a wife.



Mr. Albert who is authoritarian is not only felt by his wife but also by his children. This can be seen when Harpo wants to marry his girlfriend Sofia but Mr.

Albert did not approve of it. But because Sofia was pregnant, Harpo was forced to marry at Sofia's cousin, Odessa.

“She say, How you, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_? He don’t answer the question. He say, Look like you done got yourself in trouble. Naw suh, she say. I ain’t in no trouble. Big though. She smooth the wrinkles over her stomach with the flats of her hands. Who the father? he ast. She look surprise. Harpo, she say. How he know that? He know. She say. Young womens n good these days, he say.got they legs open to every Tom, Dick and Harry. Harpo look at his daddy like he never seen him before. But he don’t say nothing. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ say, No need to think I’m gon let my boy marry you just cause you in thefamily way. He young and limited. Prettygal like you could put anything over him.” (Walker, 1982: 38).

Mr. Albert has no clear reason for his decision not to approve of his son's marriage. she never thought about her son's feelings. Harpo wants to marry Sofia because he loves Sofia so much and wants to build a household with her.

### 3. Shug Avery

Shug Avery is brave. As Mr. Albert’s wife, she did not want to be mistreated. She then decided to leave her husband and live a new life as a singer. Every time Shug is present in every city to entertain the community so that she is called Queen Honey Bee.

“Shug Avery is coming to town! She coming with her orchestra. She going to sing in the Lucky Star out on Coalman road. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ going to hear her.” (Walker, 1982:32)

The quotation above shows that Shug is able to live independently and has will. She is not only free from suffering because of her cruel husband but able to contribute her talents to society as a singer.



Celie thinks Shug is the most beautiful woman he has ever seen.

“Shug Avery was a woman. The most beautiful woman I ever saw. She more pretty than my mama. She bout ten thousand times more prettier than me” (Walker, 1982: 16).

She is also kind. Her presence at Mr. Albert's house brought happiness to Celie as the second wife of Mr. Albert. This is shown by Shug through her efforts to tell Celie the truth about her husband. She told Celie that in fact Nettie always sent letters to her but Mr. Albert hid it. According to the quotation:

“Now that I know Albert hiding Nettie’s letters, I know exactly where they is. They in his trunk. Everything that mean something to Albert go in his trunk. He keep it locked up tight., but Shug can git the key.” (Walker, 1982: 118).

The quotation above shows Shug's attitude that loves Celie and can't have the heart to see Celie who always feels suffering because of her husband's actions. Shug has a soft heart, he can't have the heart to let others suffer in front of him. he is willing to ignore his interests for the sake of others, especially those who suffer.

Shug is loyal. Shug loyalty to her loved is so great and this is felt by Celie. After being treated in Mr. Albert’s house because of illness, Shug decided to return to work as a singer and had to leave Celie, but Celie begged her not to leave her. Finally Shug canceled his intention and stayed with Celie.

“One day she say to me, Well, Miss Celie, I believe it time for me to go. When? I ast. Early next month, she say. June. June a good time to go off to the world. I don’t say nothing. Feel like I felt when Nettie left. She come over and put her hand on my shoulder. He beat me when you not here, I say. Who do, she say, Albert? Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, I say. I can believe it, she say. She sit down on the bench next to me real hard, like the drop.



What he beat you for? She ast. For being me and not you. Oh, Miss Celie, she say, and put her arms around me. Us sit like that for maybe half a hour. Then she kiss me on the fleshy part of my shoulder and stand up. I won't leave, she say, ntil I know Albert won't even think about beating you." (Walker, 1982: 77)

The quotation above shows Shug is a very affectionate person. Her ability to accompany Celie in a very sad condition is a gesture of her affection for Celie. She did many things for Celie, through the actions, encouragement, and enthusiasm given to Celie to dare to fight her husband's harsh treatment.

#### 4. Sofia Butler

Sofia Butler is tough and brave. She is a Harpo's wife, son of Mr. Albert. Sofia's character is always against her husband, especially when she feels her husband's treatment is not fair. This can be seen in Harpo's confession:

"I like Sofia, but she don't act like me at all." (Walker, 1982: 42).

In the quote above, Sofia does not submit to her husband. She is not afraid to go against him and not even do what he wants her to do. Sofia's courage showed that she was not a weak and easy woman to be enslaved.

Sofia was not only brave to her husband, she was also brave to a major wife. this was done Sofia because she felt that she had been insulted by the major's wife and she did not want to accept the treatment. Sofia had to go to prison for being rude to the Major's wife, but this didn't scare her. as in the quote



Sofia and the prizefighter don't say nothing. Wait for her to pass. Mayor ait too, stand back and tap his foot, watch her with a little smile. Now

Millie, he say. Always going on over colored. Miss Millie finger the children some more, finally look at Sofia and the prizefighter. She look at the prizefighter car. She eye Sofia wristwatch. She say to Sofia, All your children so clean, she say, would you like to work for me, be my maid? Sofia say, Hell no. She say, What you say? Sofia say, Hell no. Mayor look at Sofia, push his wife out the way. Stick out his chest. Girl what you say to Miss Millie? Sofia say, I say, Hell no. He slap her. I stop telling it right there.” (Walker, 1982: 86)

The quotation above shows Sofia's courage to anyone. She never looked at who and what position the person she was facing. She sees only what is right and what is worth fighting for without fear. She accepts all the risks. Then after Sshe was imprisoned, she still did not change her attitude. She was given a job as a washerman in prison. Then she was transferred to the major wife's house to become a maid. Nevertheless Sofia has been considered as family to the major and his wife. They treated Sofia well.

#### 4.1.2 Plot

In this part, the writer describes plot in this novel into five part, these are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement.

##### *a. Exposition*

This novel begins when Celie writes letter to God, to tell the story of her life. When Celie was 14 years old, she thought she never made mistakes, she always behaved well. At that time her mother was very sick, then died. And also her stepfather raped her when she was too young. Celie felt very sad and always

l what mistake she had done so that she was mistreated by her stepfather.



“ I am fourteen years old. I am I have always been a good girl... He never had a kine word to say to me. Just say You gonna do what your mammy wouldn't. First he put his thing up gainst my hip and short of wiggle it around... My mama dead. She die screaming and cussing.” (Walker, 1982: 11-12)

Celie's suffering was not only that, then she was forced by her stepfather to marry a man she didn't love. He was the boyfriend of her sister Nettie. Nettie allowed Celie to marry her boyfriend because Nettie wanted to free Celie from the torment of their stepfather. But that was only a continuation of the suffering in Celie's life.

#### *b. Rising Action*

When Celie is married and has lived with her husband, Nettie who lives with her stepfather also wants to be harassed by her father. Then Nettie left the house and met Celie with the excuse that she hated living with their stepmother or the new wife of Alphonso.

“Nettie here with us. She run way from home. She say she hate to leave our stepma, but she had to git out, maybe fine help for the other little ones.” (Walker, 1982: 25).

Nettie plans to live with Celie at Mr. Albert house. However Mr. Albert who looks good at receiving nettie, but he still likes nettie and wants to sleep with her. Nettie of course disagrees with that. Then Nettie kicked out by Mr. Albert from his house. As quotation below:



That's a real pretty dress you got on, he say to Nettie. She say, Thank you. Them shoes look just right. She say, Thank you. Your skin. Your hair. Your teefs. Everyday it something else to make miration over... Soon

he stop. He say one night in bed, Well us done help Nettie all we can. Now she got to go. Where she gon go? I ast. I don't care, he say." (Walker, 1982: 26).

Because of Celie's obedience, she just gave up on being kicked out by her sister, Nettie. She can only hope that God will always protect his sister. She also had time to ask his younger sister to write a letter for her.

"I say, Write. She say, What? I say write. She say, nothing but death can keep me from it. She never write." (Walker, 1982: 26).

*c. Climax*

In this phase, Celie with her unhappy life with her husband, she always wonders whether Nettie is good with her life, or nettie is still alive or if nettie has died. She never heard from his sister after years until Celie accidentally found a letter in the pocket of Mr. Albert then she read it, it turned out that the letter was from Nettie (her sister).

"Us seal the letter up again and put it back in Mr. \_\_\_\_\_pocket." (Walker, 1982: 114).

Celie knows that all this time Nettie has always sent her letters but Mr. Albert was the one who hid the letters. there was a sense of joy knowing that his sister had sent him a letter. but at the same time Celie's anger began to grow. This made Celie very angry and wanted to kill Mr. Albert.



By the time us got up to where she good and settled in Africa, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and grady come home. Can you handle it? ast Shug. How i'm gon rep from killing him, I say." (Walker, 1982: 134).

Besides that, Celie had found other nettie letters that were hidden by Mr. Albert. Celie heard about this from Shug. Mr. Albert hid it on the trunk, which made him always keep the trunk locked. Celie's feelings are really happy to find those letters which indicate that nettie is fine.

“Now that I know albert hiding Nettie’s letters, I know exactly where they is. They in his trunk. Everything that mean something to Albert go in his trunk. He keep it locked up tight, but shug can git the key.” (Walker, 1982: 118)

#### *d. Falling Action*

Celie with her anger wanting to kill Mr. Albert was awakened by the Shug. She has persuaded Celie not to kill because it would disappoint those who love her, especially her sister Nettie.

“How I’m gon keep from killing him, I say. Don’t kill she say. Nettie be coming home before long. Don’t make her have to look at you like us loo at Sofia.” (Walker, 1982: 134).

From the quote above, Celie confirmed Shug's words that she did not have to take out her anger on Mr. Albert by killing him. Then Shug also hopes that Celie will be able to fight from the oppression that she has received from her husband. For Shug, resistance was the only way to be free from her husband's oppression.

#### *e. Denouement*



After reading the letters from nettie, Celie is very happy because through this she can feel that nettie loves her. Their relationship began to close again

due to sending letters to each other. And through these letters, Celie's thoughts are increasingly open to being able to change her life for the better.

“ And how are you? dear Sister. The years have come and gone without a single word from you only the sky above us do we hold in common. I look at it often as if, somehow, reflected from its immensities, I will one day find my self gazing into your eyes. Your dear, large, clean and beautiful eyes. Oh, Celie! My life here is nothing but work, work, work, and worry. What girlhood I might have had passed me by. And I have nothing of my own. No man, no children, no close friend, except for Samuel. But I *do* have children, Adam and Olivia. And I do have friends, tashi and catherine. I even have a family—this village, which has fallen on such hard times.” (Walker, 1982: 173)

From the quotation above, Nettie always gives enthusiasm and hope that Celie doesn't have to be afraid. Nettie's letters also contain suggestions and encouragement to always be courageous in acting to fight back. Nettie wants Celie not to be afraid to face ill treatment from her husband. Finally Celie can feel happiness in her life.

Then Celie's happiness was perfect when Nettie came bringing the two Celie children who had been sold by Alphonso (their stepfather). Finally, Celie reunites with her family. Thanks to Shug Avery and Nettie, she was able to build a new life that was better and full of happiness. Mr. Albert had also accepted Celie as his wife, not as a slave.

“When Nettie’s foot come down on the porch I almost die. I stand swaying, tween Albert and Shug. nettie stand swaying tween Samuel and I reckon it must be Adam. Then us both start to moan and cry. Us totter toward one another like us use to do when us was babies. Then us fell so weak when us touch, us knock each other down. But what us care? Us sit and lay there on the porch inside each other’s arms. After while, she say lie. I say Nettie. Little bit more time pass. Us look round at a lot of people knees. Nettie never let go my waist. This my husband Samuel she y, pointing up. These our children Olivia and Adam and this Adam’s



wife Thasi, she say. I point up at my peoples. This Shug and Albert, I say. Everybody say Pleased to Meetcha. Then Shug and Albert start to hug everybody one after the other. Me and Nettie finally git up off the porch and I hug my children and I hug Tashi. Then I hug Samuel.” (Walker, 1982 : 250).

### 4.1.3 Setting

The writer analyzes about the setting that contains in this Walker’s the Color Purple into three part, these are setting of place, time, and atmosphere.

#### *a. Setting of Place*

##### 1. House

After marrying Mr. Albert, Celie stayed at Mr. Albert to be the wife, take care of household chores and children of Mr. Albert.

“He drop the hoe in the furrow, turn right back on his heel, walk back to the house, go git him a cool water, git his pipe, sit on the porch and stare.” (Walker, 1982 :34).

##### 2. Tennessee

Tennessee is the area where Celie and Nettie live with their stepfather. After a long period of not seeing her stepfather, Celie has a little bit of worry after long leaving her stepfather and Celie wants to visit the place again.

“That’s it, say Shug. Pack your stuff. You coming back to Tennessee with me.” (Walker, 1982 :163).

##### 3. Africa



Nettie after being kicked out by Mr. Albert, she met the missionaries and her to Africa.

“The reason I am in Africa is because one of the missionaries that was supposed to go with the children and with Corrine and Samuel to help with the children and with setting up a school suddenly married a man who was afraid to let her go, and refused to come to Africa with her.” (Walker, 1982: 122)

#### 4. Memphis

When Celie left with Shug Mr. Albert, the city of Memphis became their destination. The city of Memphis is where Shug's home is located. Shug and Celie live in a large and unique house they have. It was there that Celie started her business by making trousers which were distributed to the people around her.

“So what is it like in Memphis? Shug’s house is big and pink and look sort of like a barn. Cept where you would put hay, she got bedrooms and toilets and a big ballroom where she and her band sometime work. She got plenty grounds round the house and a bunch of monuments and a fountain out front. She got statues of folks I never heard of and never hope to see. She got a whole bunch of elephants and turtles everywhere. Some big, some little, some in the fountain, some up under the trees. Turtles and elephants. And all over her house. Curtains got elephants, bedspreads got turtles.” (Walker, 1982: 188).

#### *b. Setting of Time*

##### 1. Spring

When Celie wanted to be met by Mr. Albert to get married. The marriage was made by the stepfather of Celie and Nettie, Alphonso. A marriage that Celie didn't want, but she had no choice but to agree to it.

“It took him the whole spring, from march to june, to make up his mind to ke me. All I think about Nettie.” (Walker, 1982: 19)



## 2. Morning

After Mr. Albert kicked Nettie away, in the morning Nettie left Mr. Albert house. It's hard to leave Celie but nettie has no other choice.

“I tell Nettie the next morning. Stead of being mad, she glad to go. Say she hate to leave me is all. Us fall on each other neck when she say that.” (Walker, 1982: 27)

## 3. Night

In this night, Celie and Shug went to find Nettie's letters that hidden by Mr. Albert. They found the letters in a locked truck and always hidden by Mr. Albert.

“One night when Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Grady gone, us open the trunk. Us find a lot of Shug’s underclothes, some nasty picture postcards, and way done under his tabacco, Nettie’s letters. Bunches and bunches of them. Some fat, some thin. Some open, some not.” (Walker, 1982: 118)

### *c. Setting of atmosphere*

#### 1. Disappointed

“Everybody say how good I is to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ children. I be good to them. But I don’t feel nothing for them. Patting Harpo back even like patting a dog. It more like patting another piece of wood. Not a libving tree, but a table, a chifferobe. Anyhow, they don’t love me neither, no matter good I is.” (Walker, 1982: 37)

Celie took care of Mr. Albert’s children very well. She cares for Harpo as well as Harpo's siblings. However, Harpo and his siblings don't love Celie. From

above, Celie feels disappointed with this.



## 2. Jealous

Celie felt jealous of Sofia's bold attitude. She thought she wouldn't be able to behave like Sofia. Sofia is against her husband, doesn't want to be bullied, and has no fear. As in the quotation:

“I say it cause I’m a fool, I say. I say it cause I’m jealous of you. I say it cause you do what I can’t. What that? she say. Fight. I say. She stand there a log time, like what I said took te wind out her jaws.” (Walker, 1982: 47).

## 3. Numb

Celie felt numb to anger. After going through a lot of suffering in life, Celie has forgotten how angry she feels because she only keeps that feeling. She didn't know how to express it. In quotation:

“I think. I can’t even remember the last time I felt mad, I say. I used to git mad at my mammy cause she put a lot of work on me. Then I see how sick she is. Couldn’t stay mad at her. Couldn’t be mad at my daddy cause he my daddy.” (Walker, 1982: 48).

Based on the quotation above, Celie has felt direction towards her mother who gave her a lot of work. She was angry that his mother was sick and she too had to be abandoned by her. And he was once angry with his stepfather for the behavior he got.

## 4. Sad

Celie tells of how her stepfather treated her when she was 14 years old. She feels very sad to have been separated by her children. During the story, Celie began to shed tears and then burst into tears, as in the quotation



“ I start to cry too. I cry and cry and cry. Seem like it all come back to me laying there in Shug arms. How it hurt and how much I was surprise. How it stung while I finish trimming his hair. How the blood drip down my leg and mess up my stocking. How he don’t never look at me straight after that. and nettie.” (Walker, 1982: 108-109).

#### 4.1.4 Theme

The novel *The Color purple* is content utilizing narrative writing. The way the story is written is in the form of Celie's letters to God. There were a few letters from her sister Nettie and letters from Celie in reply to Nettie's letters.

The novel's overall theme illustrates the power of strong female relationships. This relationship can be seen between Celie and her sister Nettie who are very fond of each other. Celie always protects her sister and there is no jealousy of what her sister has gotten. Nettie, who always loves her sister. She always teaches what she knows to share with Celie. Then Celie and Shug became friends and helped each other. Celie who lives under her husband's bullying asks Shug not to leave him at Mr. Albert's house. Shug fulfilled this because she didn't want to see Celie suffer.

In addition, this novel describes racism and sexism. Racism itself is depicted in the public in the novel, which considers black people to be slaves of white people. Meanwhile, sexism illustrates that men are labeled masculine and women are feminine. It is like a stereotype that marginalizes gender. Men are depicted as strong and domineering. Meanwhile, women are described as weak

ve.



Then disruption of gender roles. As above, men and women have their rights and obligations separated. It is described in the novel that it gives all work to women and men can only order and all decisions are in their hands.

#### **4.2 The Kind of Women's Resistance In The Novel *The Color Purple*.**

In this analysis, the women's resistance in this novel is depicted by 4 female characters. The four female characters are Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery, and Sofia Butler. The women's resistance is identified to be active and passive resistance.

##### **1. Celie**

Celie is the main character in this novel. Celie is depicted as obedient, patient, and timid. She always received bullying treatment from her father and husband. The resistance shown by Celie in this novel is a passive attitude. The purpose of this passive attitude is that he allows himself to endure all situations without taking a fight.

“He beat me like he beat the children. Cept he don't never hardly beat them. He say, Celie git the belt. The children be outside the room peeking throught the cracks. It all I can do not to cry. I make myself wood. I say to myself, Celie, you a tree. That's how come I know trees fear man.” (Walker,1982: 30)

Celie thought of herself as a wood that felt no pain. She tried to make herself strong in the face of her father's mistreatment. She was raped by her father, was forced to marry by the Nettie's boyfriend. She accepted everything the slightest protest. Her passive attitude of resistance keeps her



oppressed, treated unfairly, always considered arbitrary, and inferior in the eyes of men.

But over time, through the help and encouragement of Shug and the letters that Nettie sent to Celie.

"You've got to fight and get away from Albert. He ain't no good." (Walker, 1982: 119).

In Nettie's letters, she doesn't stop encouraging Celie. Then Celie had the courage and confidence to fight the unfair treatment she was getting.

"Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ start up from his seat, look at Shug, plop back down again he look over at me. I thought you was finally happy, he say. What wrong now? You a lowdown dog is what's wrong, I say. It's time to leave you and enter into the Creation. And your dead body just the welcome mat I need. Say what? he ast. Shock. All round the table folkses mouths be dropping open. You took my sister Nettie away from me, I say. And she was the only person love me in the world. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ start to sputter. ButButButButBut. Sound like some kind of motor. But Nettie and my children coming home soon, I say. And when she do, all us together gon whup your ass." (Walker, 1982: 181).

Finally Celie can fight and defend herself from the bad things she has received so far. Apart from that, Mr. Albert also separated her from her beloved sister Nettie. She doesn't want to be slumped and treated like a maid by her husband anymore. Celie was able to snap Mr. Albert as a form of resistance. From the attitude of accepting treatment voluntarily to treatment that is against it, the attitude of active resistance occurs in Celie's character.



## 2. Nettie

Nettie is described as being passionate, smart, and kind. She is Celie's younger sister who has a lot of resistance to their stepfather's authoritarian treatment. In a situation of Nettie's resistance, she was not happy with their stepfather and left the house. This is an indirect resistance by Nettie to defend herself who is getting unfair treatment.

“Nettie here with us. She run way from home. She say she hate to leave our stepma, but she had to git out, maybe fine help for the other little ones.” (Walker, 1982: 25).

The quotation above explains that, when she left her father's house, she wanted to live with Celie in her husband's house. But it turned out that Mr. Albert wants to sleep with her. Nettie did not accept this, then she ran away from the house. On his way, Mr. Albert meets her and wants to rape Nettie. This she recounted in his letter to Celie, in the quotation below:

“When I left you all's house, walking, he followed me on his horse. When we was well out of the house he caught up with me and started trying to talk. You know how he do, You sure looking fine, Miss Nettie, and stuff like that. I tried ignore him to and walk faster, nut my bundles was heavy and the sun was hot. After while I had to rest, and that's when he got down from his horse and started to try to kiss me, and drag me back in the woods. Well, I started to fight him, and with God's help, I hurt him bad enough to make him let me alone.” (walker, 1982:119).

In the quotation above, Nettie almost got harassed but she managed to get away from Mr. Albert. She put up a fight to get away from Mr. Albert. This is an active resistance in which she fights directly for actions that she considers to be detrimental to her.



### 3. Shug Avery

Shug is a beautiful, kind, honest, and caring person. She is Celie's friend who really helps Celie not to feel resigned to the life that Celie lives. Before meeting Celie she was Mr. Albert's ex-wife. She is a figure who puts up direct resistance and doesn't want to be mistreated by her husband. The novel depicts the figure of Shug who always supports Celie in the process of Celie's fight. She also often motivates Celie.

“Us worry about God a lot. But once us feel loved by God, us do the best us can to please him with what us like.” (Walker, 1982: 176).

Shug Avery believes that if we feel loved by God, then we should try our best to please Him by doing what we love, one of which is to be happy. In other words, according to her, everyone has the right to be happy in their own way. One of them is to be free from Celie's husband's restraint so far.

“She say, Time like this, lulls, us uoght to do something different. Like what? I ast. Well, she say, looking me up and down, let's make you some pants. What I need pants for? I say I ain't no man. Don't git uppity, she say. But you don't have a dress do nothing for you. You not made like no dress pattern, neither. I don't know, I say. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ not going to let his wife wear pants.” (Walker, 1982: 136)

From the quotation above, Shug encouraged Celie to wear pants because Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ prohibits his wife from wearing pants. Shug's goal is for Celie to defy Mr. Albert. In the novel, it is depicted that women must always wear a dress

\_\_\_\_\_ pants are men's clothes. Shug told Celie as if it was one of the



countermeasures she could do to show that she was not going to change as weak as before.

“Us leaving, Shug say again. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ look struck, like he always look when Shug say she going anywhere. He reach down and rub his stomach, look off side her head like nothing been said. Grady say, Such good peoples, that’s the truth. The salt of the earth. But—time to move on. Squek not saying nothing. She got her chin glued to her plate. Im’m not saying nothing either. I’ waiting for the feathers to fly. Celie is coming with us, say Shug. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_’s head swivel back straight. Say what? he ast. Celie is coming to Memphis with me. Over my dead body, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ say. You satisfied that what you want, Shug say, cool as clabber.” (Walker, 1982: 181).

According to the quotation above, Shug helps Celie to fight Mr. Albert bad treatment to Celie all this time. She has no fear of Mr. Albert. She invited Celie to move and live in Memphis. They will create an independent and happier life after leaving Mr. Albert's house.

#### 4. Sofia Butler

Sofia Butler is a strong and brave girl. She lives in a family that instills a personality to fight back. She never let her be bullied by anyone. She described a woman who was tough and always fought back.

“She say , All my life I had to fight. I had to fight my daddy. I had to fight my brothers. I had to fight my cousins and my uncles. A girl child ain’t safe in a family of men. But I never thought I’d have to fight in my own house. She let out her breath. I loves Harpo, she say, god knows i do. But i’ll kill him dead before him beat me.” (Walker, 1982: 47).



the quotation above, Sofia will not allow herself to be persecuted by her  
She will not allow herself to be bullied by Harpo. She won't let anything

bad happen to her. The resistance carried out by Sofia was a movement that made her actively carry out the resistance action itself. According to the quotation:

“I open the door cautious, thinking bout robbers and murderers. Horsethieves and hants. But it harpo and Sofia. They fighting like two mens. Every piece of furniture they got is turned over. Every plate look like it broke. The looking glass hang crooked, the curtains torn. The bed look like the stuffing pulled out. They don’t notice. They fight. He try to slap her. What he do that for? She reach down down and grab a piece of stove wood and whack him cross the eyes. He punch her in the stomach, she double over groaning but come up with both hands lock right under his privates. He roll on the floor. He grab her dress tail and pull. She stand there in her slip. she never blink a eye. He jump up to put a hammer lock under her chin, she throw him over her back he fall bam up gainst the stove.” (Walker, 1982: 44).

The quotation above explains that Sofia was fighting with her husband. Sofia is brave and doesn't like oppression. Her life with Harpo often quarreled which made her leave him. She didn't want to bother herself who was always fighting with her husband.

#### **4.3 The Women’s Resistance Described In The Female Characters Celie And Sofia**

Celie is the main female character in the novel, while Sofia is the supporting character in the novel. Both of these characters have contradictions that are very clearly illustrated in the novel *The Color Purple*. They are always faced with almost the same situation but the way the two characters respond to it is very different.



Celie was abused by her stepfather and she just accepted patiently without a fight to her stepfather. Whereas Sofia, who lives with a family that is mostly male, makes her a woman who must always fight in any situation.

When Celie was forced to marry Nettie's boyfriend, she once again accepted her stepfather's decisions patiently and obediently. Meanwhile, when Sofia wanted to marry Harpo, this was not approved by Mr. Albert (Harpo's father). However, Sofia and Harpo still married because Sofia was pregnant. At that time they married at Sofia's cousin, Odessa, because Mr. Albert did not approve of their relationship.

After marriage, Celie still treated unfairly by her husband, Mr. Albert. She is considered only as a servant and also a gratification by Mr. Albert. She has never been loved and cherished by her own husband. It is different with Sofia, she is very loved by her husband, Harpo. Harpo ever wanted to treat Sofia like her father treated Celie, but Sofia is not a weak woman like Celie. She will not accept bad treatment and fight from her husband.

At the end of their story, Celie resisted her husband's treatment and left Mr. Albert then lived with Shug Avery in Memphis. One time Mr. Albert realized and he apologized for all his trouble to Celie and they lived together again. Mr. Albert treats celie like treating his wife well. According to the quotation below:

“When Nettie’s foot come down on the porch I almost die. I stand swaying, tween Albert and Shug. nettie stand swaying tween Samuel and I ckon it must be Adam. Then us both start to moan and cry. Us totter ward one another like us use to do when us was babies. Then us fell so eak when us touch, us knock each other down. But what us care? Us sit id lay there on the porch inside each other’s arms. After while, she say lie. I say Nettie. Little bit more time pass. Us look round at a lot of



people knees. Nettie never let go my waist. This my husband Samuel she say, pointing up. These our children Olivia and Adam and this Adam's wife Thasi, she say. I point up at my peoples. This Shug and Albert, I say. Everybody say Pleased to Meetcha. Then Shug and Albert start to hug everybody one after the other. Me and Nettie finally git up off the porch and I hug my children and I hug Tashi. Then I hug Samuel." (Walker, 1982 : 250).

Meanwhile Sofia, who loved her husband very much and her husband loved her too. But they finally divorced because Sofia didn't want to live with Harpo, who had wanted to treat her badly. They both live with their new life respectively.

"Yesterday us all had dinner at Odessa's house. Odessa Sofia's sister. She raise the kids. Her and her husband Jack. Harpo's women Squeak, and Harpo himself." (Walker, 1982: 180).

From the explanation above, the female characters Celie and Sofia fight back with their respective character traits. The Celie character with passive resistance then gradually becomes active and the Sofia character with active resistance. Their resistance depicts women who should not be mistreated by men. Women are not weak and men should respect women more better.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer presents the conclusion and suggestion based on the data analysis in previous chapters.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Women's resistance that occurs in the novel *The Color Purple* describes women's resistance actively and passively. This women's resistance occurred to the four female characters, they are Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery, and Sofia Butler. Celie has passive resistance then turns to active resistance. Nettie, Shug Avery, and Sofia Butler have active resistance. Active resistance that occurs when a woman immediately acts against, argues, and leaves the place of her suffering. Meanwhile, passive resistance that occurs when women receive harsh and bad treatment only happens, so that they are able to regulate what happens to them.

The female characters in the novels struggle with the oppression they get. Then they can live better and more independently. They fight for the rights they deserve. Women's resistance describes women as not weak and not easily oppressed.

#### 5.2 Suggestion

The novel *The Color Purple* is an interesting novel to analyze. The writer focuses on analyzing women's resistance depicted in the novel. The writer to the reader to analyzing the diction and language style in this novel n relate to the character and background of the author. In this writing, the



writer also uses a structuralism approach, so for the readers who want to research, they can use other approaches such as genetic structuralism, psychology, or a sociological approach.



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## APPENDIXES

### 1. Synopsis of Novel *The color Purple*

The novel the color purple tells the story of the main character Celie who is treated unfairly by her stepfather and husband. Celie lives with her mother, sister and stepfather. When her mother was seriously ill, Celie was raped by her stepfather at 14 years old. Then a few days after that her mother died. Celie has a sister named Nettie. She really loves her sister. Nettie has a boyfriend named Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ who wants to marry Nettie. However, their stepfather (Alphonso) does not agree with this. He reasoned that Nettie was too young to get married and had Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ to marry Celie. Celie is considered more mature and better at housekeeping.

Celie lived her domestic life with Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ who has had a previous family and has 4 children. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ ex-wife whose name is Shug Avery has left her because she doesn't want to be treated harshly by her husband.

One of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_'s children, Harpo is very familiar with Celie. Until one day Harpo asked Celie to tell Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ to bless his relationship with Sofia (his girlfriend) because he intends to get married soon. However, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ does not approve of the marriage. Finally, Harpo secretly marries at Sofia's cousin, Odessa. They remained married because Sofia was pregnant at that time.

After getting married Harpo and Sofia's household was always filled with arguments. Harpo wanted to treat Sofia the way his father treated Celie. However, \_\_\_\_\_ not want to be treated arbitrarily, in fact, she always denied her husband.



Finally, Sofia took the decision to leave her husband. Harpo finally lived alone and opened a business at his home, a cafe.

Meanwhile, at the Alphonso's house, he threw Nettie out for daring to fight back. This was done by Nettie because her stepfather wanted to harass her. Nettie left the house and wanted to live with Celie. However, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ also wanted to harass her. Then she went and met the missionaries of America named Samuel and Corrine. They turned out to have two children, Adam and Olivia, who turned out to be Celie's children who were sold by their stepfather.

Despite being away from Celie, Nettie has never forgotten Celie. Nettie always sent her the letters. But Celie never received any Nettie's letters because Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ hide these letters. Celie never got word from her sister, even she doubted whether her sister was still alive. Celie was very sad and she just leaned it all to the God.

One day Celie accidentally found Nettie's letter stored in Mr. \_\_\_\_\_'s shirt pocket. It turned out that Shug also knew about the letters and told her that she knew where Nettie's letters were hidden by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. Celie found out about this was very angry and wanted to kill Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. But Shug prevented, rather than killing, Celie better fight to her husband. Finally, Celie started to fight back and disobeyed again.

Because of Shug's help, Celie was able to find Nettie's letters and immediately wrote replies to them. In Nettie's letters mostly motivates Celie to be

until one day Nettie came to visit Celie with Celie's children, Adam and



Olivia. They get together to rebuild a happy family. And due to Celie's resistance, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ also has apologized to Celie for all his bad deeds.

## 2. Biography of Alice Walker

Alice Walker, in full Alice Malsenior Walker, born February 9, 1944, Eatonton, [Georgia](#), U.S., American writer whose novels, short stories, and poems are noted for their insightful treatment of [African American culture](#). Her novels, most notably *The Color Purple* (1982), focus particularly on women.

Walker was the eighth child of African American sharecroppers. While growing up she was accidentally blinded in one eye, and her mother gave her a typewriter, allowing her to write instead of doing chores. She received a scholarship to attend [Spelman College](#), where she studied for two years before transferring to [Sarah Lawrence College](#). After graduating in 1965, Walker moved to [Mississippi](#) and became involved in the [civil rights movement](#). She also began teaching and publishing short stories and essays. She married in 1967, but the couple divorced in 1976.

Walker's first book of [poetry](#), *Once*, appeared in 1968, and her first novel, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* (1970), a narrative that spans 60 years and three generations, followed two years later. A second volume of poetry, *Revolutionary Petunias and Other Poems*, and her first collection of short stories, *In Love and Trouble: Stories of Black Woman*, both appeared in 1973. The latter



ness to sexist violence and abuse in the African American [community](#).  
oving to New York, Walker completed *Meridian* (1976), a novel  
g the coming of age of several civil rights workers in the 1960s.

Walker later moved to [California](#), where she wrote her most popular novel, [The Color Purple](#) (1982). An [epistolary novel](#), it depicts the growing up and self-realization of an African American woman between 1909 and 1947 in a town in Georgia. The book won a [Pulitzer Prize](#) and was adapted into a film by [Steven Spielberg](#) in 1985. A musical version produced by [Oprah Winfrey](#) and [Quincy Jones](#) premiered in 2004.

Walker's later [fiction](#) includes *The Temple of My Familiar*, an ambitious examination of racial and sexual tensions (1989); *Possessing the Secret of Joy* (1992), a narrative centred on female genital mutilation; *By the Light of My Father's Smile* (1998), the story of a family of anthropologists posing as missionaries in order to gain access to a Mexican tribe; and *Now Is the Time to Open Your Heart* (2005), about an older woman's quest for identity. Reviewers complained that these novels employed New Age abstractions and poorly conceived characters, though Walker continued to draw praise for championing racial and [gender equality](#) in her work. She also released the volume of short stories *The Way Forward Is with a Broken Heart* (2000) and several other volumes of poetry, including *Absolute Trust in the Goodness of the Earth* (2003), *A Poem Traveled Down My Arm* (2003), *Hard Times Require Furious Dancing* (2010), and *Taking the Arrow Out of the Heart* (2018). *Her Blue Body Everything We Know: Earthling Poems* (1991) collects poetry from 1965 to 1990.

Walker's essays were compiled in *In Search of Our Mother's Gardens: t Prose* (1983), *Sent by Earth: A Message from the Grandmother Spirit* *Bombing of the World Trade Center and Pentagon* (2001), *We Are the*



*Ones We Have Been Waiting For* (2006), and *The Cushion in the Road: Meditation and Wandering as the Whole World Awakens to Being in Harm's Way* (2013). Walker also wrote juvenile fiction and critical essays on such female writers as [Flannery O'Connor](#) and [Zora Neale Hurston](#). She cofounded a short-lived press in 1984.

In the unconventional [memoir](#) *The Chicken Chronicles* (2011), Walker discussed caring for a flock of chickens while also musing on her life. The documentary *Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth* was released in 2013.

