

# **Gender-Based Violence Againsts The Female Main Character in Colleen Hoover's *It Ends With Us***

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## **Abstract**

This research is a study of Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends With Us*. The purpose of this study is to reveal forms and impacts of gender-based violence and efforts of the female main character to overcome all the hardship. The main issue in this novel is gender-based violence againsts the female main character named Lily Bloom. In this research, descriptive analysis method is used in studying the intrinsic theories, and extrinsic theories such as gender and feminism for supporting elements. The findings of this research points that Lily experiences several forms of gender-based violence such as child abuse, physical attacks, domestic violence, pornography violence, and an act of rape. Besides that, the physical and psychological impacts are also identified. Eventually, Lily can overcome her hardship by improving her financial condition, living independently, divorcing her abusive partner, and becoming a single parent. Both internal and external factors are in support of her measure to survive and live a better life.

**Keywords:** *feminism, gender, gender-based violence, women*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background**

Issues regarding women are never completely debated. In the general public, it has been constructed that "ideal" women are women who can take care of the family with the focus only limited to the domestic area. Holmes (2007: 2) explained that sex is a biological difference between men and women. Meanwhile, gender is a social difference made between being feminine and masculine. These gender differences can trigger injustice which results in acts of violence.

An act of violence is an attack or invasion (assault) on the physical and psychological integrity of a person and can be in the form of violence against one particular sex caused by gender differences (Fakih, 2013: 17). Humm (in Arivia, 2006: 180) said that violence against women is very

frequent and common. He said that violence against women occurred in the product of patriarchal society. In this case, men dominate the social institutions and bodies of women. Meanwhile, hooks (2010: 1) say that patriarchy is a social political system that demands that men dominate inseparably and make them superior to all things. Anyone is considered weak, especially women. The form of patriarchy can be seen from the mastery of love. In his other book, hooks (2000: 101) love in patriarchal culture is associated with the idea of ownership, with the paradigm of dominance and surrender in which it is assumed that one individual will give love and another individual receives it.

Based on these problems, the feminism movement emerged. According to Hollows (2010: 4) in general feminism is considered as a form of politics that aims to intervene and change the unequal power relations between men and women. Feminism as a political theory or a

political practice (political movement) that strives to liberate all women: colored women, poor women, lesbians, elderly women, and also economically heterosexual white women (Chodorow in Sunarto, 2009: 33 ).

Such condition as mention above is also illustrated in one of Colleen Hoover's novels titled *It Ends With Us*. The main character in the novel is a woman named Lily Bloom. She is an independent figure, but has psychological trauma. During her teenage years, she became a victim of domestic violence that occurred between her parents. Because of this, she grew up as a woman who hated her father because he always behaved rudely towards her mother. Not only that, Lily also kept her distance from her mother because she often remembered how her mother had remained loyal to her father even though there were so many bad treatments that her mother had experienced. Lily's life also changes when she is stuck in an abusive relationship, just like her mother experienced. In the process of making her choice between surviving or leaving, Lily also experiences a series of inner conflicts and gender-based violence.

As the author of the novel, Colleen Hoover was born on December 11, 1979 and became one of the best writers according to the New York Times magazine with the title # 1 New York Times Bestselling Author. Hoover stated that the idea of the novel *It Ends With Us* was actually based on her personal experience. Indirectly, Hoover was a victim of this kind of abusive relationship when she was little, that was experienced by her mother.

### **Problem Identification and Formulation**

Based on the explanation above, the present researchers also decided to choose the novel *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover as the corpus of this research. Meanwhile, the purpose of this study is to

show the form of gender-based violence against female main characters, the impact of such violence, and the efforts of the main female character, Lily Bloom, in overcoming the violence. Meanwhile, the focus of this research is gender-based violence against female main characters that can be seen from the main characters and characterizations, conflicts, settings, symbols and irony.

### **Research Methods**

In this study, the present researchers used qualitative research. Meanwhile, the method used in this research is a descriptive analysis that presents intrinsic elements in the form of characters and characterizations, plot, conflict, background or setting, symbols, irony and extrinsic elements in the form of gender and feminism theories which are based on the data in the novel *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover. To obtain the data needed in this study, the present researchers conducted a literature study by using supporting books as reference material and obtaining information and references in the form of related journals through internet media.

The term gender has psychological, social, and cultural connotations that distinguish between men and women in carrying out certain masculinity and femininity roles in society (Haralambos and Holborn in Sunarto, 2009: 33). In his book, Hollows (2010: 4) explains that masculine and feminine gender roles that are culturally formed, debated, mapped in biological differences between women and men that make these different gender roles appear as part of the biological nature of male men and women and not as a cultural construction.

### **Literature Review**

Labeling or marking (stereotype) which is often negative in general always gives birth to injustice. One type of stereotype that engenders gender injustice and

discrimination stems from gender views because it involves labeling or marking of one particular sex, which is generally women (Rokhmansyah, 2016: 20). In line with this opinion, Dzuhayatin (in Purwo, 2000: 158) mentions traits related to women's stereotypes namely emotional, gentle, not independent, passive as opposed to male identity, namely rational, aggressive, independent, explorative.

Meanwhile, according to Noorkasiani, Heryati, and Ismail (2007: 96-97) forms of injustice due to gender discrimination are women's marginalization, subordination, stereotypical views, workload, and violence. In general, gender-based violence (gender-based violence) is all forms of violence that arise due to gender differences (Soul City Institute for Social Justice, 2016: 2, Ellsberg and Heise, 2005: 11, Fakhri, 2007: 17). For example, someone injures an individual because the individual is a woman or because of the sexual orientation of that individual, this can be categorized as gender-based violence.

According to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (in the Control Arms Practical Guide, 2018: 4) describes that gender-based violence is violence directed at someone on the basis of gender and sex. This includes physical, mental or acts of sexual crime or torture, threats in various forms, coercion and deprivation of liberty. When anyone can be a victim, women and girls are mostly the main victims of the violence.

Meanwhile, Fakhri (2007: 17-20) explained that there are many kinds and forms of crime that can be categorized as gender violence, namely rape of women including marital rape, beatings and physical attacks that occur in the household (domestic violence), forms of torture that leads to genital mutilation, prostitution, violence in the form of pornography, violence in the form of forced sterilization in family

planning (enforced sterilization), violence in the form of molestation, and in the forms of sexual harassment and emotional harassment.

Ramazoglu (in Hollows, 2010: 8) argues that implicitly or explicitly various patriarchal ideologies are theories that explain the formation and maintenance of male dominance in social, ideological, sexual, political, and economic aspects. Walby (2014: 268-269) mentions that there are two categories of patriarchy namely private patriarchy and public patriarchy. Private patriarchy is based on household production, such as controlling women individually and directly in a relatively private space, namely in the house or at home. Patriarchy places men who act as husbands or fathers as oppressors and receive direct benefits, individually and directly, from the subordination of women. Meanwhile, public patriarchy is based on structures other than household structures, although this may be a significant arena of patriarchy.

According to Hooks (2000: 101) love in patriarchal culture is associated with the idea of ownership, with a paradigm of dominance and surrender in which it is assumed that one individual will give love and another individual accept it. Furthermore, in heterosexist ties, patriarchy is formed on the basis that women as a gender are associated with caring emotions and will give love to men, and in return men, who are associated with power and aggression, will determine and protect. He also explained, however, in many cases in heterosexual families, men do not respond to this: on the contrary men are tyrants who use their power unfairly to force and control.

In relation to the problem of violence, Soloratof and Pande (2014: 34) in a book titled *Violence against Women and Girls: Lessons from South Asia explained that*

*"Intimate partner violence is perhaps the most widely known and well-researched type of violence against women and girls".* Intimate partner violence is the most commonly known type of violence and the general type studied is related to violence against women and girls.

Rokhmansyah (2016: 37-38) explained that the feminist movement was initially a movement of a group of Western women activists, who later gradually became an academic wave in universities, including Islamic countries, through the "woman studies" program. The word feminism was first coined by the French socialist activity, Charles Fourier, in 1837. The idea he advocated was the transformation of women by society based on interdependence and combining personal emancipation with social emancipation.

Ritzer (in Sunarto, 2009: 34-35) explains that the feminist movement can be divided into three waves: (1) the first wave (first wave) occurred in the mid 19th century until the early 20th century; (2) the second wave (second wave) occurred in the late 1960s until now; and (3) third wave emerged in the 1980s. Meanwhile, in the discourse of feminism there are several schools of different arguments about the causes of women experiencing oppression. At least from the discourse of feminism that can be known how each theory of feminism - cultural, liberal, radical, Marxist, socialist, psychoanalysis, existentialist, postmodern, multicultural, and global, and ecofeminism - arrange their arguments to explain how oppression of women occurs in the community (Tong in Sunarto, 2009: 34). Tong (1998: 48-49) explains that liberal feminists want to free women from aggressive gender roles — that is, from roles used as an excuse or justification to give women a lower, or no place at all, place, both within academies, forums and markets. They emphasize that patriarchal society confuses sex and gender, and considers that only jobs

associated with feminine personalities are appropriate for women.

### **Analysis**

Based on the summary of the story above, it appears that Lily Bloom acts as the main character in the novel. This is because Lily holds the dominant portion as well as being the most conflicted figure compared to other figures. In analyzing the main character, in addition to the characters and characterizations, the writer also uses supporting elements, namely conflict, setting, symbols, and irony. Meanwhile, in discussing gender-based violence against female main characters, the present researchers will use the elaboration of the characteristics of the main characters based on physiological, psychological, and sociological dimensions.

Based on physiological dimensions, Lily Bloom is described as a beautiful and attractive woman. She is twenty-three years old and has unruly red hair. *And father of Lily Bloom — that strange girl with the erratic red hair [...]* (Hoover, 2016: 4). Not only that, Lily is also described to have seductive red lips and charming skin. She blushes easily when Ryle, her lover, praises her about her physical appearance.

“You know which part of you drives me the craziest?” He brings his finger to my mouth and traces my smile. “These,” he says. “Your lips. I love how they’re as red as your hair and you don’t even have to wear lipstick.” (Hoover, 2016:128). He stares at me appreciatively. “You’re even prettier in the daytime.”

Moments like these are why I absolutely hate having red hair and fair skin. The embarrassment doesn’t only show up in my cheeks—my whole face, arms, and neck

grow flushed. (Hoover, 2016:52).

The irony of the situation regarding to this dimension is that even though Lily has a beautiful physique and is recognized for her beauty by others, including her opposite sex, Lily still feels that all of that does not make her confident. Lily even insisted that she hated getting such a physical appearance and didn't feel it as an advantage. This also shows the conflict between Lily and herself (man against herself). The irony of the situation also shows the psychological side of Lily who experienced a traumatic experience. Lily's mother is portrayed physically beautiful, but apparently, physically attractive is no guarantee for Lily's mother to get a good partner and happiness in her life.

Lily is an attractive girl because since the beginning of her meeting with Ryle, he tried to seduce Lily. Ryle even tried to tempt Lily to be willing to have a one-night stand with him.

“You asked for my recent thought, so I gave to it to you. You're beautiful. I'm a guy. If you were into one-night stands, I would take you downstairs to my bedroom and I would f\*ck you.” (Hoover, 2016:20-21).

In this case, it is seen that women occupy a disadvantage position, in terms of men trying to make them their sexual objects. Ryle tried to satisfy his desire for Lily's body. There is also the word “beautiful” which is a symbol of objectification of men to get something that they desire. Lily looks even more attractive because she has a heart-shaped tattoo. She got it when she was in college.

The tattoo is near Lily's neck and is Ryle's favorite part of Lily's body.

I have a small tattoo there that I got in college. It's a simple outline of a heart that's slightly open at the top. I can feel his fingers circle around the tattoo, and then he leans forward and presses his lips against it. (Hoover, 2016:74).

It appears that the tattoo is a symbol of Lily's love for Atlas, namely her first love. When they were teenagers, Atlas once gave a gift in the form of an open heart-shaped wood carving at the top, then inspired Lily to get a similar tattoo on her body. This shows that although Atlas has become a part of Lily's past, there is still a part of Atlas that is in Lily's body permanently like the tattoo. Based on this situation, it can be concluded that men can make marks on the body parts of women as a form of marking. The author does not further describe the physical of Lily. However, readers know that Lily is a beautiful and attractive character. Moreover, Ryle also often praised Lily as beautiful.

“I had that picture made the day after I took it,” he says. “It's been in my apartment for months now, because you were the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen and I wanted to look at it every single day.” (Hoover, 2016:93).

There's a moment that passes between us where I can't tell if he's about to frown or smile. His face twist into both somehow, and he blows out a quick breath, dropping his eyes back to my stomach. “You're beautiful,” he whispers. (Hoover, 2016:354).

The word “beautiful” shows Lily's position as a woman who symbolizes beauty, gentle, and needs to be flattered by the opposite sex. The quote also shows the symbol of Ryle's obsession with Lily. Ryle accidentally took a photo of Lily and then made it as a large figure and display it without Lily's knowledge. This shows Ryle's desire to make Lily the object of his sexual fantasy. This is also supported by the situation when Lily has repeatedly refused Ryle's invitation to have sexual intercourse, but Ryle still pleaded with Lily so they could have that at another opportunity. This can also be categorized as violence in the form of pornography. In accordance with Fakihi's theory (2013), the violence is non-physical in the form of harassment against women. In this violence, a woman's body is made an object for one's benefit. This can be seen from the photo of Lily's body which was used as the figure. The impact of the violence had no physical effect on Lily. The violence actually affects the emotional state of Lily and cause conflict between characters (man against man). Lily was upset because Ryle still insisted on avoiding the fact that he had feelings for Lily. On the other hand, it was clear that Ryle had an interest in her.

Based on the sociological dimension, Lily is the only child from a distinguished circle. Lily's mother, Jenny Bloom, is a teaching assistant at a school. *My mother is a teaching assistant over at Brimer Elementary.* (Hoover, 2016: 109). Meanwhile, Lily's father, Andrew Bloom, is a respected former mayor and well-known real estate business owner in Plethora, Maine.

It was the funeral of the prodigious Andrew Bloom, after all. Adored mayor of my hometown Plethora, Maine. Owner of the most successful

real-estate agency within city limits. (Hoover, 2016:4).

Lily was born and grew up in a respected well-off family. Therefore, Lily never lives in poverty. However, the irony of the situation is that even though Lily was born and raised in a good family, Lily did not feel peace in her family. Lily's father occupied a high position in the community and family and this, somehow, cause an imbalance in their family. Lily's mother's profession as a teacher is seen as not comparable to that of Lily's father as a mayor. This form of marginalization is one of the triggers for violence in Lily's family.

Lily moved to Boston and left her parents since she graduated from college. *"No. Moved here from Maine after I graduated college."* (Hoover, 2016: 12). Lily lives with her friend Lucy in Boston and is separated from her parents in Plethora. In addition, Lily is an educated figure and has completed her master's degree in business. She also worked at one of the biggest marketing firms in Boston.

“[...] I have a master's degree in business. I'd be downgrading, don't you think? I work for the biggest marketing firm in Boston.” (Hoover, 2016:14)

Boston becomes the dominant setting of place in the story. In this case, the symbol of the place serves to show the conflict between the main character, Lily and her father (man against man). Boston became a symbol of Lily's escape from her family's problems in Plethora related to her family's unharmonious relationship. Not only that, there is also a form of feminist struggle in the form of a desire to free women from gender roles - that is, from roles used as an excuse or

justification to give a lower place for women by getting equal education with men. Lily showed that by having an education to the highest level, such as college, could help her escape the oppression she had experienced from her family.

Lily started building a flower shop business after she decided to move from her previous job. *"When was your last day at the marketing firm?"* I smile. *"Yesterday."* (Hoover, 2016: 42). She started the business from zero and decided to buy a former restaurant building.

The building used to house a restaurant and it's still full of old tables and chairs. My mother walks over to a nearby table and pulls out one of the chairs, taking a seat. "If things work out, and your floral shop is successful, then people will say it was a brave, bold, smart business decision. But if it fails and you lose your entire inheritance ..." (Hoover, 2016:41).

From the quote above, it appears that Lily is at odds with her mother, which indicates a conflict between characters (man against man). On one hand, Lily's mother regretted Lily's actions to quit her previous job. On the other hand, Lily felt happy that she could decide for herself what she wanted. This desire is a proof that the past that plagued her family did not make Lily sink. In accordance with the theory of feminism that women can free themselves from all forms of economic oppression. In addition, there is also a form of denial of gender stereotypes according to Dzuhayatin's theory (in Purwo, 200: 158) that women should remain in the domestic space and be seen as emotional, gentle, not independent, and passive. Lily tried to show that she could have the opportunity

to manage her life path and continue her career independently. Lily's figure can overcome her inner conflicts regarding her ideal career path.

Based on the previous explanation, Lily has several character traits indicating that she is a brilliant person. Even so, like humans, there is also another side of her, which is her traumatic experience of her father's actions towards her mother. Lily is personally angry at her parents' situation. She views the relationship between her parents as abusive and unavoidable in the amid of their marriage.

[...] But the abuse was inevitable with their marriage, and it became our norm. When I got older, I realized that not doing something about it made me just as guilty. I spent most of my life hating him for being such a bad person, but I'm not so sure I'm much better. Maybe we're both bad people. (Hoover, 2016:16-17)

There is a conflict between characters (man against man). The patriarchal domination places women as victims in the midst of abusive relations. Women accept all acts of violence on the part of men, including their own partners (domestic violence). This impact can extend to their children. This is experienced by Lily from her father. Evidently, Lily lived in a depressed state. She has a deep hatred towards her father, especially because she directly experienced acts of violence from her father. This started when Lily's father and mother got into a fight over a problem regarding to placing the car in the garage. Lily felt angry because she saw her mother being tortured, so she wanted to help, but Lily's father committed acts of violence against her instead.

I don't really know what happened, but I'm guessing he threw me off of him. I just remembered one second I was on his back and the next second I was on the ground and my forehead hurt like you wouldn't believe [...].

My mom give me a rag and told me to hold it to my head because it was bleeding and then she helped me to her car and drove me to the hospital. (Hoover, 2016:110)

"I had to get nine stitches in my forehead." (Hoover, 2016:111).

The first form of gender-based violence that Lily experienced was violence in the form of physical attacks in the household (domestic violence). The incident happened when she was approaching sixteen years old, which makes it classified as violence in the form of child abuse. The incident has a physical and psychological impact on Lily. From a physical point of view, Lily was injured because she had nine stitches on her head. While in terms of psychological, Lily experienced emotional disturbances. She felt devastated because her father was capable of committing such acts of violence not only to her mother, but also to herself as a child.

Acts of gender-based violence occur when Lily and Ryle want to celebrate a party for the success of Ryle who will perform a rare and important operation regarding the separation of conjoined twins in his unit. *"And I get to perform a very rare, possibly once-in-a-lifetime craniopagus separation on Monday."* (Hoover, 2016: 181). Lily accidentally laughed because Ryle's impulsive act of pulling the hot carousel tray directly from the oven with his bare hands. Ryle, who felt panicked and hurt immediately hit Lily with his arm until her body bounced back.

In a matter of one second, Ryle's arm came out of nowhere and slammed against me, knocking me backward. There was enough force behind it to knock me off balance. When I lost my footing, I hit my face on one of the cabinet door handles as I came down. Pain shoots through the corner of my eye, right near my temple. (Hoover, 2016:185).

The form of gender-based violence experienced by Lily is in the form of physical attacks. This was triggered by a conflict between Ryle and Lily (man against man). The impact of the incident is that Lily got a wound on her body. In addition, Lily experienced emotional disturbances remembering flashback to the figure of her father who acted abusive to her mother. This confirms that women often become victims of violence.

In addition, it appears that acts of violence can arise in the middle of a love affair between one individual and another individual (private patriarchy). This is also in accordance with Beauvoir's theory that in terms of love, between women and men have different perceptions. Women can surrender entirely so that the impact is physically and mentally hurt on the woman's side. From these conditions, an unbalanced situation was created between the two parties and opened a gap for the other party to gain power. This is also in accordance with the theory of Hooks that the concept of love in patriarchal culture is the idea of ownership, dominance and submission. When women give love and affection, men can abuse their power by controlling or doing unjust actions towards women, including in the form of acts of violence.

Another act of violence occurred when Ryle found out Atlas's telephone number



and began to be jealous. He could not control his emotions, so Lily returned to being a victim. The incident occurred when Lily was about to grab Ryle's hand who was going up the stairs, Ryle actually pushed Lily to fall from the ladder. Lily had fainted for some time because of a hard impact on her head.

There's a three-second pause  
where I think this could go one  
of two ways.  
He's going to leave me.  
Or he's going to hurt me.  
He runs a hand through his hair  
and walks straight for the door.  
He leaves.  
"Ryle!" I yell.  
Why did I never throw that  
number away?!  
[...] I shove myself in front of  
him and grab his shirt in my  
fists. "Ryle, please. Let me  
explain."  
He grabs my wrists and pushes  
me away from him. (Hoover,  
2016:230).

Because of this incident, Lily got a wound on the lips and corners of her eyes. "You have a small cut on your lip. I just bandaged up the cut on your eye. You don't need stitches." (Hoover, 2016: 231). Different from the previous violence incident, when Lily finally woke up, and was surprised at what happened again, Ryle actually emphasized that Lily fell on the stairs not because of Ryle's actions that pushed her.

"You fell down the stairs."  
But I didn't fall.  
He pushed me. Again.  
That's twice.  
You pushed me, Ryle.  
I can feel my whole body start  
to shake with the sobs. I have  
no idea how bad I'm hurt, but I  
don't even care. No physical  
pain could even compare to

what my heart is feeling in this  
moment. (Hoover, 2016:231)

Gender-based violence experienced by Lily in the form of physical attacks. This was triggered by conflicts between the characters namely the characters Lily and Ryle (man against man). The symbol in the form of Atlas's telephone number acts as the trigger for the action. There was also a change in Ryle's reaction, which began to appear to deny the violence he had committed against Lily. Because of this, Lily also experienced a deep emotional conflict (man against herself). Another impact of the incident was a physical injury that helped make Lily feel devastated. She had gathered her trust in Ryle. Moreover, their relationship has developed into a husband and wife. Not only that, Lily was surprised because Ryle actually denied the incident that Lily had experienced clearly. The climax of gender-based violence experienced by Lily occurred when Ryle learned and read Lily's old diary. The diary contains stories from the past as well as discussions about Atlas and their love relationships as a teenager.

The bed is littered with things.  
An empty moving box with the  
words, "Lily's stuff," written on  
the side of it. And then all the  
contents that were inside that  
box. Letters . . . journals . . .  
empty shoeboxes. I close my  
eyes and breathe in slowly.  
He read the journal.  
No.  
He. Read. The. Journal.  
(Hoover, 2016:264)

Ryle also knew the meaning of the tattoo on Lily's neck and began to furious especially the status of their relationship which had become a married couple. Lily was surprised by Ryle's reaction to attacking her immediately after reading the diary without first listening to her

explanation. Ryle committed an act of sexual assault and bit Lily's neck until she was injured.

His arm comes around my waist from behind. He slides a hand up my stomach and takes a firm hold of one of my breasts. His other hand feathers my shoulder as he moves the hair away from my neck.

I squeeze my eyes shut, just as his fingers begin to trace across my skin, up to my shoulder. He slowly runs his finger over the heart and a shudder runs over my whole body. His lips meet my skin, right over the tattoo, and then he sinks his teeth into me so hard, I scream. (Hoover, 2016:264)

Violence can be caused by conflicts between characters (man against man), they are the violence in the form of physical attacks and sexual violence. Symbols can also play a role in triggering gender-based violence such as diaries and tattoos. This can be seen in Ryle's actions such as biting Lily's neck where there is a heart tattoo which is a symbol of Lily's love for Atlas. The violence continues with Ryle who crushed Lily's body and forced Lily to have sexual intercourse with him. It was seen that Lily was very frightened and so shaken by Ryle's actions towards her.

His hand grips my ankle and he yanks me until I'm beneath him. "I'm not angry, Lily," he says, his voice disturbingly calm now. "I just think I haven't proved to you how much I love you." His body comes down against mine and he takes my wrists with one hand above my head, pressing them against the mattress.

"Ryle, please." I'm sobbing, trying to push him off of me with any part of my body. "Get off me. Please."

No, no, no, no.

"I love you, Lily," he says, his words crashing against my cheek. "More than he ever did. Why can't you see that?" (Hoover, 2016: 265-266)

His forehead comes crashing down against mine.

In an instant, all the paint fades as a blanket of darkness rolls over my eyes and consumes me. (Hoover, 2016:266).

Actions of gender-based violence experienced by Lily in the form of rape efforts, as explained by Fakih (2013), that the forms of rape towards women also include rape in marriage. Rape occurs if a person is forced to obtain sexual services without the willingness of the person concerned. The impact of these acts of violence is that Lily experienced a deep emotional disturbance. She recalled her past, when her mother was about to be raped by Lily's father. This is a trauma in Lily until she grew up. Because of what happened to her, Lily screamed and felt incredible fear.

In addition, there are also two sentences I love you, which is a symbol of mastery of love. This confirms that in relationships involving gender-based violence, love plays an active role in controlling women as victims by abusive parties. Because of the violence, Lily got wounds all over her body. She went to the hospital with Atlas. Lily's situation is very chaotic especially since she only learned the fact that she was pregnant with Ryle's child.

The doctor stands up. "We don't like to perform X-rays on pregnant women unless it's

vital. We'll monitor you for complications and if there are no further concerns, you'll be free to go."

I don't hear anything beyond that.

Nothing.

The pressure begins to build in my head. My heart. My stomach. I grip the edges of the exam table I'm sitting on and I stare at the floor until they both leave the room.

[...]

I did this to myself.

I allowed this to happen to me.

I am my mother. (Hoover, 2016:272-273)

From these two quotes, it appears that Lily experienced inner conflict (man against herself). Acts of violence have a major impact on the physiological and psychological side. She received a number of severe injuries and learned the fact that she is pregnant with Ryle's child. This made her realize that she had been trapped in the exact same situation as her mother had faced. Lily also realized that because of her tolerance limits, she survived with Ryle up to that point. Lily's pregnancy is also one of the driving factors for Lily to be more wise in making decisions. Because it does not only concerns herself, but also the fetus in the womb as well. Lily's condition began to change little by little for the better when Lily began to act firmly. This was seen when she made a big decision. Right after giving birth to her daughter, Emerson, she decided to divorce Ryle. The decision is considered the best decision for them, especially for Emerson.

"Ryle?"

When he glances at me, he's smiling. But when he assesses the look on my face, he stops.

"I want a divorce."(Hoover, 2016:358).

I look at Emerson and I look at Ryle. And I know that I have to do what's best for her. For the relationship I hope she builds with her father. I don't make this decision for me and I don't make it for Ryle.

I make it for her. (Hoover, 2016:358).

Cycles exist because they are excruciating to break. It takes an astronomical amount of pain and courage to disrupt a familiar pattern. Sometimes it seems easier to just keep running in the same familiar circles, rather than facing the fear of jumping and possibly not landing on your feet.

My mother went through it.

I went through it.

I'll be damned if I allow my daughter to go through it.

I kiss her on the forehead and make her a promise. "It stops here. With me and you. It ends with us." (Hoover, 2016:360-361)

Based on the previous explanation, the woman needs to get rid of her feelings and ego. It was proven when Lily realized that her decision was made specifically for her daughter named Emerson, she was no longer controlled by her love and desire to return to Ryle. Lily's struggle is her firm step to deal with gender violence that has repeatedly occurred to her. She made a unanimous decision that she had carefully considered. This shows that Lily is also increasingly aware that the abusive relationship does not come to good things, apart from the love and relationship they have built. Lily thought about the more important thing that was her daughter's future and the precious time that her daughter had the right to get not from the

man who had been the source of Lily's trauma, namely being abusive to women. The abusive relationship is affirmed as an endless chain. This is like the situation that Lily and her mother experienced and is likely to happen again to Emerson, Lily's daughter, if only Lily did not ask for a divorce from Ryle. Women will continue to be victims of gender-based violence because they consider that the relationship they live in is not detrimental. During this time, they are deceived by their love and hope that their partner will change even though it is not most likely to happen. Along with the process of tolerance, the woman will find it increasingly difficult to leave her partner because of the relationship imprinted on the woman has gone too far. Lily realized it and understood it deeply after a series of events that she experienced in succession. In addition, the existence of a gender role in society that affirms the position of men is higher than women and has the right to make women as a subordinated party, increasingly making abusive relationships seen as relationships that are not detrimental and can perpetuate the existence of abusive relationships.

This condition is also related to the title of the related novel "*It Ends With Us*" which is Lily's dialogue to her daughter, Emerson. Abusive relations and gender based violence that have occurred need to be ended by them. Emerson is expected not to have bad experiences like Lily had with her father, which only leaves a bad impression as long as Lily can remember. Lily hopes that Emerson can be loved as well as possible. Lily and Ryle's relationship can take place well after they have divorced. Lily's status as a single parent allowed Ryle to take turns looking after Emerson. Meanwhile, Lily began to open up to Atlas.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the above analysis, the present researchers conclude that the main female character in the novel *It Ends*

*With Us* by Colleen Hoover is proven to experience various forms and impacts of gender violence both physically and psychologically committed by her father and her spouse, namely Andrew Bloom and Ryle Kincaid. It is also proven that the main female character can overcome the forms of violence she experienced. Meanwhile, the forms and impacts of gender based violence are as follows:

First, physical assault in the form of child abuse. This was experienced by the main character when she was a teenager carried out by her biological father. The impact of violence is the physical injury on her forehead which requires nine stitches and Lily's psychic form of deep hatred towards the figure of her father. Second, violence in the form of pornography. This non-physical violence was seen when Lily learned that a photo of herself was displayed as a wall decoration in Ryle's apartment without her permission. This shows that Lily was made a sexual object by Ryle. The impact of these acts of violence did not really affect the physical condition, but quite influential on Lily's psychological condition. Third, physical attacks. This happened when Lily inadvertently laughed at Ryle's impulsive actions until Ryle was provoked to push Lily's body. The impact of the violence is that Lily received physical injuries and traumatic experiences that reminded her of her father's mistreatment in the past. Fourth, physical attacks within the scope of the household (domestic violence). This happened when Lily was Ryle's wife. She was pushed down the stairs because Ryle learned that Lily had saved Atlas's telephone number by unintentionally. Therefore, Lily also experienced harsh actions. She was hugged tightly by force, hit on the forehead with Ryle's head, and bitten in the neck. The impact of the violence was that Lily suffered physical and psychological injuries that made Lily worse. Fifth, the act of rape in marriage. Because of Ryle's jealousy after reading Lily's diary about Atlas, Lily almost went

through a raid. Even though Lily had pleaded in various ways, Ryle still tried to crush her body and force bodily relations with her.

The study of Feminism on the main female character in this novel can be concluded from several aspects such as being a strong woman after experiencing the dominance of private patriarchy in her family, and being a victim of violence. However, in addition, the female main character manages to be an independent woman who is able to take control of her own life and make a unanimous decision to file a divorce from her husband and go on living as a single parent.

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