



The Representation of Sexual Violence and Women's Resistance in the Novel Obsessive Loves by Shireishou

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Abstract. This study explores the representation of sexual violence and women's resistance in Shireishou's novel *Obsessive Loves*. Utilizing a qualitative approach with content analysis, the research examines how the narrative addresses the psychological trauma of the victims and the patriarchal social structures that perpetuate sexual violence. Drawing on Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalytic theories alongside Walby's feminist perspectives and the concept of rape culture, the study identifies and interprets critical excerpts from the novel. The findings reveal that *Obsessive Loves* portrays sexual violence as a systemic issue tied to power dynamics within patriarchal structures, reflecting deep psychological impacts such as PTSD and dissociation. The novel also highlights women's resistance as a form of empowerment and recovery, emphasizing the importance of solidarity and social support. This research contributes to feminist literary studies by demonstrating how fiction serves as a powerful medium for critiquing patriarchal norms and advocating for social change.

Keywords: patriarchy, psychoanalysis, rape culture, sexual violence, women's resistance.

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature reflects human realities, including overlooked social issues, and has the power to inspire change by revealing societal flaws and encouraging reflection (Murmu, 2023). Novels, as a popular literary form, offer deep explorations of characters and conflicts, making them effective in portraying marginalized struggles, gender discrimination, and economic inequality (Srilaksmi, 2023; S, 2022). They also address sensitive topics like sexual violence, raising awareness and fostering dialogue, including in Indonesia (Murmu, 2023). Sexual violence, a systemic issue rooted in power imbalances and patriarchal norms, transcends geographical and cultural boundaries (Walby, 1990). Literature serves as a critical tool to examine victimhood, power dynamics, and resistance, challenging oppressive structures (Huang & Jin, 2023).

In recent years, feminist literary criticism has increasingly emphasized the role of literature in challenging dominant narratives that normalize violence and silence survivors. By addressing issues such as sexual violence and women's resistance, literature serves not only as a reflection of societal realities but also as a means to inspire awareness and action (Srilaksmi, 2023). Novels like *Obsessive Loves* utilize narrative depth to dissect the intersection of individual trauma and systemic oppression, shedding light on the mechanisms through which patriarchy and rape culture are sustained (Nasution et al., 2024).

This broader socio-cultural relevance underscores the significance of *Obsessive Loves* as a critical text. The novel's focus on Syaira's journey from victimization to resistance not only provides a powerful narrative of individual resilience but also critiques the structural inequalities that perpetuate violence. Through its intricate portrayal of trauma, recovery, and solidarity, the novel engages readers in a deeper dialogue about the importance of dismantling patriarchal structures and fostering a society that prioritizes justice and equality for survivors of sexual violence (Kusumaningrum, 2023; Zahirah et al., 2019).

Sexual violence involves coercion against a person's body or sexuality without consent, manifesting in various forms such as rape, abuse, and harassment (Nasution et al., 2024). These acts often involve physical force and aggression, with a significant number of cases perpetrated by someone known to the victim (Maretlli et al., 2023). According to Komnas Perempuan (2014), at least fifteen behaviors can be categorized as sexual violence, including rape, sexual intimidation, harassment, exploitation, trafficking of women for sexual purposes, forced prostitution, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, and practices rooted in sexual traditions that endanger or discriminate against women.

In Indonesia, reports from Komnas Perempuan (2022) highlight a significant increase in sexual violence cases, with over 14,000 cases recorded in one year and 24,529 cases reported between 2018 and 2023. Notably, sexual exploitation by authoritative figures, including within families, is of particular concern. Such cases often remain undisclosed due to social stigma, victim-blaming, and victims' dependency on perpetrators who hold power. This dynamic reflects the complexity of power relations in society, where victims are often trapped in challenging positions that prevent them from resisting or reporting the abuse. Social stigma further exacerbates the victims' trauma, hindering their ability to seek justice (Meliana et al., 2024; Maihasni et al., 2022). Fear of social repercussions, such as losing family or community support, often leads to silence and a lack of justice, perpetuating a cycle of systemic injustice that hinders efforts to eradicate sexual violence effectively (Rizky et al., 2024).

Literature, particularly novels, plays a pivotal role in creating space for discussions about these issues and giving a voice to those often overlooked by society. By portraying victims' suffering and struggles, literature not only moves readers emotionally but also inspires tangible actions to build a more just society that cares for the rights of sexual violence survivors. Literary narratives challenge patriarchal norms and promote gender equality, thereby increasing awareness about victims' rights (Sreevarsha, 2023). Additionally, literature offers readers an opportunity to understand the psychological impact on victims and opens dialogue on how to protect them, an area often underrepresented in social and legal policies.

Shireishou's *Obsessive Loves* profoundly depicts trauma through Syaira, illustrating how betrayal leads to mental distress, including hallucinations and excessive daydreaming. The novel exposes how patriarchal systems enable perpetrators to manipulate victims and their surroundings, aligning with Kusumaningrum (2023), who highlights how patriarchal norms empower abusers, as seen in Syaira's relationship with her uncle. Psychoanalytic theory helps explain Syaira's trauma, as Freud posits that repressed trauma manifests in fear and guilt (Shiyu, 2024), while Burhanuddin & Casmini (2024) emphasize power imbalances that deepen emotional instability. Lacan's concept of "the Other" and "the Symbolic Order" further reveals how patriarchal structures reduce women to objects of control, evident in Wira's manipulation of narratives to justify his dominance.

Obsessive Loves serves as a mirror of social realities in Indonesia, where sexual violence often occurs in ostensibly safe spaces, such as within families. Through its poignant narrative, the novel showcases how victims' trauma extends beyond physical suffering to profound psychological effects, necessitating comprehensive support systems for recovery. The novel also highlights resistance as a vital symbol of hope, emphasizing that while recovery is a long process, it is possible with the right support. By adopting a feminist psychoanalytic approach, this research sheds light on the systemic nature of sexual violence, demonstrating its roots in patriarchy and rape culture, and illustrating how victims can reclaim their identities and rebuild their lives.

This study makes a significant contribution by offering a novel approach to understanding sexual violence and women's resistance through the integration of feminist psychoanalytic theory into literary studies, particularly in the analysis of Shireishou's novel *Obsessive Loves*. The objectives of this research are to identify the representation of sexual violence, analyze the resistance of women as portrayed through the character Syaira, and understand the psychological trauma and recovery process experienced by victims. The novelty of this study lies in its application of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalytic approaches to explore profound trauma and resistance against patriarchal structures reflected in literature. Ultimately, this research not only illustrates the systemic impact of patriarchy and rape culture but also highlights the importance of social solidarity in supporting victim recovery and women's resistance, while reinforcing the relevance of literature as a medium for social transformation and female empowerment.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The depiction of sexual violence in literature has been widely studied for its social, psychological, and cultural impact, revealing how it reflects and critiques gender-based violence. Many scholars argue that literature serves as a platform for discussing societal issues, such as sexual violence, which is often portrayed as a product of patriarchal structures and power imbalances. Feminist theorists like Simone de Beauvoir and Andrea Dworkin explore how sexual violence is used to enforce male dominance and control over women's bodies, while literary works also highlight the psychological effects of such violence on survivors. These texts often portray victims as individuals fighting to reclaim their agency and voice, which are frequently silenced in patriarchal societies (Huang & Jin, 2023).

Scholars analyze how female characters resist patriarchal oppression, with Butler and Gillis emphasizing gender identity as a social construct that can be challenged. In *Obsessive Loves*, Syaira's journey reflects this struggle as she navigates trauma while challenging societal norms, drawing on Freud's concept of repressed trauma and Lacan's ideas on societal positioning (Shiyu, 2024). Studies on Asian literature further reveal how gender violence and resistance intersect with cultural constraints, showing literature as both a reflection of and a challenge to patriarchy. These perspectives highlight literature's role in addressing social issues and fostering change for survivors of sexual violence (Kusumaningrum, 2023; Nasution et al., 2024).

3. METHODS

This study employs a qualitative content analysis to examine the representation of sexual violence and women's resistance in Shireishou's *Obsessive Loves*, allowing for an in-depth interpretation of psychological trauma and patriarchal structures. It integrates feminist psychoanalytic critique, combining Freudian and Lacanian theories on trauma with Walby's patriarchy theory and the concept of rape culture to contextualize sexual violence (Huang & Jin, 2023). The primary data comes from the novel, analyzing key excerpts on trauma and resistance, while secondary sources, including journal articles and books, provide theoretical support and a broader analytical framework.

The analytical process follows several systematic stages. The first step is data identification, where the novel is thoroughly read to grasp its overall narrative. Relevant excerpts are marked and coded based on the main themes of the study, including sexual violence (KS), psychological trauma (TP), women's resistance (RP), and critique of rape culture (RC). For instance, the excerpt "*Setelah dia saya pecat... Syaira berbaju tidur begitu seksi untuk menggoda saya*" (Page 222) is coded as KS3, KP1, and RC3, reflecting the

perpetrator's moral manipulation in blaming the victim. The next stage involves coding and categorization, where the coded excerpts are grouped according to themes to facilitate further analysis.

Once the coding process is completed, the data is analyzed using a thematic approach. The excerpts are examined through psychoanalytic theory to understand how the victims' psychological trauma is internalized in their subconscious. Freud's theory of repression and Lacan's concept of the Symbolic Order are applied to explain symptoms such as depression, dissociation, and guilt experienced by the victim. Additionally, Walby's feminist patriarchy theory provides insight into how sexual violence is influenced by imbalanced social structures where patriarchal norms support the perpetrator's dominance over the victim. This analysis is followed by contextualization, linking findings from the novel to secondary data to illustrate how individual victim experiences reflect broader social conditions.

The analytical technique involves four primary steps: description, interpretation, theoretical exploration, and conclusion formulation. During the description stage, each excerpt is analyzed to understand its explicit context in the text. For example, the excerpt "*Syaira duduk termangu menatap es jeruk yang sudah kehilangan dinginnya...*" (Page 13; TP1, TP2, RC2) is identified as an instance of dissociation due to trauma. In the interpretation stage, the excerpt is analyzed using psychoanalytic theory to uncover deeper meanings. The theoretical exploration stage links findings to feminist and psychoanalytic concepts, constructing robust arguments. Finally, key patterns in the text are synthesized into conclusions explaining the relationship between psychological trauma, women's resistance, and patriarchal domination.

The study ensures the validity of its findings through theoretical triangulation, wherein the novel's insights are tested against supporting literature to provide comprehensive interpretations. This methodology enables the research to reveal deeper meanings within the narrative of *Obsessive Loves*, while contributing significantly to the discourse on sexual violence, psychological trauma, and women's resistance.

4. RESULTS

Literature possesses the power to reflect social realities and explore issues that are often overlooked by society. Shireishou's novel *Obsessive Loves* serves as an important medium for illustrating the complexities of a sexual violence survivor's experience within the context of a patriarchal society that dominates social life. Through the character of Syaira Salsabila, the novel not only portrays the physical and psychological suffering resulting from sexual violence but also highlights how patriarchal social norms create an environment that facilitates violence and disadvantages victims.

This research employs a feminist psychoanalytic approach to investigate the representation of sexual violence, psychological trauma, and women's resistance as depicted in the novel. By integrating Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalytic theories alongside Sylvia Walby's feminist patriarchy framework, the analysis aims to understand how trauma shapes the victim's identity and how resistance can become a crucial step toward recovery. The approach also underscores the importance of social solidarity in supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Through this analysis, four main themes are identified as central to the novel: sexual violence, psychological trauma, women's resistance, and a critique of patriarchy and rape culture. Each theme is elaborated in detail to provide a comprehensive understanding of how *Obsessive Loves* addresses these issues and contributes to enriching feminist literary discourse.

Sexual Violence: Dynamics of Patriarchy and Manipulation of Power

Obsessive Loves portrays sexual violence as a form of domination deeply rooted in patriarchal structures, where perpetrators often use their power to control and exploit victims. In this case, Wira, as Syaira's uncle and guardian, not only abuses his position of power but also manipulates moral values to justify his actions. One such instance is his statement,

"Tuhan merestui kami... Syaira tidak mengunci kamar itu" (Hlm. 221-222; KP1, RC3)

This demonstrates how Wira rationalizes his actions using religious narratives, creating a situation where Syaira feels trapped without support or the ability to resist. Such manipulation illustrates that sexual violence is not merely an individual act, but a systemic phenomenon linked to patriarchal culture.

Sexual violence in the novel is explored through various forms, from verbal harassment to rape. For example, the narrative mentions,

"Syaira menyusun bongkahan puzzle dalam kepalanya... aroma amis yang selalu membuatnya mual" (Hlm. 52; KS2, TP1)

Syaira's physical and emotional trauma evidences the profound impact of sexual violence. This trauma is exacerbated by her feelings of powerlessness when facing a perpetrator who maintains full control over her life. Wira exploits family relationships and extends his control over Syaira's personal life, as seen in his assertion,

"Saya bisa memantau semua gerak-geriknya" (Hlm. 221; KP3, RC3)

This highlights how perpetrators of sexual violence often use their power to isolate victims and diminish their ability to seek help.

The patriarchal culture enabling Wira's actions is further evident in how he controls the narrative of their relationship. In another example, Wira shifts blame onto Syaira by saying,

"Setelah dia saya pecat... Syaira berbaju tidur begitu seksi untuk menggoda saya" (Hlm. 222; KP1, RC2)

This reflects the practice of victim-blaming prevalent in patriarchal societies, where women are often held responsible for the violence inflicted upon them. By depicting these dynamics, Shireishou critically exposes how patriarchal social norms allow perpetrators of sexual violence to feel justified in their actions.

The analysis reveals that sexual violence in the novel is represented in diverse forms, from verbal harassment to rape. For example, Wira's moral manipulation is evident in his statement,

"Setelah dia saya pecat... Syaira berbaju tidur begitu seksi untuk menggoda saya" (Hlm. 222)

This highlights how perpetrators use patriarchal social norms to blame victims, a practice commonly referred to as victim-blaming. In such contexts, patriarchal norms not only support the perpetrator's actions but also limit the victim's ability to resist or seek justice. Wira leverages family power dynamics to establish complete control over Syaira, as indicated in his claim,

"Saya bisa memantau semua gerak-geriknya..." (Hlm. 221)

This showcases how patriarchy enables perpetrators to expand their dominance even into private spheres.

Psychological Trauma: PTSD and Depression

The trauma experienced by Syaira extends beyond physical harm, profoundly impacting her psychological well-being, as seen through symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and severe depression. One manifestation of PTSD is captured in the excerpt,

"Siswi itu menepuk bahu Syaira... Gadis itu melonjak bangkit" (Hlm. 14; TP1, RC2)

This sudden physical reaction reflects unresolved trauma, where the victim's body "remembers" the traumatic event even in the absence of a direct threat. This trauma is further amplified by sensory memories, such as foul odors and pain, which continually haunt Syaira. According to Freud's theory, such experiences represent emotional repression, where unprocessed memories resurface in the form of physical responses.

Syaira's depression is also explored through her withdrawal from the world. In the excerpt,

"Syaira duduk termangu menatap es jeruk yang sudah kehilangan dinginnya... Kebisingan kantin seolah lenyap dalam kepalanya" (Hlm. 13; TP2, RC2)

She is portrayed as being in a state of dissociation, where she feels disconnected from her social reality. Lacan's theory explains this as alienation from the Symbolic Order, a concept describing an individual's relationship with language and social norms. Syaira's trauma disrupts this

connection, leaving her feeling insecure and isolated from the social world.

Additionally, guilt and shame are recurring themes in Syaira's experience, as shown in the excerpt,

"Setetes air mata jatuh, Syaira merasa hatinya diremas dengan kuat... Ia ingin pergi ke tempat Ayah dan Ibu untuk melupakan semua" (Hlm. 25; TP3, RC2)

Victims of sexual violence often internalize feelings of responsibility for their suffering. This reflects societal stigma, which frequently burdens victims with unwarranted guilt, exacerbating their depression and leading them to feel unworthy of life and devoid of hope for the future.

Sensory trauma also plays a significant role in Syaira's experience, as illustrated in the excerpt,

"Syaira merasa kepalanya mau pecah ketika mendengar suara pintu kamar... aroma amis yang selalu membuatnya mual" (Hlm. 188; TP1, RC2)

Physical sensations and odors act as triggers for traumatic memories that persistently haunt the victim. This demonstrates that the trauma of sexual violence is not confined to memory but also manifests through uncontrollable physical responses, intensifying the victim's sense of alienation and depression.

Women's Resistance: The Courage to Heal

Syaira's resistance in the novel is portrayed through her struggle to heal and fight against the patriarchal narratives that constrain her. At one pivotal moment, she declares,

"Bayi ini adalah kartu As-nya. Tidak akan ia izinkan siapa pun memaksanya aborsi" (Hlm. 96; PDS3, RC3)

This decision illustrates how Syaira begins reclaiming control over her body and life, despite the pressure from the perpetrator and her social environment. It reflects a form of women's resistance that is not always physical but rather an emotional and mental struggle to rediscover their identity.

Support from characters like Nara and Desy plays a critical role in Syaira's recovery process. In one excerpt,

"Desy tak bicara sepatah kata pun... Hanya mendekap dan membelai kepala Syaira berulang tanpa lelah" (Hlm. 78; PDS1, PDS3)

The empathetic and physical presence of Desy creates a sense of safety for Syaira. This solidarity underscores the importance of a supportive community in helping survivors confront their trauma. Desy's role as a professional counselor also highlights the need for trauma-informed approaches to support sexual violence survivors in their healing journey.

Syaira's resistance is further demonstrated in how she confronts social stigma. As reflected in the excerpt,

"Syaira pernah berjuang sekuatnya untuk tak mencoreng nama baik keluarga... Ia pernah berusaha tetap sekolah, meski harus tersaruk jatuh" (Hlm. 56; TP3, PDS3)

She is depicted as a resilient individual who faces extraordinary challenges. Her struggle shows that women's resistance does not always take the form of direct confrontation but can also manifest in the courage to endure and rebuild life despite societal and personal trauma.

In another excerpt,

"Desy tak bicara sepatah kata pun... Hanya mendekap dan membelai kepala Syaira berulang tanpa lelah" (Hlm. 78; PDS1, PDS3)

Desy's empathetic approach creates a safe space for Syaira to begin processing her trauma. This highlights the critical role of social solidarity in helping survivors of sexual violence reclaim their voices and identities.

Critique of Patriarchy and Rape Culture

The novel provides a sharp critique of patriarchy and rape culture, which often protect perpetrators while blaming victims. One example is when Wira says,

"Setelah dia saya pecat... Syaira berbaju tidur begitu seksi untuk menggoda saya" (Hlm. 222; KP1, RC2)

This narrative demonstrates how perpetrators of sexual violence frequently use societal norms to justify their actions, while victims are burdened with stigma and guilt. This attitude reveals how victim-blaming culture is an integral part of the patriarchal structure that perpetuates sexual violence.

The novel also explores how patriarchy creates conditions that allow perpetrators to maintain control over their victims. For instance, in the excerpt,

"Saya bisa memantau semua gerak-geriknya... Bahkan Syaira berani menghubungi guru fisiknya saat kabur hari ini" (Hlm. 221; KP3, RC3)

Wira uses technology to monitor and control Syaira, illustrating how patriarchal dominance can extend through modern tools. This highlights that sexual violence often involves complex forms of control, both physical and psychological.

In the context of rape culture, the novel shows how social norms frequently shield perpetrators and hinder victims' access to justice. When Syaira says,

"Aku nggak mau semua tahu," (Hlm. 58-59; RC2, PDS1)

She reflects the fear of social stigma that many sexual violence survivors experience. The novel critically reveals how a culture that blames victims not only exacerbates trauma but also obstructs recovery and justice. This dominance underscores how patriarchy strengthens the position of perpetrators, even within families that should serve as safe spaces for victims. The novel demonstrates that sexual violence is not merely an individual issue but a systemic problem requiring societal change.

Discussion

Shireishou's *Obsessive Loves* serves as a powerful medium to illustrate how sexual violence and women's resistance are represented in literature. Through the experiences of its protagonist, Syaira, the novel unveils not only the suffering endured by victims of sexual violence but also their journey of recovery and struggle against the patriarchal dominance that perpetuates such violence. This representation transcends the individual perspective of the victim and delves into the broader social context, revealing how sexual violence and psychological trauma are rooted in societal structures.

Sexual violence in the novel is portrayed as an expression of unequal power relations between the perpetrator and the victim. Wira's position as Syaira's uncle and guardian offers a vivid depiction of how figures of authority can misuse their power to dominate and exploit others. The novel underscores that sexual violence is not merely an individual act but part of a structural dynamic that supports perpetrators. The power relations depicted reveal how patriarchy fosters an environment where perpetrators manipulate personal relationships as tools for control. Wira's exploitation of his familial relationship with Syaira demonstrates the systemic nature of such abuse, where social norms shield the perpetrator and marginalize the victim.

Moreover, *Obsessive Loves* illustrates that sexual violence extends beyond physical acts, involving psychological dimensions that aim to weaken and silence the victim. Wira employs moral manipulation, intimidation, and threats as tools to maintain his dominance over Syaira. These dynamic highlights how patriarchal social norms blur the lines between violence and control, creating a sense of entrapment for victims. The narrative effectively critiques these norms, showing how they obscure the perpetrator's culpability while magnifying the victim's vulnerability.

The novel also delves deeply into the psychological trauma resulting from sexual violence. Symptoms such as dissociation, depression, and guilt vividly depict the complexity of the victim's experience. Trauma reshapes how victims interact with their surroundings and perceive themselves. Syaira's story reflects the enduring scars of sexual violence, emphasizing how recovery is unattainable without adequate support. Her feelings of guilt and isolation underscore the compounded effects of trauma, which are often exacerbated by societal stigma.

In particular, the novel emphasizes how social stigma exacerbates the psychological wounds inflicted by sexual violence. Victims are not only burdened with the pain of their experiences but are also forced to confront societal perceptions that blame them for the violence. This dual burden deepens their trauma, hindering their ability to heal and move forward. Through Syaira's experience, *Obsessive Loves* provides a critical perspective on how deeply intertwined individual trauma is with the societal structures that perpetuate sexual violence.

A key theme in the novel is women's resistance, which emerges as an essential element of the victim's journey. Resistance is not limited to physical confrontation but includes the emotional and mental efforts of victims to reclaim control over their bodies and lives. Syaira's decisions, such as choosing to keep her pregnancy despite social pressure, symbolize her defiance of patriarchal norms that seek to diminish her autonomy. This portrayal of resistance emphasizes the resilience of women and their capacity to challenge societal structures that oppress them.

The novel also highlights the significance of social support in aiding survivors of sexual violence. Characters like Desy and Nara play pivotal roles in Syaira's recovery, providing her with emotional and practical support to navigate her trauma. By offering a safe space for healing, their solidarity enables Syaira to rediscover her strength and identity. *Obsessive Loves* thus underscores the indispensable role of community and solidarity in empowering survivors to overcome the challenges they face.

One of the novel's greatest strengths is its critique of patriarchy and rape culture. The narrative exposes how patriarchal norms create environments that protect perpetrators while blaming victims. By illustrating how Wira manipulates social narratives to justify his actions, the novel sheds light on how rape culture not only shields perpetrators but also exacerbates the trauma experienced by victims. This critique is particularly significant in revealing how deeply embedded societal norms perpetuate cycles of violence and silence.

Furthermore, the novel explores how social control and modern technology are used as tools of domination in contemporary patriarchal systems. By depicting Wira's use of technology to monitor and control Syaira, *Obsessive Loves* reveals how sexual violence has evolved to include new methods of exerting power over victims. This aspect of the narrative emphasizes the need for systemic changes that address not only traditional forms of violence but also their modern manifestations. The novel calls for comprehensive reforms encompassing education, social policies, and victim support systems to dismantle the structural foundations of patriarchy and rape culture.

Obsessive Loves portrays sexual violence and women's resistance not merely as individual struggles but as systemic issues that demand profound social change. The representations in the novel offer deep insights into the complexity of victims' experiences and highlight the importance of resistance and solidarity in combating sexual violence and patriarchal dominance. By weaving personal narratives with social critique, Shireishou's work challenges readers to reflect on the realities of sexual violence and consider the broader implications of societal norms in perpetuating or addressing such issues. This powerful narrative not only serves as a reflection of social realities but also as a call to action for meaningful change.

5. CONCLUSION AND LIMITATION

Conclusion

This study reveals that Shireishou's *Obsessive Loves* profoundly represents sexual violence, psychological trauma, and women's resistance against patriarchal dominance and rape culture. Through Syaira's narrative, the novel illustrates how sexual violence extends beyond physical acts, functioning as a tool of control that strips victims of autonomy, reinforced by patriarchal structures. The psychological impact is severe, with symptoms such as PTSD, dissociation, and depression exacerbated by social stigma that isolates victims and shifts blame onto them.

Despite this, Syaira's resistance becomes a central theme, as she asserts control over her body and challenges oppressive norms. The support from characters like Desy and Nara underscores the importance of solidarity in overcoming trauma. The novel critiques rape culture, exposing how perpetrators manipulate narratives to evade accountability while reinforcing societal structures that oppress victims. Beyond portraying suffering, *Obsessive Loves* offers hope through themes of resistance and support, serving as both a literary critique and a call for structural change against sexual violence and injustice.

Limitation

This study has several limitations that need to be considered. One of the main limitations is the scope of the analysis, as it focuses solely on the novel *Obsessive Loves* by Shireishou, making the findings specific to this work and not generalizable to broader literature on similar themes. Additionally, the qualitative literary text analysis approach allows for subjective interpretation of characters, plot, and symbols, which, despite efforts to maintain objectivity, may still be influenced by personal views. The scarcity of references related to the representation of sexual violence and women's resistance in Asian literature further limits the discussion of the novel's cultural and social context. Moreover, the vast and complex nature of these themes prevents the study from covering all possible perspectives. Nevertheless, despite these limitations, this research provides valuable insights into the portrayal of sexual violence and women's resistance in *Obsessive Loves*, contributing meaningfully to literary and gender studies

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