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Content Analysis: Portrayals of Partner Aggression In the Novel "It Ends With Us"

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ABSTRACT

Gender-based aggression or violence in society can happen to anyone, at any time, and by anyone who commits it. There are several factors that cause physical aggression. One of the novels by Colleen Hoover, namely It Ends With Us, has elements of physical aggression in it. Therefore, this research aims to determine the gender of the perpetrator of aggression, the depiction of the type of aggression in the novel, and the relationship between the type of aggression and how the target responds to the aggression. The population in this study were all chapters or acts in the novel. Researchers used census sampling techniques and produced all 36 chapters as research samples. This research involved two coders for the research process through coding sheets and coding books. Data analysis carried out was an inter-coder reliability test, descriptive analysis, chi-square test, and binary logistic regression test using the SPSS version 25 application. The results of the study showed that there were several categories that dominate and describe aggression, as well as the relationship between aggression and the target response in the novel "It Ends With Us".

Keywords: aggression; partner; novel; Colleen Hoover

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence has always existed, but has only recently been discussed in international forums, especially during the last decade of the 20th century. (Tavara, 2006) Incidents of sexual violence and abusive behavior from partners among women are topics of concern to society. This indicates that sexual violence conflicts are widely considered a threat to international security and can be seen from the increasing research exploring the causes and variations of these cases. (Nagel, 2019) Sexual violence and abusive behavior or aggression have the potential to occur anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and whoever the victim is. This verbal violence was carried out by perpetrators from various backgrounds.

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According to Saltzman, et al (2002) physical and sexual violence or aggression is one component of intimate partner violence (Bagwell-Gray, Messing, & Baldwin-White, 2015). Bachman & Saltzman (1995) stated that around 26% of partners commit sexual assault. Then, previous research by Basile (2002), Tjaden & Toennes (2000) stated that in a random sample on a national scale, the lifetime rate of intimate sexual violence was in the range of 7.7% to 13% (Bagwell-Gray, Messing, & Baldwin-White, 2015). Abusive actions or behavior that occur with a partner can cause a number of negative psychological effects on the victim and are associated with various risky health conditions. (Edwards, et al., 2012)

The United Nations (UN) defines violence against women as acts committed based on gender differences that result in physical, sexual, mental or emotional harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of rights. authority, whether it occurs in public or in public, or in private life. (Tavara, 2006) In this case, Black, et al (2011) stated that women had experienced sexual violence by their partners. (Bagwell-Gray, Messing, & Baldwin-White, 2015) Various forms of sex-based violence can humiliate and cause victims to suffer.

Therefore, this research aims to examine the depiction of partner aggression in the novel "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover. This research also aims to raise topics that the public should know about and receive special attention. More and more information is being published allowing a better understanding of the extent of violence against women from a global perspective.

Research Questions and Hypothesis

RQ1: How is physical aggression depicted in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

RQ2: How is verbal aggression depicted in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

RQ3: How does the type of physical aggression relate to the target's response in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

RQ4: How does the type of verbal aggression relate to the target's response in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

H1: The depiction of perpetrators of physical aggression is more male than female in the novel "It Ends With Us."

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H2: The depiction of perpetrators of verbal aggression is more male than female in the novel "It Ends With Us."

Physical Aggression

Physical aggression or physical violence is an action carried out with intention or deliberately that causes physical pain or injury. (Burke, Stets, & Pirog-Good, 1988) Gerbner, et al (1978) define violence as an expression of physical force, with or without weapons, against oneself or others, as well as the act of forcing one's will through pain of being hurt or killed, or actually hurting or killing. (Bridges, Wosnitzer, Scharrer, Sun, & Liberman, 2010) Some examples of physical aggression, namely hitting, pushing, choking, threatening with weapons, injuring with weapons, etc. Perpetrators of such violence may be partners, parents, other family members, neighbors, and men in positions of power or influence. In various cases, women do not only experience violence once, but experience repeated incidents for years or even decades. (Tavara, 2006)

Coleman and Straus (1986) stated that high levels of conflict and violence have been found in marriages where one partner dominates the other. Based on this research, it was found that there is a relationship between emotional abuse and the frequency and severity of physical attacks. (Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause, & Polek, 1990) In understanding aggression or physical violence, various researchers focus their research or attention on identifying the characteristics of male attackers or aggressors. (Burke, Stets, & Pirog-Good, 1988) Basically, it has been found that abusive men have extreme and compulsive levels of masculinity, and resort to abuse or violence to demonstrate their masculinity. (Burke, Stets, & Pirog-Good, 1988) Researchers have stated that verbal attacks may occur at other times and for other reasons when physical force is involved. (Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause, & Polek, 1990)

The perpetrators of physical aggression or violence, which is generally carried out by men, cause injuries to the body and traumatize the victims, namely women. Then, women will also experience emotional trauma because they experience events that are not suitable for humans. Knowledge about physical aggression should be known by many people because there are several studies that state that minimum estimates show that there is one in six households every year that commits physical aggression between partners. (Fagan & Browne, 1994)

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Verbal Aggression

Aggressive behavior can occur in various forms, one of which is communicated verbally. Verbal aggression has been studied by many researchers in the field of public relations and communication because it has a big influence on public opinion. (il'ia. Bykov, Gladchenko, & Balakhonsky, 2018) In general, verbal aggression exists as a style for communicating or expressing something. (il'ia. Bykov, Gladchenko, & Balakhonsky, 2018) Verbal aggression is considered to have a very strong negative effect on communication because it can increase the level of general aggression, which can turn into violent confrontations, up to armed conflict. (il'ia. Bykov, Gladchenko, & Balakhonsky, 2018)

Verbal aggression in communication consists of various types, such as character attacks, competence attacks, physical appearance attacks, self-concept attacks, implied threats, insults, insults, ridicule, use of dirty or impolite words, use of verbal force, and harassment. Verbal. (il'ia. Bykov, Gladchenko, & Balakhonsky, 2018)

Physical and Verbal Aggression in Partners

Women are the gender that often experiences aggression, both physical and verbal, perpetrated by their partners. Black, et al (2011) stated that 1 in 10 women stated that they had experienced sexual violence by their partner. (Bagwell-Gray, Messing, & Baldwin-White, 2015) This research proves that aggression can be carried out by those closest to us.

There are various forms and factors of sexual violence and physical aggression by men against women. Abusive partners often rely on coercive use of force (e.g., threats of serious physical harm) to establish power or a sense of dominance over the abused or victimized woman. (Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause, & Polek, 1990) The feeling of establishing dominance over women through physical and verbal aggression shows that the man aims to fulfill his own desires or emotions without thinking about the impact that will be felt by the victim. Where one of the impacts that the victim has the potential to feel is the social impact. Researchers view a variety of actions by abusers or abusive partners, systematically isolating women from social support systems and denying them access to finances as having a detrimental effect on their dependency. (Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause, & Polek, 1990)

One factor in violent incidents is jealousy which cannot be controlled by the perpetrator's emotions. Walker (1979) and Martin (1976) stated that jealousy or possessiveness is a form of emotional abuse. According to Walker, in reality she felt that the abusive man was

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jealous of everyone in the woman's life, including family, friends, and even pets. (Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause, & Polek, 1990) The man's jealousy made him chatter and interrogate his wife about the people she was in contact with, even accusing her of infidelity. This jealousy can also cause the man to place limits on the woman, such as freedom to dress, freedom to travel or do activities, and even contact with other people. Apart from that, the target's response is one of the things that must be paid attention to because it is a sign whether the target accepts the aggression or not.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was conducted using a quantitative approach content analysis method. Content analysis is a summary or quantitative analysis of messages that relies on various scientific methods and tests and is not limited to the types of variables that can be measured or the context in which the message is created or presented. (Neuendorf & Skalski, 2009) Quantitative content analysis is carried out to find out the description of the characteristics of the content and draw conclusions from the content which is the object of research. (Ahmad, 2018) In addition, content analysis is carried out to systematically identify visible communications, and must be carried out in a factual, realistic, reliable and replicable manner. (Ahmad, 2018)

According to Sugiyono (2018) population is a group or group which is the subject and object of research which has characteristics and qualities that have been determined by the researcher and is the focus of attention, as well as being the source of research data. (Hernaeny, 2021) The sample is part of the population and the characteristics contained in the population and represents the characteristics of the population in general. (Creswell, 2002) Population is a general description of the research object. Therefore, a more detailed explanation is needed to illustrate this general concept through the sample selected by the researcher.

Based on this explanation, in this study the researcher chose to use all chapters or acts in the novel "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover as the research population. Based on the scene characteristics determined by the researcher, this research will use all chapters or acts as the research population.

In this research, researchers used one sampling technique, namely non-probability sampling. Non-probability sampling technique is a technique that does not provide an equal chance for each element or member of the population to be selected as a sample. (Sugiyono,

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2015) According to Eriyanto (2015), the census sampling technique is where researchers examine the contents of all members of the population. The census technique means that each unit in a population is included in content analysis and is often used to research a particular event or series of events. (Riffe, Lacy, Watson, & Fico, 2019)

Based on the explanation of the census technique, the researcher will use all chapters or acts in the novel "It Ends With Us" as research samples to be analyzed. This is done because all chapters or chapters in the novel have the potential to contain scenes of sexual violence and physical aggression between women.

In conducting this research, researchers measured each variable using units of analysis, namely categories and sub-categories from previous research. (Bridges, Wosnitzer, Scharrer, Sun, & Liberman, 2010) Based on this research and the objectives of this research, there are four categories used, namely, the gender of the perpetrator of the aggression, the type of physical aggression, the type of verbal aggression, and the target's response to the aggression. Each sub-category is assessed using a nominal scale, namely zero (0) for "None" and one (1) for "Present".

In the gender category, the perpetrator of aggression is measured using two sub-categories, namely male and/or female. Then, in the category of types of physical aggression, it is measured using ten sub-categories, namely pushing, biting, grabbing, slapping with an open hand, choking, kicking, punching with a fist, slavery or confinement, using weapons, and torturing, mutilating, or attempting to kill. The category of verbal aggression is measured using two sub-categories, namely calling names or insults, and threatening physical harm. Then, the target's response category to aggression is measured using four sub-categories, namely the target expresses pleasure or responds neutrally, the target expresses displeasure and the perpetrator ignores it, the target expresses displeasure and the perpetrator admits it with positive actions, and the target expresses displeasure and the perpetrator admits it with negative actions.

The research was conducted using two coders from March 2022 to May 2022. Researchers collected data by using and providing online coding sheets and coding books to the coders.

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Inter-Coder Reliability Test

After the coders coded, the researcher carried out a reliability test with the data on the coding sheet. The inter-coder reliability test is where the researcher chooses 2 people to be coders and each coder will be given the same coding sheet to assess the same unit of analysis. (Hendriyani, 2013) Then, the results will be compared and the number of similarities and differences will be seen using samples within samples. The greater the number of similarities, the higher the inter-coder reliability. (Hendriyani, 2013) To carry out a reliability test, the researcher determines the number of samples in the sample to be used in the test using the following formula:

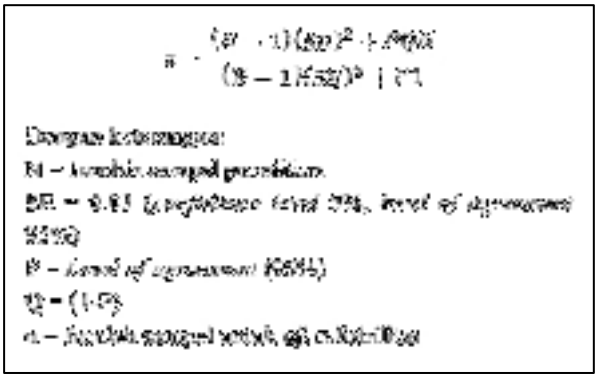

Figure 1. Formula for Determining Samples in Samples

(source: Riffe, Lacy, & Fico, 2014)

Based on the calculation using the formula above, it was found that the number of samples in the sample was 22 chapters or the first round as a reliability test sample. After carrying out the analysis, reliability testing was carried out. Based on the reliability test process, reliability test results were obtained which were seen from the percent agreement and Krippendorf's Alpha parameters. The reliability testing process is carried out on the dfreelon.org site with the ReCal2 and ReCal OIR features, which is a site for calculating reliability coefficients between coders with nominal data coded by two coders by filling in the coding sheets provided. Based on this test, the following results were obtained:

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Table 1. Reliability Test

Variable	Percent Agreement (%)	Krippendorff's Alpha
Gender of Aggressor		
Man	95.5	0.909
Woman	90.9	0.795
Types of Physical Aggression		
Push	95.5	0.882
Bite	100	1
Pinch	100	Undefined
Grabbing	100	1
Slap on the Butt	100	Undefined
Slapping with Open Hands	100	1
Suffocating	95.5	0.786
Threatening with a Weapon	100	Undefined
Kick	100	1
Punching with a Fist	100	1
Slavery or Confinement	100	1
Using Weapons	95.5	0.779
Torture, mutilate, or attempt to kill	95.5	0.834
Types of Verbal Aggression		
Calling names or insults	100	1
Threatening to do physical harm	100	1
Target Responses to Aggression		
Target Expresses Enjoyment or Responds Neutrally	90.9	0.776
Target Expresses Displeasure; Perpetrators Ignore	100	1
Target Expresses Displeasure; The perpetrator admits with positive action	95.5	0.834

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Target Expresses Displeasure; The perpetrator admits to negative actions	100	1

In a reliability test, a variable can be said to be reliable when the value *Krippendorff's Alpha* is above or more than 0.7. The variables of the gender of the perpetrator of the aggression, the type of verbal aggression, and the target's response to the aggression were declared reliable because the Krippendorff's Alpha value in each category was above 0.7. Then, for the variable type of physical aggression, there are 10 variables that are reliable because they have a value above 0.7. However, there are three categories in the physical aggression type variable that are "undefined" because this variable was not found in the sample. Therefore, these three categories were removed from the research category. Apart from that, in table 1 it can also be seen that the percent agreement value is in the interval 96.9% – 100%.

The data analysis method used in this research is descriptive statistics. The data analysis carried out in this research is descriptive analysis, chi-square test, and binary logistic regression test. Descriptive analysis is a type of research data analysis to test the generalization of research results based on one sample. (Nasution, 2017) Test*Chi-square*carried out to test the strength of the relationship between one variable and other nominal variables. (Wijayanto, 2009) Then, a binary logistic regression test was carried out to determine the simultaneous relationship between types of physical and verbal aggression and the target's response to aggression. Reliability tests, chi-square tests, and binary logistic regression tests were carried out on the SPSS version 25 application.

FINDINGS

Based on data processing and analysis of the data that has been obtained, the following data was found:

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Table 2. Descriptive Analysis

Variable	Frequency (f)	*Percentage*(%)
Gender of Aggressor		
Man	14	60.87
Woman	9	39.13
Types of Physical Aggression		
Push	8	21.05
Bite	4	10.53
Grabbing	3	7.89
Slapping with Open Hands	3	7.89
Suffocating	3	7.89
Kick	2	5.26
Punching with a Fist	4	10.53
Slavery or Confinement	3	7.89
Using Weapons	3	7.89
Torture, mutilate, or attempt to kill	5	13.16
Types of Verbal Aggression		
Calling names or insults	9	81.82
Threatening to do physical harm	2	18.18
Target Responses to Aggression		
Target Expresses Enjoyment or Responds Neutrally	7	30.43
Target Expresses Displeasure; Perpetrators Ignore	3	13.05
Target Expresses Displeasure; The perpetrator admits with positive action	7	30.43
Target Expresses Displeasure; The perpetrator admits to negative actions	6	26.09

RQ1: How is physical aggression depicted in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

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In answering the research question, based on the results of the descriptive analysis in table 2, it was found that the depiction of physical aggression in the novel is shown by 10 types of physical aggression, which are dominated by several categories, namely, pushing (f: 8, 21.05%), torturing, mutilating, and trying to kill (f: 5, 13.16%), as well as biting (f: 4, 10.53%) and punching with a fist (f: 4, 10.53%).

RQ2: How is verbal aggression depicted in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

Verbal aggression in the novel is described as two types of aggression, namely calling names or insulting the victim and threatening physical harm. However, it was dominated by the category of calling names or insulting victims (f: 9, 81.82%).

RQ3: How is the type of physical aggression related to the target's response in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

In answering this research question, a binary logistic regression test was carried out on physical aggression against the four target responses. After carrying out this test, the following results were obtained:

Table 3. Binary Logistic Regression Test

Variable	Pseudo R2			
	Target Response 1	Target Response 2	Target Response 3	Target Response 4
Physical Aggression	,667	,897	1,000	,945

Based on the table above, the R2 result of physical aggression against target response 1 was .667. This means that there is a 66.7% chance of target response 1 occurring when someone receives physical aggression. Then, there is an 89.7% probability of target response 2 occurring, a 100% probability of target response 3 occurring, and a 94.5% probability of target response 4 occurring. Therefore, when someone experiences physical aggression, target response 3 has the highest probability of occurring in the victim.

RQ4: How is the type of verbal aggression related to the target's response in the novel "It Ends With Us"?

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In answering this research question, a binary logistic regression test was also carried out on verbal aggression against the four target responses. After carrying out this test, the following results were obtained:

Table 4. Binary Logistic Regression Test

Variable	Pseudo R2			
	Target Response 1	Target Response 2	Target Response 3	Target Response 4
Verbal Aggression	,570	,164	,313	,064

Based on the table above, the R2 results for physical aggression against target response 1 are .570. This means that there is a 57% chance of target response 1 occurring when someone receives verbal aggression. Then, there is a 16.4% chance of target response 2 occurring, a 31.3% chance of target response 3 occurring, and a 6.4% chance of target response 4 occurring. Therefore, when someone experiences verbal aggression, target response 1 has the highest probability of occurring in the victim.

H1: The depiction of perpetrators of physical aggression is more often done by men than women in the novel "It Ends With Us."

In test *chi-square,* A value is declared to have a significant influence when the p value does not exceed 0.05. Based on tests that have been carried out, male gender has a significant influence on several types of physical aggression, such as pushing (p = .000), grabbing (p = .023), choking (p = .023), hitting with fists (p = .008), confinement (p = .023), and torture, mutilation, and attempted murder (p = .042). There are six physical aggressions that have a significant influence from male perpetrators. Meanwhile, women only have a significant influence on one type of physical aggression, namely biting (p = .014). Therefore, H1 is accepted.

H2: The depiction of perpetrators of verbal aggression is more often done by men than women in the novel "It Ends With Us."

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Based on the chi-square test that was carried out on the two types of verbal aggression in the novel, men and women have a significant influence on this aggression. Calling the victim names or insults had a significant effect on both men (p = .048) and women (p = .001). Then, the verbal aggression sub-category of threatening to harm physically was only given a significant influence by women (p = .012). Therefore, H2 is rejected because women have a significant influence on both types of verbal aggression.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research that has been conducted, researchers conclude that the perpetrators of physical aggression are dominated by men, while verbal aggression is dominated by women. Then, in the novel "It Ends With Us" there are several categories that describe or dominate each type of aggression. Then, there are variables that provide a greater risk for the target response to occur.

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