

## RESISTANCE TO THE PATRIARCHAL CULTURE IN *WHY WOMEN KILL* (2019) BY MARC CHERRY

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### Abstract

This research aims to contribute to the analysis of feminism related to patriarchal culture and its resistance in the *Why Women Kill* television series that was released in 2019 and directed by Marc Cherry. The television series *Why Women Kill* (2019) illustrates that patriarchal culture grows and develops in people's lives as shown by the dominance of men over women in various aspects of society which causes women to experience underdevelopment and limited access to many fields in life. The analysis in this study includes the depiction of patriarchal culture in *Why Women Kill* (2019) and the resistance to patriarchal culture by female characters in *Why Women Kill* (2019). In conducting the analysis, the researcher used literary criticism method by using the theory of feminism from the thoughts of Mary Wollstonecraft and Helene Cixous to analyze feminism related to patriarchal culture and its resistance. This research found data analysis of 70 scenes in the film in the form of screenshots and dialogues. This research depicted patriarchy as a culture that is limiting women which makes women backward and disadvantaged, that patriarchy is depicting women as good mothers and wives, depending on men superiority, and as objects to satisfy men desires. In its resistance, women reject the traditional norms by being educated and having dreams and jobs. Women also resist to patriarchy by being independent from role of men, independent in defending themselves, and independent in making life decisions. Women also depicted to rebel against control of men. This research makes an answer to the title of this television series that "*Why Women Kill*" because they wanted to "kill" norms and cultures that limit and harm women themselves and only fellow women understand how to be in that position.

**Keywords:** Feminism, Film, Patriarchal Culture, *Why Women Kill*, Women

### INTRODUCTION

According to the thoughts of Wahyudi (2018) the change of the era has led literature to new findings that allow people to find new definitions. If in the past time technology that created literary works was the printing press, now the expression of literary works can be realized in the form of film. Film involves visual, verbal, gestural and social literacy concepts. As a medium of expression created to be shown, film has the



same characteristics as those found in drama, the difference is on the medium of expression, that drama is shown in the theater while film is shown electronically. Film has a literal definition as meaning like the term cinematography which is a combination of the words cinema, *tho*, (light) and *graph* (writing) which is then interpreted as painting motion with light. Historically, the invention of the Camera Obscura in the mid-12th century was the first step in introducing visual recording media as a new invention. The development of film technology has progressed rapidly over time. Films that were originally only black and white, silent, and very fast-paced have now developed closer to reality. By incorporating audio techniques, the dramatic effects of films are increasingly well-visualized. Films also deal with cinematography involves more than just capturing images; it encompasses the art of translating ideas, emotions, and nonverbal communication into visual storytelling (Hendrajat et al, 2023).

Films often address social issues related to identity, such as gender, sexuality, and social class. Authors often use literature as a medium to explore the complexity of human identity and how it affects their social interactions and life experiences. Through diverse characters, the audience can see reflections of the various social realities around them, and gain a deeper understanding of human complexity. One of the topics taken from deep-rooted issues in society is feminism. The issue of feminism regarding to patriarchal culture has taken root in human life. Patriarchal culture is an integral part of society because it has existed for centuries and is passed down from generation to generation. Economic structures and policies that support gender discrimination can also reinforce patriarchal culture. Patriarchy tends to place women as responsible for work inside the home, and men as responsible for activities or work outside the home. The social norms inherent in these societies often emphasize traditional gender roles, where men are expected to be leaders and defenders of the family, while women are expected to be obedient and loving homemakers. In reality, patriarchal culture has shaped how social expectations construct how women should behave in society. Women are required to be obedient to their husbands, able to take care of things inside the house, and uphold social beauty standards. Meanwhile, the stereotypes of women that develop in this society have a negative impact on women such as causing difficulties in fulfilling women's basic rights, and lack of access to means of women's self-development. Along with the times, feminist values are also incorporated into films. Women are used as the main characters in a film, which means that women have a variety of images to represent. The representation of women in a film reflects women based on their position and problems in society at the times the literary work is created.

One of the examples of feminist issue that is portrayed in a film is *Why Women Kill*, a television series created by Marc Cherry (2019). The researcher would conduct an analysis of the television series *Why Women Kill* (2019) and focus on the issue feminism regarding to resistance of patriarchal culture. *Why Women Kill* is a television series by Marc Cherry under Paramount Pictures production house that consist of 2 seasons, season 1 that was released on 2019 would be the main focus of this research. *Why Women*

*Kill* was also nominated for several awards, one of which was Golden Trailer Awards 2021 for Best Comedy/Drama Trailer for a TV/Streaming Series. As retrieved from Internet Movie Database (IMDB) over 30.000 people rated 8.3/10 for *Why Women Kill* Series, which is categorized as high-rated for a television series. The series *Why Women Kill* focuses on feminist-patriarchal issues.

Feminism is an ideology or movement that seeks gender equality between women and men without any differences in all areas of life. The background that became the beginning of the feminism movement is because women have experienced injustice in various aspects of life due to gender which results in the fulfillment of their rights being limited (Aspriyanti et al., 2022). Bendar (2019) stated that feminism refers to a social movement that strives for equal rights and gender equality, with a background that stems from dissatisfaction with the injustices experienced by women. Feminism continues to evolve and undergo paradigm shifts over time. The movement has influenced social, legal, policy and cultural changes in an effort to achieve gender equality. Feminism has also built solidarity with other social movements to fight for justice and freedom for all marginalized groups. Feminism is a resistance to society's view that men's position in the eyes of society is stronger, which is synonymous with a powerful image that constructs its order above the position of women, where women are considered weak. The cultural construction where men are above women has been going on for centuries and has been passed down as a culture through life from generation to generation. Cultural constructions like this blur and eliminate the boundaries between natural characteristics of men and women, and culture as a result of human construction and creation.

Feminist movement is a social and political movement that aims to achieve gender equality in all aspects of life, including in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. Amidst a variety of schools and approaches, feminism generally champions women's rights, including the right to equal education, fair and equal employment opportunities, control over their own bodies and reproduction, and participation in political decision-making. Feminism also challenges gender norms that confine women and men to traditionally defined roles, and denounces all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence. In addition, feminism advocates for the recognition of women's experiences and contributions to history, literature, art and culture, and pushes to change social structures that maintain gender inequality. As such, feminism seeks to create a just and inclusive society for all individuals, regardless of their sex or gender identity.

According to Wollstonecraft (2023) the powerful position of men in a patriarchal culture makes society put the spotlight primarily on men and subordinate the position of women. Women are portrayed as having to depend on men financially to survive. Works written by men also depict women as "useless members of society". Male writings often mention that women exist only to devote to men. As found in Rosseau's writing in *Emile* (1762) who wrote that women should be educated but the purpose is twofold: to be a good wife; and to give happiness to men. She argued that women's subordination and

lack of accessible education leads to dependence on men and perpetuates social inequality. As stated by her, women have the same inherent rights as men, including the right to participate fully in public life, the pursuit of professionalism their careers, and train their intelligence and reasoning. So, Wollstonecraft voiced the rights that should be fulfilled and felt by a woman as well. One way to release dependence from men according to her is to become educated. By having full access to education, the opportunities obtained between women and men are equal, and the position of women in society is no longer inferior to men but equal. In line with the thoughts of Cixous. Cixous's thoughts in feminism explained that in conditions limited by patriarchy, women should be able to rebel, to write and be what they are by bringing out women's traits and their experiences of their own bodies from a woman's point of view. For Cixous, when women are considered Medusas, they also become Medusas to maintain the uniqueness of their language and emotions.

Based on data that would be conducted, this research used literary criticism as the framework to study problems of this research. Literary criticism is the discipline of interpreting, analyzing and evaluating works of literature (Fard, 2016). There are four approaches in literary criticism, they are mimetic, pragmatic, expressive, and objective. In this research, approach used is mimetic. As stated by Fard (2016) that mimetic literary criticism involves the study of imitation and reflection in literature, often looking at how literary works reflect or respond to social and cultural structures. Patriarchal resistance in literature often reflects the way women respond to and challenge male-dominated social norms. This includes the portrayal of women as having their own agency and power, which is different from the stereotypical women who are often portrayed in patriarchal literature as subjective. To enhance the research, the theory used is related to the topic, it is feminism. The theory used in this research is feminism by Mary Wollstonecraft and Helene Cixous. These feminism theories used to examine data related to feminism and patriarchal culture contained in the television series *Why Women Kill* (2019).

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **Patriarchal Culture Depiction in *Why Women Kill* (2019)**

The researcher analyzed that according to Mary Wollstonecraft's thoughts of feminism, the depiction of patriarchal culture in *Why Women Kill* (2019) television series is that women are depicted for being good mothers and housewives; women should be obedient to their husbands; women are depending on men superiority; and women as objects to satisfy men desires.

### ***Scene 1: Being Good Mothers and Housewives***



Figure 1. *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 5: Beth Ann Wants to be a Mother (00:02:37 – 00:03:24)

*Narrator: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"*

*Beth Ann: "I want to be a mommy."*

*Narrator: "How will you spend your days?"*

*Beth Ann: "Taking care of my baby."*

As depicted in scene 1, a child named Beth Ann firmly knows that her future orientation is to become a mother and she wants to spend her days in the future as a mother who has children and dedicates herself as a family woman to take care of her children. Beth Ann is portrayed as a mature and feminine child who has a motherly nature, this is shown by the things she wears and toy she has, a baby toy that she is holding in her hand. Beth Ann chooses to be a mother and not to be a woman who excels in her career field. This can happen because the environment that influences Beth Ann's mindset and life orientation is to be a good mother and wife for the family. Beth Ann's life orientation reflects a patriarchal culture because she grew up with traditional thoughts with norms that are thick with gender roles. So, if the norms in patriarchal culture describe women as good at staying at home and taking care of the family, that is what Beth Ann would do.

Sugiono (2023) expressed that women are burdened by traditional gender roles and expectations. The traditional roles and expectations have been constructed by patriarchal culture which has arranged in such a way how women should behave. Patriarchal culture depicted mother figure as a figure who should performs household tasks and takes care of the family. Beth Ann's scene shows the success of patriarchal culture in portraying the dream woman figure, of how the woman figure is considered as perfect in the eyes of society. Beth Ann stated that she wanted to grow up as a mother, mentioning the word "mommy" in the dialogue also mentioning what the definition of a mother is and the responsibilities and rights that a mother owned. In patriarchy, being a mother means to be a person who is ready to take care of all household affairs. To be a mother means that she must be ready to devote herself to the family by leaving behind her dreams. A mother means she is ready to give birth, take care of children, take care of

her husband, and take care of the house. Beth Ann saw the role of mother as something positive and is her dream, which means that the portrayal of mothers in her eyes is good and noble.

Children can decide what they want to be and what motivates them because of the process of habituation and education that starts early. In a society with patriarchal norms as in Beth Ann lived, this unconsciously inspires her to admire the role of mothers. Beth Ann tends to be taught to respect and appreciate the mother's role in the family, which includes the responsibility of caring for and nurturing children. This is often done through daily interactions, where children see their mothers performing household tasks and caring for the family, and they unconsciously draw inspiration from this role. In addition, children are also taught to respect and appreciate mother's role as the moral and emotional center of the family, which includes providing affection, support and nurturing to the children. This process not only happens explicitly through words and actions, but also through socialization and observation that takes place at home and in the surrounding environment.

In patriarchal societies, a woman's role in taking care of the household and children is seen as a necessity or the ultimate goal in life. In addition, women often receive positive feedback from society when they show interest or skill in nurturing or caring for children, which can reinforce their belief that motherhood is a desirable goal. This creates an environment where children are subconsciously led to internalize traditional expectations about gender roles, which can then influence their life choices as adults. Children are often indoctrinated to aspire to motherhood and childcare, which is a reflection of the social and cultural norms that exist in their society. Thus, the surrounding environment also encouraged Beth Ann's desire to aspire to be a good mother.

### ***Scene 2: Depending on Men Superiority***



Figure 2 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 1: Beth Ann Questions Her Life to Rob (00:31:14 – 00:31:40)

*Beth Ann: "I'm just wondering what will become of me when the inevitable happens."*

*Rob Stanton: "Inevitable?"*

*Beth Ann: "I don't have a job. Or a hobby. All I do is take care of you."*

*Rob Stanton: "That's what makes you a good wife."*

*Beth Ann: "But when you're not here anymore, who will I be?"*

*Rob Stanton: "My widow?"*

Women experienced limited conditions to get an education. The opinion of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the famous advocate for political freedom that women should be educated but limited to two purposes: to be a good wife and to give happiness to men. (Patra, 2014). In line with the thoughts of patriarchy which placed women to live a life devoted to men. One of the inequalities that occur between female and male genders is due to the limited access faced by women. Men have the right to develop themselves in the outside world get educated and get other jobs that can support them and they also have full access to whatever hobbies or activities they want to do as a means of entertainment for themselves. Otherwise, women only live to devote themselves to men without having access to education, work or any other access for their self-development. They are also not free to do hobbies or activities as a means of entertainment because they must remain available to take care of their husbands and the house.

Patriarchal culture occurs in the house life of Beth Ann and Rob Stanton. Beth Ann as explained in the dialog that she has no hobbies or other activities because every day she is preoccupied with taking care of her husband, as depicted by the patriarchy that a good woman is a woman who takes care of her husband. Beth Ann's previous access to hobbies was cut off by her husband so that Beth Ann could fully serve Rob as her husband. In the dialogue of scene 6 above, Beth Ann expressed the feeling that she had no other activities that she could do because all this time she only lived to take care of her husband. This really shows the superiority of the husband over the wife. Even Rob replied that if he died, Beth Ann could remain his widow, which indirectly mentioned that Rob's title would still be attached to Beth Ann's name even though Rob had died, which also meant that even the husband is died, Beth Ann still had to take care of the husband's funeral and grave.

### ***Scene 3: As Objects to Satisfy Men Desires***



Figure 3 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 2: Eli Takes Advantage of Taylor and Jade Situation (00:23:10 – 00:23:33)

*Taylor Harding: "You thought if you left Jade and I alone to get comfortable, we'd get a little loose, a little frisky, and then you could just slide right in and the three of us would fuck the night away."*

*Eli Cohen: "That may have been on my wish list, yes."*

*Taylor Harding: "Solid plan. Not gonna happen."*



*Eli Cohen: "Okay. Okay. But what if it did?"*

Scene 17 illustrates how men see women. Eli is good at taking advantage of the circumstances he uses to fulfill his own lust. In the scene in scene 17, Eli seems to kindly let Taylor and Jade relax in the jacuzzi, which then after the atmosphere feels intimate Eli easily enters Taylor and Jade's intimate atmosphere. This illustrates that men with their ingenuity use it for their own pleasure, to satisfy their sexual desires by taking advantage of the situation.

She was not created merely to be the solace of man, and the sexual should not destroy the human character Wollstonecraft (2023). Wollstonecraft issued the statement because she saw around her that women were always considered as the solace of male sexuality. Eli's actions that take advantage of Taylor and Jade's inattentiveness to satisfy their lust tend to be seen as natural or even as a right that men have over women. In a patriarchal culture, men are perceived to have control and dominance over women, so they feel authorized to use their power and advantages to fulfill their sexual needs without considering women's will or consent. This view ignores Taylor and Jade's individual rights and reduces women to mere objects of male sexual gratification. In this context, a Taylor and Jade's unconsciousness is seen as an opportunity for Eli to exploit and control women according to their wishes. This patriarchy scene indicated as reinforcing male dominance in societies that are still based on traditional gender norms.

### **Female Characters Resistance to Patriarchal Culture in *Why Women Kill* (2019)**

In its resistance based on feminism thoughts by Mary Wollstonecraft and Helene Cixous, the depiction of resistance to patriarchal culture from television series *Why Women Kill* (2019) that can be analyzed is that: women are rejecting to traditional rules for being educated women; having dreams and jobs; independent for being independent from role of men; being independent in defending herself; being independent in making life decisions; and rebellion against control of men.

#### ***Scene 1: Being Educated Women***



Figure 4 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 1: Taylor Wins Argument over Saul (00:06:30 – 00:07:12)

*Saul: "I've been in construction 40 years. No one's ever questioned my integrity. And until you can speak my language, you're just gonna have to trust me, sweetie."*



*Taylor: "I may not understand construction, but I do understand contracts. Especially the one you signed, which clearly states that, I don't have to pay you unless the work is completed to my satisfaction. And that means, for the purpose of this, and all future conversations, my dick is bigger than yours. Am I speaking your language now, Saul?"*  
*Saul: "Yes."*

From the scene above, Taylor as a woman is dominating the situation of the scene. Taylor was an independent woman that she could do everything by herself and all her desires must be satisfied. She also worked as a lawyer so that she experienced full access to education and earned enough of knowledge. As existed from scene 1 where Taylor argued with Saul, a man as the architect of Taylor's new house. Taylor was dissatisfied with Saul's work because the window was not installed where she wanted. Regarding Taylor as a dominant woman, Saul, who had worked in his field for 40 years, finally lost in an argument with Taylor as a woman.

In the society, women tend to obey men for everything in life. This is due to the image of men in society as a powerful and mighty party while the image of women as a powerless and weak party and they not equal with men and should not resist to men's power. Therefore, women tend to follow rules of men. However, this social norm is resisted by the existence of resistance to the patriarchal culture in character of Taylor. Having full access to education made Taylor an educated woman in that she fought for herself as a woman through the situation she faced with the man character, Saul, through her knowledge. Men and women must be educated, in a great degree, by the opinions and manners of the society they live in (Wollstonecraft, 2023). The scene is indicated that women and men have the same capacity to think, the differences are that women have limited access to education that made them backward in terms of thinking because of the lack of knowledge they could earn. In her case, Taylor as a woman had a strong will and she could stand her ground because she has educated before and she knows she is not at her fault and deserves her rights to install the window at the place she wanted to. This resistance to patriarchal culture occurs because Taylor has access to education that makes her aware and brave of the rights she should get. By not giving up and 'fighting' Saul using her intelligence, Taylor's behavior reflected resistance to patriarchal culture.

### ***Scene 2: Having Dreams and Jobs***



Figure 5 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 1: Taylor Arrives at Home Late Night (00:12:12)

Resistance to the traditional norm can be found in scene 2, in Taylor character. The scene explains that Taylor just got home from work late at night and found her husband relaxing in the living room while watching television. This can happen because in an increasingly advanced age with more advanced thinking, Taylor as a woman can easily pursue her career dreams which eventually makes her equal to men who have positions out there. The character of Taylor illustrated resistance to patriarchal culture by becoming a career woman, a woman who focuses on pursuing her career and dreams. As stated from Sugiono (2023) that women should not feel pressured to conform to traditional gender roles and expectations, and should instead be able to pursue their own individual ambitions and interests. That working is depicted as something that only can be done by men, because women in patriarchal norms are limited to be required doing labor and things inside the house. Women who dream and work are often seen as unacceptable to the social and cultural norms that require them to focus on their traditional roles as housewives and caregivers of children.

Patriarchal cultures assume that women should not have broad ambitions or dreams, as it is perceived that they already have enough to do by taking care of the household and family. Taylor who strives to achieve her dreams and pursue careers may face stricter judgment and greater criticism from society, especially of how they balance her professional career and motherly roles. She seeks the freedom to pursue her own dreams and ambitions, without being bound by the traditional roles expected of them. The character of Taylor resisted to the norm constructed in patriarchy by having a job and settle career. This reflects a resistance to patriarchal culture and shows that women have the same potential as men in various fields, including in education, work, and personal development.

### ***Scene 3: Being Independent from Role of Men***



Figure 6 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 3: Taylor Argues over Eli in front of their House (00:34:18 – 00:34:33)

In patriarchal cultures, men are seen as the economic leaders of the family. They are expected to have successful careers and generate enough income to meet the financial needs of the family, such as food, the house, and education. This view also reinforces the idea of male financial independence. Men are often pressured to be the backbone of the family and demonstrate their ability to meet the family's financial needs as a sign of their strength and independence. Women, on the other hand, are considered incapable of being

the head of the family like men and tend to do the work inside the house which is considered easier.

This stereotype is resisted in scene 3. Taylor as woman who takes the lead role in providing for the family's financial needs reject gender stereotypes that assign property ownership and financial responsibility to men. Wollstonecraft (2023) argued if women are by nature inferior to men, their virtues must be the same in quality, if not in degree, or virtue is a relative idea; consequently their conduct should be founded on the same principles, and have the same aim. It means that men and women possess the similar virtues in terms of quality, that women can be anything that society think men can be, just not in biological fields. Taylor demonstrates that women also have the capacity to generate sufficient income to support their families. By taking the lead role in providing for the family, Taylor asserts that her contribution to the household economy is of equal value to that of men. She rejects the idea that women's roles are limited to domesticity and caring for children. Through the scene in scene 30, Taylor demonstrates that property ownership and financial responsibility are not necessarily related to gender, and that every individual has the potential to contribute significantly to their family's finances. Taylor, as a woman, against to the patriarchal culture for being independent in finance from man.

#### ***Scene 4: Being Independent in Defending Herself***



Figure 7 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 4: Taylor Fights Duke Using Her Intelligence (00:09:25)

The scene in scene 4 shows a fight between Taylor and Eli versus Duke. Duke, who was a powerful and abusive character, had previously tried to be fought by Eli (the blue t-shirt guy) but Eli's resistance failed to drive Duke out of his home. Then Taylor came to drive out Duke and succeeded. All Taylor did was report it to the authorities and make sure Duke went to jail again. This trick succeeded in Taylor's execution because Duke, who had a big weight, was unlikely to be afraid of physical resistance more than someone who was not his equivalent. However, Taylor is good at bringing the law to solve the problem.

This can happen because Taylor is an educated woman, so when there's something she feels wrong and harmful to herself, she can fight it through the law. It's because Taylor despite losing physically to her opponent, but Taylor is an independent woman so she knows that physical play isn't the way out and everyone's going to lose. Then, Taylor

thinks of completing a legal exit by threatening to be the authorities by ensuring the opponent goes to jail. Wollstonecraft (2023) stated that weakness may excite tenderness, and gratify the arrogant pride of man; but the lordly caresses of a protector will not gratify a noble mind that pants for and deserves to be respected. That women do not have to pretend to be weak in front of men to show their tenderness, on the contrary, women who act like this will only feed the ego of men. Although sometimes positioned as weaker in gender stereotypes, many women have great autonomy and self-power. Awareness of human rights, and an understanding of gender equality can empower women to reject violence and demand their right to live free from oppression. This is the resistance of a patriarchal culture where a woman is good at facing a situation that makes her should defend herself.

### ***Scene 5: Being Independent in Making Life Decisions***



Figure 8 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 7: An Open Marriage in a Relationship (00:11:30 – 00:11:38)

*Taylor Harding: "This is a three-day event at a hotel in San Diego. They have workshops, lectures, all designed to help people who are new to the polyamorous lifestyle."*

A household relationship tends to have men as the highest position, that is where men have the right to control and authority to regulate the content of a household, including how the concept will be lived by a householder. On the scene 5, Taylor elaborated on the concept of polyamory to be applied to her household life, where one can have more than one romantic partner. The concept of a household like this is clearly very opposite to the concept of the household in general consisting of a husband and a wife. The concept of polyamory opens up an opportunity for everyone to explore their sexuality without having to feel the bond of monogamous marriage. In Cixous' thought from Al-Mahfedi (2019) women should take the power away from oppressive structures and bringing about changes that push towards equality and justice for women. In this case is how women inscribe themselves with their sexuality. Cixous also highlights the importance of redefining the female body. She emphasized that women's bodies should not be seen as objects to be controlled or used by men, but as a source of power and freedom that allows women to take control of their own lives and destinies. With modern progress, Taylor as a woman has the right to explore the concept of marriage that she thinks would fit her life. In this concept of marriage, there is no longer any control of the male side since each party is free to decide with whom and how the relationship will

proceed. Taylor and her concept of polyamory is an opposition to a patriarchal culture, that she is free to explore her sexuality by choosing her way of life by eradicating the traditional concept of marriage.

### ***Scene 6: Rebellion Against Control of Men***



Figure 9 *Why Women Kill* (2019) Episode 2: Sheila Tells Beth Ann How Women Gain Power Over Men (00:26:44 – 00:26:48)

According to Batular (2019) men with their penis have power over women as we called it phallocentrism. Cixous emphasizes on how this culture defines femininity and power through the penis, which becomes a symbol of male power and dominance. Cixous highlights that phallocentrism in patriarchal culture defines power through the penis. This means that men with their penis are considered to have power over women, as the penis is considered a symbol of male power and dominance. Cixous encourages women to write about themselves and their sexuality, to take back power over their bodies from the phallocentric patriarchal culture that has managed to control them all these years.

The patriarchal view is that men profit from women's bodies to gain sexual gratification for themselves. However, Sheila's thoughts in scene 6 stated that the opposite is true, that it is women who have power over men, that women should be able to use their power, which in this context is their body, as a tool to gain power over men. This reflects how women can challenge and reverse patriarchal norms that define femininity and power through the penis. Scene 65 is in line with Cixous' idea that women should be able to take charge of what is rightfully theirs, their bodies.

## **CONCLUSION**

From all patriarchal culture that almost existed in every aspect of life makes women's rights neglected and forgotten. Patriarchal culture depicted in *Why Women Kill* (2019) is making women backward and feeling disadvantaged. Women then realize that they are unhappy because there are things that limit their pleasure, it is the negative side of patriarchal culture. Women fight against this culture, as the analysis of *Why Women Kill* (2019) illustrates the rejection of women to the traditional roles for being educated and having dreams and jobs, being independent from the role of men, being independent in defending herself, being independent in making life decisions, and rebellion against the control of men. From here, the main point of women's problems lies in the patriarchal culture. Thus, the resistance to patriarchy is a big reason for the term "*Why Women Kill*".

Only fellow women are considered to be able to understand the suffering between one woman and another, which causes the reason why a woman can “kill”. The result of the analysis of the question of why do women kill is because women want to escape their limitations and shackles by killing cultures and norms that limit and harm women themselves.

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