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**LITERARY ANALYSIS OF KRISTIN HANNAH'S THE GREAT ALONE: A SOCIAL  
FEMINIST APPROACH TO GENDER DYNAMICS IN 1970s ALASKA**

**Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Bachelor's in English.**

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### Abstract

This study explores the gender roles and power dynamics in Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone* through a social feminist lens, focusing on women's social and cultural expectations in 1970s Alaska. The research addresses the underrepresentation in feminist literary criticism of gender dynamics in remote communities. The researcher aims to understand how the novel reflects the struggles women faced in this specific context and how it compares to contemporary feminist perspectives, to highlight any shifts in gender relations. The study examines key female characters to determine how their roles align with or challenge the traditional gender norms of the 1970s. Additionally, power dynamics between men and women are analyzed using the feminist movement of the time and are compared to present-day feminist ideals. To achieve this, the researcher also explores how language and narrative structures contribute to establishing these ideals. The methodology uses close textual analysis in feminist theory and historical context to understand the novel's portrayal of gender relations.

*The Great Alone* reflects the strain between traditional patriarchal expectations and emerging feminist ideals, especially in isolated environments. The novel shows the struggles of women for autonomy and empowerment within an oppressive family structure which mirrors other conflicts of the era. Comparing these dynamics to contemporary perspectives reveals a great step forward in gender equality, even though it is important to remember that similar challenges remain today in remote and conservative places.

## Resumen

Este estudio explora los roles de género y las dinámicas de poder en *The Great Alone* de Kristin Hannah a través de un enfoque feminista social, centrándose en las expectativas sociales y culturales de las mujeres en Alaska durante la década de 1970. La investigación aborda la subrepresentación en la crítica literaria feminista de las dinámicas de género en comunidades remotas. El objetivo del estudio es entender cómo la novela refleja las luchas que enfrentaron las mujeres en este contexto y cómo se compara con las perspectivas feministas contemporáneas, destacando posibles cambios en las relaciones de género. El estudio examina a los personajes claves femeninos para determinar cómo sus roles se alinean o desafían las normas de género tradicionales de los años 70. Además, se analizan las dinámicas de poder entre hombres y mujeres usando como referencia el movimiento feminista de la época, y se compara con los ideales feministas actuales. Para lograr esto, también se investiga como el lenguaje y las estructuras narrativas contribuyen a establecer estos ideales. La metodología utiliza un análisis textual detallado, apoyado en la teoría feminista y el contexto histórico para comprender la representación de las relaciones de género en la novela.

*The Great Alone* refleja la tensión entre las expectativas patriarcales tradiciones y los ideales feministas emergentes, especialmente en entornos aislados. La novela muestra las luchas de las mujeres por la autonomía y el empoderamiento dentro de una estructura familiar opresiva, que refleja los conflictos sociales de la época. Comparar estas dinámicas con las perspectivas contemporáneas revela un gran avance en la igualdad de género, aunque es importante recordar que desafíos similares persisten en lugares remotos y conservadores actualmente.

## Chapter I

### Introductory Framework

Throughout the decades, novels have been used as a lens through which society can examine social and cultural trends such as roles of gender and power dynamics. Literature has the unique ability to transport readers into the historical and cultural contexts in which they are set, providing valuable insights into the experiences of marginalized groups, such as women. Feminist literary criticism focuses on examining how women are viewed both in the fictional narrative and the broader societal framework and how these portrayals contribute to or challenge what is accepted as a cultural understanding of gender. This research focuses on Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*, a novel set in 1970s Alaska, and is intended to analyze how language, narrative structure, and character development within a text influence women's social and cultural expectations in that era.

The 1970s was a transformative decade for women in the United States as the feminist movement surged forward, challenging societal norms. This era saw a growing awareness and rejection of traditional gender roles as women began to assert their rights and demand equality in all areas of life. In both public and private spheres, the movement sparked significant shifts in attitudes, increasing opportunities for women in the workplace, education, and politics. The activism of this time laid the groundwork for future generations, forever altering the landscape of gender dynamics. However, in remote areas, the influence of traditional gender roles remained strong, and the lack of access to outside resources and support made it extremely challenging for individuals to break free from these entrenched societal expectations. *The Great Alone* offers a compelling portrayal of a family trying to survive in Alaska's wilderness, with the main female character navigating isolation, complex social structures, and power imbalances within their

family and community. The novel provides a unique opportunity to explore how women and men were expected to conform to traditional gender roles while looking for ways to challenge them in search of empowerment.

While *The Great Alone* has been studied previously for its themes of survival and resilience in harsh environments, there has been an underrepresentation of studies focusing on the gender dynamics between men and women in isolated communities such as the ones described in the book. Furthermore, there is a significant gap in research regarding how language embodies power dynamics in remote areas. This oversight is crucial, as understanding these dynamics can shed light on how they influence the lives of individuals residing in these communities. The interplay between language and power can reveal much about social hierarchies, cultural identities, and the well-being of those living in isolation. This study aims to fill these gaps in understanding how power relations function in isolated and conservative environments while also examining the influence of language on communities. In short, this analysis offers a fresh perspective on *The Great Alone* while adding a comparative analysis of contemporary gender roles, highlighting both the progress made and the persistent struggles in similar isolated communities today.

### **1.1 Problem Statement**

The depiction of gender roles and power dynamics has long been a central theme in feminist literature. However, much of the existing research concentrates on urban environments, frequently sidelining the unique experiences and challenges women who live in remote or isolated regions, face. These overlooked narratives are crucial for comprehensively understanding how gender and power operate across different contexts. *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah takes place in the rugged and isolated landscape of 1970s rural Alaska. The story

unfolds against a backdrop of harsh environmental conditions and a deeply entrenched patriarchal society, where women's roles are heavily influenced by cultural expectations. The novel's portrayal of women navigating these struggles raises significant questions about how gender was defined and challenged in the 1970s in those areas, and why, even though these themes are extremely important, there is a gap in research addressing them.

The problem this research seeks to address is the lack of comprehensive literary analysis on gender roles and power dynamics in geographically and socially isolated settings, particularly surrounding *The Great Alone* and 1970s Alaska. Although, feminist literacy has made significant strides in discussing contemporary gender equality issues over the past decade, a vast landscape of untold stories is still waiting to be uncovered. In particular, the struggles of women living in isolated and patriarchal communities deserve deeper exploration, especially within historical fiction. This novel serves as a profound catalyst, sparking enlightening discussions about the intricate ways societal pressures influence women's identities. It delves deep into women's struggles, illuminating how external expectations can diminish their sense of agency and autonomy. Through its rich narrative and compelling characters, the book invites readers to reflect on the challenges women endure in a world that often seeks to define them.

Apart from this, the study aims to analyze how the author uses language, character development, and narrative structures to portray both the conformity and the resistance against the gender expectations of the 1970s. Through an examination of the key female characters, the research looks to identify how the linguistic and narrative techniques transmit the tension the characters feel to stick to societal expectations while regaining individual agency. In contrast, the male characters will be subjected to an in-depth analysis that focuses on how language is employed to uphold and reinforce their positions of authority. This examination aims to uncover

how the rhetoric surrounding these male figures perpetuates patriarchal norms and maintains the existing power dynamics within the narrative.

This research seeks to expand the scope of analysis by moving beyond the 1970s, focusing on how power relations have evolved. It critically examines these evolving dynamics through the lens of contemporary feminist perspectives, which illuminate the complexities and nuances of gender issues. By weaving together insights from both historical contexts and present-day realities, the study produces a richer, more profound understanding of how past and present gender issues intersect and influence one another, while also explaining the part that language plays in their development. This provides a more comprehensive insight into how social and geographical contexts shape gender roles and the processes through which these roles evolve. By examining these influences, it is easier to appreciate the complexities of gender dynamics, and the varying experiences individuals face based on their surroundings and the language they use. In other words, this research looks to address the underrepresentation of literary analysis regarding gender roles and power dynamics in geographically and socially isolated settings while exploring how language has been used to perpetuate these norms and how it has evolved over time.

## **1.2 Investigation Objectives**

### **1.2.1 General Objective**

To analyze the representation of gender roles and power dynamics in Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*, focusing on how language, character development, and narrative structure reflect

and question 1970s social and cultural expectations of women in Alaska and comparing them to contemporary feminist perspectives.

### **1.2.2 Specific Objectives**

1.2.2.1 To examine the portrayal of female characters in *The Great Alone*, analyzing the linguistic and narrative techniques that convey their alignment with or resistance to 1970s gender norms.

1.2.2.2 To analyze how language and characterization reveal power dynamics between men and women in the novel, considering how these literary elements reflect the feminist struggles of the time.

1.2.2.3 To assess how the novel's portrayal of gender roles and power dynamics interacts with contemporary feminist perspectives, focusing on shifts in narrative style and character dialogue that highlight evolving societal expectations.

### **1.3 Justification of Study**

The purpose of this investigation is to address the gap in feminist literary criticism focusing on how language impacts gender roles in remote patriarchal communities, taking in this case as an example Alaska during the 1970s. This research contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of how language, character development, and narrative structures impact gender roles and power dynamics and their function in isolated settings, enlightening the public on women's challenges in those communities. This is crucial for expanding feminist knowledge to a broader array of experiences and contexts, which is necessary for the evolution of contemporary theories. By welcoming and valuing a wide range of perspectives, feminism evolves into a more inclusive movement that truly represents the rich tapestry of human experiences. This approach acknowledges the intricate realities of

individuals from various backgrounds and cultures, allowing feminism to address the unique challenges and aspirations faced by different communities.

Additionally, this research is crucial in deepening our understanding of how literature depicts women's roles throughout various historical and cultural contexts. It explores how these portrayals reflect societal norms and expectations and women's resistance and defiance against oppressive systems. Through a detailed examination of character development and language, the present paper illuminates the complex way in which women maneuver within oppressive patriarchal structures. It illustrates the strategic compromises that women often make for survival while striving to retain elements of their autonomy and individuality. By delving into these literary techniques, the analysis reveals the profound power of narrative structures in articulating feminist struggles. This exploration is significant for understanding these individual experiences and essential for grasping the broader implications of gender roles throughout history.

This research presents a detailed comparative perspective by exploring the evolution of feminist ideals from the 1970s to the present day and how language has changed over time. As feminism adapts and transforms, a deeper understanding of how gender roles have shifted over the decades reveals significant insights into the ongoing battles for gender equality. This study highlights the remarkable progress that has been achieved, such as advancements in women's rights and increased visibility in various spheres of life, while shedding light on the persistent challenges, such as gender-based violence. By examining these dynamics and how language is utilized, the research contributes valuable information to contemporary discussions about gender relations, offering a foundation for future exploration

into how feminism can more effectively address women's diverse and evolving needs in different cultural and social contexts.

This investigation will benefit scholars in the fields of feminist literary criticism or gender studies by providing an analysis in an unexplored setting. Apart from this, it will interest readers of feminist works, offering a deeper understanding of the social and feminist themes in *The Great Alone*. In brief, this study seeks to empower those who advocate for gender equality in remote and conservative communities. Moreover, by illuminating the challenges many women face in these areas, it aims to raise awareness about their ongoing struggles and promote a greater understanding of their experiences. Through detailed insights and real-life narratives, the study intends to foster dialogue and drive meaningful change for women across the globe.

#### **1.4 Antecedents**

*The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah is a famous semiautobiographical novel that was published on February 6, 2018. This is a stand-alone novel that references in its title the poem *The Shooting of Dan McGrew* by Robert W. Service. The author stated that she was inspired to write the book after her own experiences living in Alaska as a young girl when her family moved there. Apart from that, she carried out extensive research about the ongoing issues of the time to make sure that the story was as truthful as possible, while making sure that Alaska remained one of its main characters. Although, it has received some criticism due to how it incorporates romance with delicate topics such as abuse, the reception it received from women was outstanding, staying for over four weeks in The New York Times Best Sellers list. Thanks to its success, it was announced that the book would become a film adaptation that is currently under development.

As said previously, authors often use their own experiences to inspire their work, not only to make the novel more personal but to ensure that the information they provide represents the reality of the time. Kristen Hannah did just that; she created a space that felt authentic to her experiences while creating stories to empower women who often felt unheard. As said in a thesis by Sofia Segura Hernández in 2023, women are tired of not being heard and not having their stories matter, with society being the main reason why they must push so hard to have agency over their actions.

Literature is a great way to bring awareness to ongoing or past issues. In an investigation by Dayanara Ortega Lopez in 2023, it was highlighted that thanks to books, people can mentally travel to the period the book was set in to understand how it felt to be someone living in those circumstances. Moreover, it can also help to understand how it compares to modern times and see if there are changes in the patterns. This is especially important for minorities, in this case, women. A previous investigation conducted by Andrea Juárez Alpízar in 2019, stated that society has always seen women as minorities, which explains their absence from history stories. Women have always had to choose between social integration or personal freedom, which is one of the topics that consume one of the leading female characters when she decides to stay in an abusive relationship due to fear of her social standing.

In addition, one of the goals of this investigation is to bring awareness of the gaps in research on gender roles and power dynamics in remote areas. As stated previously, provoking interest in these topics will spark conversations that can impact not only how society sees feminist literacy, but also how women are being impacted by social norms being discussed. A thesis conducted by Melissa Aguilar Garcia in 2023, stated that women are

constantly targeted by social labels, no matter the circumstances or how hard they fight it. These labels can impact their lives in many ways, as it can be hard to break from a societal norm that has been ingrained so profoundly. This analysis will not only provide an understanding of Kristin Hannah's work, but also contribute to a broader discussion on gender, power, and feminism.

Lastly, this research expands on how linguistic and narrative structures impact social and cultural expectations. Language is one of the most remarkable ways of communicating and passing on traditions, so sharing stories like *The Great Alone* is essential to continue sharing female experiences. As said by Nicole Gabriela Velásquez Acuña in 2022, female stories, in any media form, are often set aside and not taken into consideration due to patriarchal beliefs that only male authors are real writers. Even when women write, they have to either market it to other women or go under a false male name to be taken seriously. Other times, their stories are erased and rewritten by men who take ownership of their work and their experiences. This is why having novels written by women about women is essential, so that current and future generations are conscious that all stories are worth telling, and all these stereotypes are set in a closeminded view of reality, guided by oppression and misogyny.

### **1.5 Scope**

This project aims to analyze *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah through a feminist lens, highlighting the intricate portrayal of gender roles and the complex power dynamics in 1970s Alaska. By delving into the female characters, the study investigates how their identities and experiences resonate with the traditional gender norms of that time.

Furthermore, it explores how the author utilizes language, character development, and

narrative structure to reflect and challenge the social expectations of the era. Additionally, the project draws comparisons between the historical gender dynamics depicted in the novel and contemporary feminist perspectives. The goal is to reveal the significant shifts in gender relations from the 1970s to the present day, offering insights into the evolution of women's societal roles and the ongoing struggle for equality.

Through a close reading approach, this research delves into key literary techniques, such as narrative style and character dialogue, to reveal the power dynamic between male and female characters. The goal is to focus on how these literary elements portray feminist struggles within a patriarchal society by examining the subtleties of language and characterization. Apart from this, the investigation highlights the multiple degrees of autonomy women can have while living in remote areas, such as Alaska, which provides insights to other women in similar circumstances. The analysis is based on feminist literary theory and historical context to broaden the understanding of how the novel reflects the social struggles of women, especially in isolated communities. The project will not only focus on literary interpretation, but it also aims to contribute to linguistic discussions.

## Chapter II

### Theoretical Framework

This chapter aims to supply a structured foundation for the research by understanding the key concepts and theories behind the research problem. This includes a deep dive into the main concepts of the paper, while also learning about the literary work background. The main objective of this analysis is to provide a clear and coherent exploration of the novel. This will be achieved by closely examining the various symbols, motifs, and themes woven throughout the narrative. Additionally, it is essential to consider the plot structure and the author's background, as these elements significantly influence the work's meaning and context.

In addition, the theoretical framework provides a critical overview of the theories used in this research to understand how *The Great Alone* tackles gender roles and power dynamics in isolated communities from a feminist approach. This investigation explores four interconnected theories that elucidate the historical and contemporary significance of the feminist movement. These theories not only shed light on the context within the book, but they also highlight the ongoing relevance of feminism today. By examining these frameworks, the researcher can better understand the motivations behind the feminist movement and its vital role in advocating for gender equality and social justice. Moreover, the research delves into a contrasting perspective that challenges the themes presented in the novel, which provides a clear rationale for the position taken in the investigation.

## **2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches**

This section explores and introduces the key literary theories, such as social feminism, Intersectionality, Cultural Hegemony, Patriarchal bargain, and Post-feminism, and uses them as lenses through which the researcher can examine how the gender dynamics and power structures work together to impact the language. It also analyzes essential concepts to have a deeper understanding of the topic. Lastly, it covers the primary approach used to examine the novel, the feminist approach. By defining these key concepts, the researcher aims to establish a strong framework for investigating the book's depictions of language use, character development, and narrative structure.

### **2.1.1 Literature and Theory Definitions**

#### **2.1.1.1 Definition of literature**

One of the key concepts to discuss is literature. Anyone reading a piece of written work should understand the meaning of the term, and for most people, it seems evident without needing to learn its literal definition. However, when asked, many struggle to articulate its meaning. As noted by John M. Ellis in *The Theory of Literary Criticism: A Logical Analysis* in 2022 (p.1), even critics and theorists recognize the concept of literature but often find it challenging to provide a clear definition. This lack of precise understanding leaves the literary world at disadvantage, resulting in fewer theoretical inquiries and analyses that could deepen our understanding of the topic and its various subcategories.

Moreover, one definition was established by Kelly J Mays in *The Norton Introduction to Literature* in 2016 (p.4), which says three main genres of creative writing form literature: poems, fictional stories, and plays. This definition also ignores other types of written work that could

easily be considered literature, such as essays. Nonetheless, the main difference is that literature often refers to imaginative writing, and anything that falls away from that is not considered part of the group. However, most written work seeks to influence and transport the reader.

As previously said, literature is so much more than just written words; it is an experience that moves readers through different stages of emotions while following their imagination into a new reality created by the author. “A book affords matter for deep meditation” (*Lectures on the History of Literature*, Carlyle, 1892, p.1). The latter explains another key point: how literature can guide the readers into fostering sympathy by helping them gain perspective. “The study of literature can foster independent critical thought, making us realize that our world could be other than it is” (*Studying Literature in*, Rainsford, 2014, p. 130). In brief, defining literature remains a challenge as many experts vary in their definitions. Nonetheless, the primary aim will always be to inspire readers to continue reading and encourage writers to keep writing.

#### **2.1.1.2 Definition of theory**

Another important concept to consider is “theory.” It has similar connotations as literature, since most philosophers have different meanings depending on the field of study. As explained by Herve Corvellec in *What is theory? Answers from the Social and Cultural Sciences* in 2013 (p.14), theories are used in multiple areas of academia; they are a way of redesigning and reimagining endless possibilities in the areas of study. Asking the question “What is theory?” can result in multiple responses; as the concept is not static, it evolves and varies depending on the field of study. Theories can be influenced by advancements in knowledge, shifts in cultural perspectives, and developments in related disciplines. Consequently, the answer may differ based on the context, whether it pertains to science, philosophy, social sciences, or another area of inquiry.

Individuals consistently utilize various theories throughout their lives to understand why certain events occur. This process often leads to the development of hypotheses, which are proposed explanations based on observations and reasoning. While there may be numerous interpretations of theory, people tend to have an inherent understanding of it, even if they struggle to articulate that understanding in precise terms. In the book *Meanings of theory: Clarifying Theory through Typification* by Jörgen Sandberg and Mats Alvesson in 2020 (p.4), the authors explain that although the definition may vary in terms of its details, they all converge that the primary goal of “theory” is to explain phenomena.

### **2.1.1.3 Definition of Literary Theory**

Understanding the concepts of "literature" and "theory" helps to clarify what "literary theory" entails. One might assume that it simply combines the act of theorizing with the topic of literature, and while that is true, it is also a more complex idea. “Literary theory is the practical reading of literature that supports various interpretations of any literary work. It helps readers to understand different critical analyse” (*International Journal of Research in English*, Bhagat, 2024, p. 62). In summary, literary theory assists in the analysis and critique of written work, which helps not only readers but writers as well, as it helps to create a rounded point of view of the work.

When undertaking a literary analysis, the writer is tasked with delving into the intricate choices made by the author and offering a thoughtful interpretation of the unfolding events within the narrative. Literary works can stir profound emotions in readers, with authors often striving to provoke specific feelings to fulfill their artistic intentions. In this endeavor, the writer of the literary analysis must maintain an objective stance, articulating a well-reasoned argument

that defends the author's creative decisions and shows the themes and nuances present in the source material, educating the reader.

### **2.1.2 Literary Theories**

Before explaining the literary theories behind this research, it is crucial to recognize that women's history in society and literature is vast and complex. It reflects how society continues to evolve and adapt to new ideas and roles. In the classical era, women had domestic roles with minimal legal or social power, which sadly can only be seen through the male perspective, since female writers were mostly absent. In the medieval period, women continued with similar roles; however, more writers started advocating women's agency. During the Renaissance and Enlightenment eras, women had slightly more power since if they were in the elite, they had access to education. In written work, they became muses with very few creators. Alas, these eras do not allow readers to know the reality of women at that time since "the only who" counted" were those whose lives, roles, and actions were accorded historical significance by standards made by and appropriated by men" (Re-presenting the Past, Gallagher, Lubelska, & Ryan, 2013, p. 2). This highlights how historical narratives have been shaped by patriarchal perspectives, often silencing women's experiences and contributions in literature and society.

A significant change happened in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the Industrial Revolution and early feminist movements, which challenged traditional roles and advocated for women's rights. Women started becoming prominent authors, such as Jane Austen. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, women gained the right to vote and started to work, and many traditional norms started to be questioned. Feminist criticism began emerging to analyze further how patriarchy shapes literature, with authors such as Virginia Woolf shining light on women's struggles. Moreover, during the second wave of feminism in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, more controversial topics came up

with the inclusion of reproductive rights, seen in literary novels as they explored intersectionality, systematic oppression, and women's identity. As said in the book *The History of British Women's Writing, 1970-Present: Volume Ten* by Mary Eagleton in 2016 (p.4), even if the writer does not consider themselves a feminist, they are influenced by feminist movements. The latter is also the case in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where conversations have expanded even more, and globalization has allowed for a more open representation of women's voices. Female authors are diverse and touch upon multiple subjects and genres, bringing empowerment to women all over the world.

#### **2.1.2.1 Social feminist theory**

The history of the social feminist theory started in the 1970s, hand in hand with the Marxist movement. As explained by Cynthia Grant Browman (2023), in the 1970s, the social feminist movement had to fight several movements, one of them being the liberal feminist, as they mostly focused on benefiting white middle-class women. It is essential to understand that feminism has had many meanings throughout the decades. However, the main idea remains, “it is a belief that men and women, girls and boys, should be treated equally (and a recognition that, at the moment, we're not)” (*Feminism Is...*, Gay, 2019, p. 5). As explained in the investigation done by Browman, the social feminist theory investigates how social and economic structures shape gender roles and power dynamics, and how these are connected to patriarchy and the societal forces going around. In this section of the chapter, the researcher will discuss how this theory has influenced the societal structures on gender roles, the relationship between power dynamics and feminist resistance in isolated communities, and how feminist perspectives have evolved from the 1970s until today.

*The Great Alone* explores societal structures on gender roles imposed on women, especially those in remote areas such as Alaska. One example of this is the main character, Leni, who is a teenage girl who is put in a difficult position as she tries to justify the abuse of her father and save her mother. She takes on a caretaker role in her family to deal with dysfunctionality, while being imposed a role by society as a kid without power in a male-dominated world. As described by Isabella Maire Alvarado Jaen (2022), women throughout history have continued to gain more liberty; however, the roles that defined them continue to restrict them unconsciously. The latter goes hand in hand with how a patriarchal society profits from these roles by selling the idea of traditional gender. It is fundamental to recognize that a patriarchal society does not benefit either gender; it does help one more than the other, but in the end, both are losing as men feel the responsibility to be providers and comply with capitalism, and women are forced to be homemakers.

As previously stated, gender roles are one of the themes covered in the novel alongside power dynamics, which is “the capacity of individuals or groups to influence others. This influence may manifest itself in various forms, including control over resources, social networks, or emotional connections” (*Behavioral Analysis*, Bozdemir, 2024, p. 444). *The Great Alone* uses male dominance to shape not only the family dynamics, but also how society functions, which is a clear reflection of the reality of the time. The book’s depiction of Ernt Allbright, Leni’s father, reflects how society views a male chauvinist, particularly in small towns. He was controlling over his family and had a sense of superiority over everybody who thought differently than him, which mirrored traditional roles of the time.

A study done by Silvia Lorena Fernandez Garrote in 2023, talked about how, in remote areas where feminism takes longer to take hold, these types of power dynamics make women

fear for their lives and have miserable experiences while dealing with men. Despite this, the main female characters, Leni and Cora, Leni's mother, had great moments of female resistance by gradually pushing back against all the control and oppression they had for years. Having the representation of resistance is crucial for the feminist narrative in often forgotten areas, as oppressive environments. This also brings up an important conversation and helps those in similar situations to defy patriarchal norms and feel empowered to fight for their freedom, regardless of their isolation.

Nowadays, even with the advances of the feminist movements many rural areas still have engrained many patriarchal structures due to their lack of accessibility to resources. They are less exposed to progressive movements, which make it difficult to unlearn old ideologies. Often, in these areas, women are still seen as stay-at-home moms, while men are the ones in charge. A great example is Ernt Allbright's authority over his family's choices and stern resistance to any type of challenge from them or anybody else. In a thesis by Katherine Beatriz Romero Lima (2022), it is explained that, even with advances in feminism, progress is still limited to some regions of the world. This excludes places like Alaska, which are so remote and isolated that new ideologies can take decades to arrive, and even more for the citizens to apply them. Moreover, even if social feminism takes longer to make changes, society can use it to have a deeper understanding and empathize with women in these settings.

In addition, by having established some key elements of the social feminist theory in the novel *The Great Alone*, it is easy to see how societal structures shape rigid gender roles, especially in isolated communities where patriarchal dynamics are deeply settled. The novel demonstrates both the challenges and the feminist resistance that emerges, showcasing the evolution of gender roles since the 1970s. Social feminism has incorporated other theories, such

as intersectionality. The research will delve deeper into how various social identities intersect to further complicate women's struggles in settings such as the one described in the book. This next topic will enhance our understanding of how overlapping forms of oppression can shape women's experiences.

### **2.1.2.2 Intersectionality theory**

The intersectionality theory has been used in various contexts, from academics to social justice, to explain why discrimination and privilege happen. As examined by Merrit Stueven (2021), intersectionality examines how overlapping identities, such as gender, race, or class, interact to create unique experiences for individuals. Women have been impacted by it as they are a marginalized group, with a combined group of factors that work together to strengthen bigotry. In this section, the researcher will discuss how the intersection of gender and family roles reinforces women's oppression, how the relationship between gender and class in remote areas impacts women's agency, and the impact that intersectionality has left in feminist movements since the 1970s. It is important to note that agency is defined as "the capacity to make decisions about one's own life and act on them to achieve a desired outcome, free of violence, retribution or fear" (*Voice and Agency*, Klugman, et al., 2014, p. 1). This definition highlights the importance of autonomy in feminist discourse, underscoring how systemic barriers in class, gender, and geography can restrict women's agency.

Feminism plays a crucial role in intersectionality theory, making it essential to understand the various types of feminism. The first type is liberal feminism, which advocates for gender equality within the existing legal and political systems. Second, there is Marxist or socialist feminism that analyzes women's oppression by looking at class and economic systems. Third, radical feminism examines patriarchy as the cause of women's oppression and challenges.

Fourth, ecofeminism connects environmental justice with the fight against patriarchy. Fifth, there is cultural feminism, which values traditional feminine traits and celebrates the differences between genders. Sixth, black feminism focuses on the experiences of black women who face not only sexism but also racism and how they overcome it. Lastly seven, post-modern feminism commemorates individuality and having the right to choose and disputes the narratives about women's oppression. Recognizing its category is essential, but the reader must also know why feminism is needed. Haradhan Mohajan explained the importance (2022), "Feminism explains and suggests directions for the change in social and environmental factors; tries to highlight the proposed interventions for women's intrapersonal and interpersonal concerns."

In the novel, gender roles are set by patriarchal expectations placed on women as wives, mothers, and caregivers. These roles were set for women all over the globe; however, a couple were already breaking the status quo. Nevertheless, for isolated communities such as Alaska, those roles were set in stone due to the lack of external influence of the feminist movements. Cora, the mom, was expected to support her husband no matter the physical and psychological abuse she received while also protecting her daughter. Women in remote areas often stick to these expectations as a way of survival, since they do not have access to support or a community, and it is easier to show a united front for people to visualize the family. As said by Fanny Rojas Vargas (2023), to understand a family, it is fundamental to know its roles, limits, and dynamics. Unfortunately, even today, women still battle with the idea of breaking up a family unit when going through abuse. Feminist movements have made significant advances in changing the norms of society, as many women can redefine the roles they want to fit into. Nonetheless, more changes need to happen for those still living in patriarchal communities with traditional expectations.

As previously stated, living in a remote setting magnifies the challenges faced by women in every way possible. Isolation amplifies the power imbalances in society by restricting women from access to education, employment, and community, as they rely heavily on males for survival. This is the case of Leni, who misses school or work due to housework imposed by her dad. Additionally, economic problems can severely impact women and their ability to break free. In *The Great Alone*, Leni and Cora cannot escape initially due to their monetary dependence on Ernt. Sadly, this is very common for lower-class women, where class restricts their chances of leaving abusive relationships. In the novel, the combination of monetary struggles and isolation creates a situation where women are financially and physically confined. Compared to urban regions, women have more access to resources that can help them overcome their economic restraints.

Moreover, the second wave of feminism in the 1970s, often centered around middle-class white urban women, focusing on reproductive rights and workplace equality, which left behind all those women living in marginalized rural communities. As explained by Claudia Eurice Morales Mairena (2022), most of the feminist movement in the 1970s was led by privileged urban women who fought for rights that would directly benefit them without thinking about what would benefit others. The benefit for women living in rural areas would come later in the movement, and eventually, the changes seen thanks to feminism would arrive in all communities. It is important to note that intersectionality highlighted these gaps, and it has made identifying them more manageable for the contemporary feminist movement. By acknowledging the intersections, feminism can become more inclusive to truly reflect the reality of being a woman.

In addition, exploring gender, family roles, and class through intersectionality reveals how deep oppression goes in remote communities. The analysis of *The Great Alone* shows how

these intersecting factors limit women's agency and highlight the ongoing feminist struggles. Moreover, intersectional perspectives have been shaping the evolution of the feminist movement since the 1970s, which is the reason for a modern, more inclusive approach to gender equality. As the research transitions to the next topic, cultural hegemony theory, it is essential to note that even though both theories are very different, they can be seen as tools for understanding how hegemonic ideologies operate. While Cultural hegemony shows the societal norms that shaped women's experiences, intersectionality reveals how these norms are experienced differently depending on the individual's intersecting identities.

### **2.1.2.3 Cultural hegemony theory**

Today, the theory of cultural hegemony is as relevant as ever. Before moving forward, hegemony is defined as “a relationship in which one consents to the leadership of another because it is beneficial” (*Cultural Hegemony in the United States*, Artz & Ortega Murphy, 2000, p. 2). Across various platforms, from politicians to social media, individuals have been shaped to adopt certain viewpoints. This influence often leads to a narrow-minded way of thinking that leaves little room for diverse opinions. This theory was established by Antonio Gramsci, and as described by James Martin (2023), it analyzes how dominant ideologies perpetuate social norms and maintain power structures. This is something that can be seen through social institutions that allow third parties enough power to influence other people's values, ideas, behaviors, and even norms. In this section of the chapter, the researcher will analyze the role of cultural institutions in reinforcing gender norms, why patriarchal ideologies dominate isolated communities, and how cultural hegemony helps to explain why remote areas tend to make less progress in achieving gender equality.

Cultural institutions have done a lot to promote and normalize the traditional gender norms set for men and women. Institutions such as family, media, and education have guided society into believing that each gender should be labeled to a specific set of roles. In *The Great Alone*, women are seen as submissive while men are dominant, which reflects the traditional family structure of the time. Hegemony takes more than cultural institutions for it to take place. Moreover, as explained by Marilyn Quesada Jiménez (2021), it needs consensus and power from the dominant social classes. Hegemony is established to benefit those in control, which can be seen by the way the media displays women as passive, while men are the leaders. Apart from this, education also has a significant role as it lacks representation of female figures throughout history, which often remain hidden to continue the above narrative.

As said before, hegemony is influenced by patriarchal ideologies. In the book *The Great Alone*, these ideologies are ingrained harder due to the level of isolation Alaska presents. Best explained by Silvia Lorena Fernández Garrote (2023), patriarchal behaviors can vary from having absolute control over women to small unconscious biases. One common misconception is that women cannot hold patriarchal ideologies because they are victims. However, anyone living in a patriarchal society can have patriarchal thoughts and behaviors. In the novel, this is often represented by Cora, as she idealizes traditional gender roles and encourages Leni to do the same, reinforcing the idea that women should adapt to male abuse rather than fight it. Moreover, in this setting, the absence of feminist movements limits women from knowing how to break free from confinement and societal expectations. This environment makes sure the patriarchal structure keeps power, leaving women at a disadvantage.

Furthermore, cultural hegemony helps to explain the slow progress of remote areas in achieving gender equality, as it demonstrates how dominant ideologies are kept through different

social institutions. Remote areas have issues disengaging from these ideologies, since they usually have been passed on from generation to generation, which means that the idea of change is often not well received. Additionally, they have limited exposure to diverse perspectives since their population usually remains the same. In *The Great Alone*, Alaska reinforces gender norms by having men as leaders who hunt and protect their families while women stay back, caring for the children and the household. There are some instances of resistance, for example, in the character of Marge Birdsall, who is a business owner and single woman who moved to Alaska after the death of her sister due to domestic abuse. She is a pivotal character for Leni and Cora since she reflects what a free woman can do while living surrounded by patriarchal norms.

Moreover, through this analysis, the investigation reveals how cultural institutions, such as media, education, and family, can emphasize patriarchal ideologies and traditional gender norms in isolated communities. These areas are incredibly subjective to cultural hegemony since change is slow, and the resistance to feminist ideals is strong due to the fear of altering the status quo. Cultural hegemony explains why these remote areas struggle with progress toward gender equality as power structures have adapted through the years to maintain control of the main groups that would benefit from it. Nowadays, cultural hegemony is still present in isolated communities. Even though there have been significant changes in how women are treated and the roles that are assigned to them, there is still a lot of progress toward equality. At this time, as the thesis transitions to the next concept of the patriarchal bargain, the goal will be to identify how women navigate patriarchal systems while making compromises to gain power and autonomy in a world made to diminish them.

#### 2.1.2.4 Patriarchal bargain

Women throughout the ages have needed to sacrifice for survival. Through the subtle modification of their traits and the careful development of strategies to combat oppression, they acquired the necessary skills to navigate the myriad challenges imposed by a patriarchal society. Patriarchy is “the social systems controlled largely by adult men” (*Tackling Rape Culture: Ending Patriarchy*, Jordan, 2023, p. 57). They recognized that even small changes in their behavior or appearance could empower them. As explained by Xiaoman ZHAO (2021), patriarchal bargains refer to how women negotiate and strategize within patriarchal structures to gain security or benefits while maintaining their subordination. The patriarchal bargains are set to maintain male dominance, while giving women enough power to make small choices to resist these constraints. In this section, the researcher will delve into how women in *The Great Alone* made compromises to navigate patriarchal systems, explore the use of patriarchal bargain as a survival strategy in isolated communities and its consequences, and compare how patriarchal bargain has transformed since the 1970s.

In *The Great Alone*, the female characters must navigate a patriarchal society by making strategic compromises. Leni, for example, pretended to adhere to the traditional role of a compliant daughter under her controlling father, while also finding ways of defining him by disobeying his orders to ensure her mother’s survival and her own. Another example is how Cora complied as a dutiful wife, enduring physical and psychological abuse while finding ways to protect her daughter. In a study by Mariam Mohsin and Jawad Syed (2021), the researchers found that there were often three types of bargains: physical, discursive, and ideological. The physical relates to how women use their bodies to benefit themselves, while the discursive refers to how women interact to make them more “likable.” Lastly, the ideological bargain connects to

how they see their relationship with their family and how it can determine their perception of themselves, as it works as an extension of self and identity. The latter is a clear example of what happens to the female characters in the novel, especially Cora. After living several years with an abusive husband, she started taking on his ideologies and accepting that his actions were appropriate.

Apart from this, the characters in *The Great Alone* also had to deal with isolation. Patriarchal bargains in these regions become essential as a survival strategy. Their lack of external resources and support from gender equality movements hindered their ability to escape these situations, while also emphasizing the importance of conforming to traditional gender norms. Individuals often feel pressured to adhere to these expectations to evade possible repercussions, which can range from psychological distress to physical punishment. Unfortunately, the lack of help creates a cycle for women, as their compliance only grows stronger under male dominance. Bahar Hashemi (2023) said that women engage in patriarchal bargains from their youth to their senior years by learning the “rules of the game.” This is the case for Cora, who was an adult making excuses and sacrifices to keep an abusive man happy, and for Leni, who was a teenager who made excuses for her father due to fear and embarrassment.

Moreover, patriarchal bargains have changed significantly since the 1970s, since women have more roles, which allows them more room for negotiation. In the setting of *The Great Alone*, the bargains were mainly used as a trade-off for safety and stability in a male-dominated world. Nowadays, feminist movements have created more opportunities for women to have roles outside of the household to gain autonomy. Even though, multiple women are still navigating traditional expectations, they now have a chance to balance their independence with the roles

they wish to partake in. As a result of gaining more freedom, the definition of “bargains” has been modified through the years. However, it remains true that the goal is to assert leverage over their lives and protest oppression.

In brief, the analysis of *The Great Alone* unveils how patriarchal bargains are essential survival strategies for many women in remote communities. The female characters in the novel navigate their limited or non-existent agency by making strategic compromises, which sadly reinforce the system they are desperately trying to avoid. In addition, comparing the 1970s to the present reveals how patriarchal bargains have evolved in response to feminist movements. However, it is essential to note that women still experience patriarchal bargains, and even though society has come far, there is a long way to go. As the topic shifts to the following theory of post-feminism, the paper will explore an opposing perspective that critiques the relevance of traditional feminist frameworks.

#### **2.1.2.5 Post-feminism**

In reaction to the previous waves of feminism, a new theory and movement began, focusing on challenging and discrediting the foundations of feminist thought. This movement sought to redefine gender dynamics and raise critical questions about the assumptions underlying feminist ideologies. The theory was called post-feminism, and as described by Sofie Balstad (2023), it critiques traditional feminist frameworks, suggesting that the struggles of the past are no longer relevant today. Furthermore, it perceives feminism as a dynamic movement that continuously evolves and transforms in response to societal changes and pressing issues. This section covers the relationship between post-feminism and traditional feminist frameworks, contrasts it with the patriarchal bargain theory, and analyzes its utilization for commercialization in the present day.

Post-feminism has a lot of differences from traditional feminist frameworks, as it delves into the movement from an individualistic standpoint. Unlike traditional feminist movements that focus on systematic oppression and the challenges of a group, post-feminism centers on each person's issues. It analyzes those as separate experiences from other individuals. The goal is to emphasize agency and empowerment, so that women can escape the previous traditional and patriarchal frameworks. Additionally, there is a belief that the oppressive structures that once prevented women's progress, have been dismantled and are no longer significant obstacles. Many argue that, as a result, equality for women has been successfully achieved across the globe. This perspective often overlooks the ongoing challenges in various areas, suggesting a need for continued awareness and action to pursue true gender equality.

Moreover, post-feminism proclaims that women are no longer confined by any structures and have the freedom to pursue anything, which goes against what was previously seen in the patriarchal bargain theory. This theory criticizes making bargains, as it adds to the notion of women as victims of patriarchal ideals, and how having to negotiate negates their value. Post-feminism reframes gender roles by implying that women can have success without needing to break the system down or learn to play by "the rules." While particular perspectives may hold some truth, the reality remains that women often find themselves having to compromise their own needs and desires to adapt to a world that is primarily shaped by male priorities. This ongoing struggle reflects the societal expectations and norms that frequently prioritize male experiences, leaving women to negotiate their roles and aspirations within these constraints.

Furthermore, the commercialization of post-feminism has played a significant role in transforming a theory into a marketable concept. The "Girl Power" movement utilized media and pop culture to promote its beliefs, while benefiting from consumerism. Post-feminism started

targeting girls and women thanks to the advances in technology that made media more accessible. This helped to popularize post-feminism and bring doubt to the feminist movement, with many often wondering if the movement was over. Apart from this, many marketing tactics began selling an ideal of femininity with various products, lifestyle choices, and even beauty standards. The new perspective of post-feminism redefines empowerment through personal appearance as symbols of independence. In brief, post-feminism downplays the importance of women's autonomy and agency, prioritizing profit over addressing inequality.

In short, while post-feminism offers a focus on individual empowerment, it oversimplifies the complexities of systemic gender oppression by neglecting structural inequalities seen in the traditional feminist frameworks of the social feminist theory. The contrast with patriarchal bargain theory highlights that post-feminism's disregard for compromise within oppressive systems ignores the realities that many women face all over the world, particularly those in remote areas. Moreover, its commercialization minimizes feminist ideals by transforming them into market-driven empowerment tactics, which demonstrates the lack of depth in addressing gender issues. The latter works in conjunction with the institutions that victimize women in cultural hegemony, adding to the ongoing challenges of women. Lastly, post-feminism has been criticized for being mostly oriented toward white, middle-class women, which overlooks other marginalized grounds as part of the intersectionality theory. To sum up, post-feminism pursues individual empowerment without acknowledging or dismantling the multiple obstacles set up by a patriarchal system.

### **2.1.3 Literary Approaches**

A thorough and critical examination of literature is essential for readers to truly comprehend the underlying messages and themes the author attempts to convey. This goes

beyond simply expressing personal enjoyment or displeasure of the work, as readers can uncover richer meanings and insights by analyzing the author's choice of language, narrative structure, character development, and thematic elements. All of this is done with literary approaches and literary criticism. Often, criticism is seen as a negative view of the work, but in reality, “literary criticism relates to comparison, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of literary work. It is not to judge the work as a good one or not but to perform it in a deeper way” (*Approaches to Literary Criticism*, Eka Mulatsih & Suharjanto, 2024, p. 6). Moreover, the literary approaches are the various methods and frameworks used to analyze and evaluate the texts. They offer different perspectives on what a text means, its function, and how it relates to other contexts. A reader who looks to understand a text deeply needs to use both to fully understand the underlying messages of a text and have a comprehensive review.

### **2.1.3.1 Feminist approach**

When looking at *The Great Alone* with a critical eye, one of the literary approaches that can be considered, is the feminist approach. This approach analyzes texts from a gender perspective, highlighting how literature can reinforce patriarchal ideologies and gender roles that disadvantage women. In Hannah’s work, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the complex roles that Leni and Cora play as a daughter and a wife living in an isolated community with deeply ingrained patriarchal views. Additionally, this approach enables readers to understand how literature challenges, reflects, or even supports gender inequalities. It can also facilitate conversations about these issues, reaching audiences who might not otherwise engage with them. This creates a broader network for discussions about identity and agency.

Moreover, there are two main ways of viewing this approach among critics. As explained in the book *Making a Difference: Feminist Literary Criticism* by Gayle Green and Coppelia

Kahn in 1985 (p.1961), some critics look at it as love and admiration for other female writers, which focuses on self-identification and passion for seeing women's stories written by women. While the other is guided by anger, as it reveals the ways women have been oppressed by the patriarchy in novels by male authors. Even if critics have different views, the approach remains to have the same goals. The first objective is to uncover any biases in literary works and to identify how literature has historically influenced women by reinforcing gender norms. Additionally, the aim is to inspire readers through critical analysis to advocate for social justice and promote equality by starting conversations. Finally, it is important to amplify the voices of women who have been overlooked for far too long and to highlight the contributions of female authors who write about women.

To effectively address these targets, the approach examines a range of critical topics that illustrate the interplay between literature and feminism. It provides an in-depth analysis of how language functions within patriarchal societies, exploring the dual role it can play as a tool of both resistance and oppression. Furthermore, this examination delves into the intricate power dynamics at play, particularly how these dynamics intersect with various social identities, such as race, class, and sexuality. This intersectionality is crucial for understanding how privilege is distributed among certain groups while others experience marginalization and hardship.

Moreover, the analysis also takes a historical perspective, probing into the social and cultural contexts of different eras to shed light on the varying treatments of women and men. By examining the historical backdrop, the reader can better appreciate the evolving roles and representations of gender throughout time. Lastly, it is vital to consider the author's personal experiences, as their gender, background, and life experiences, as they can profoundly shape the narratives they create. This aspect emphasizes the importance of authorial intent and perspective

in storytelling, revealing how these factors influence the themes and messages conveyed in their work.

## **2.2 Themes, Symbols and Motifs**

### **2.2.1 Themes**

As many know, a theme is the story's central idea. They can be direct, not explicit, and universal. Moreover, there can be multiple themes in one literary work. They aim to resonate with the audience by creating emotions that relate to their experiences and add depth to the story. Furthermore, they also add meaning beyond what the author is trying to convey. As Yalfer Gomez Guevara said (2021), themes are often based on the author's experience as they use their experiences to create an environment that feels real for the reader. A story loses course without a theme as it encourages reflection while helping readers connect to it and the world. *The Great Alone's* main themes are survival and resilience, domestic violence and family dynamics, and isolation and community, which will be expanded next.

#### **2.2.1.1 Survival and Resilience**

Survival and resilience are seen by many as the central element of *The Great Alone*, not only by how the main characters survive their physical environment in Alaska, but also by how they overcome their psychological abuse. In a physical matter, Alaska's wilderness is unforgiving, and the power of nature quickly teaches the characters that they need to get out of their comfort zone to survive. They learned to hunt, grow food, build, and withstand brutal winters; psychologically, Ernt, the dad, was going through issues adapting after coming back from the war, which led him to be aggressive toward everyone around him, especially his family. His abuse is what started Leni's resistance to protect her mom, Cora. On the other hand, Cora

started seeing Leni as a sign of hope and the reason to look for a better future. Both themes serve as a powerful commentary on how humanity can damage and heal one another.

### **2.2.1.2 Domestic Violence and Family Dynamics**

Another big theme is domestic violence and family dynamics, as the novel explores the abuse a person can get while being portrayed as love. Violence, as said before, is seen in the father, Ernt. This is because after coming back from the war, he manifested violent and abrupt behavior that often resulted in physical and verbal abuse towards his family. On the other hand, the mother, Cora, stayed complacent because of the love she felt for Ernt, trying to forgive him while only perpetuating the cycle of abuse. Moreover, their dynamics play a big role, as readers can see how Leni as a witness who was impacted by abuse as a child and how it affected her viewpoints and relationships. This theme brings light to how these destructive patterns can impact a family and the importance of reaching for help and getting out.

### **2.2.1.3 Isolation and Community**

The last theme seen in *The Great Alone* is isolation and community. This theme ends up shaping the character's development as it guides them to freedom. The novel uses the isolation of Alaska to represent the family struggles, and the vulnerability of the female characters is mirrored in their physical environment. Moreover, there is also emotional isolation, which is also a contract into how the female characters are trying to move away from Ernt for their survival. Despite the isolation, a crucial theme is how the community became indispensable for Leni and Cora. Their friendship, resources, and emotional support empowered them to finally end the abuse and leave. These themes help to highlight how even in the most remote environments, people can make a difference.

### 2.2.2 Symbols

Symbols play a significant role in understanding the big picture when analyzing a text. As Sean Glatch said (2023), symbolism is the use of imagery to represent an idea. Authors use symbols to add a deeper meaning to their stories and can even be gateways to metaphors. They can also provoke emotions to connect the reader and the material more deeply. Not only this, but these emotions often reflect on universal experiences, which makes the story feel more real and the readers can easily relate to it. Moreover, by adding layers, they make the readers think and analyze the meaning behind the author's work, which further improves the reader's comprehension.

### 2.2.3 Motifs

Lastly, a motif is a recurrent element that helps the ongoing themes occur. They can be ideas, phrases, actions, objects, or even images that appear multiple times throughout the novel. Motifs “must embody an amount of concrete images” (*The Question of Literary Motif: Critiquing Zhirmunsky's Notion of Borrowing*, Raj, 2021, p. 172). Motifs play a vital role in shaping the tone of a story by enriching its themes and enhancing its emotional impact. Through repetition of specific motifs, authors encourage readers to engage in critical thinking and reflection. As previously noted, motifs support themes and symbols. While they may resemble symbols, motifs are repeatable and can emphasize moods throughout the text, and symbols cannot. Some motifs are immediately recognizable; however, others require careful and attentive close reading to uncover their deeper meanings and connections. This process not only enriches the reading experience but also fosters a deeper appreciation of the author's craft. Crucially, motifs contribute to the overall unity of a story, linking various sections and elements in a way

that creates a cohesive narrative. Authors can create a more immersive and satisfying reading experience by weaving these repeating elements throughout the text.

### **2.3 Author's Biography**

Kristen Hannah was born on September 25, 1960, in Southern California. She is a recognized author known for her heart-touching novels exploring themes of friendship, family, love, resilience, and survival. She started as an attorney; however, after helping her mother while battling cancer, she shifted her focus to writing. This led to her first publication in 1991, *A Handful of Heaven*. After this, she continued publishing several novels that became international bestsellers. Moreover, she won multiple awards due to her storytelling of historical and contemporary settings. One of her more famous pieces of work, *The Nightingale*, published in 2015, is set during World War II and follows two sisters navigating French resistance.

Apart from this, her stories have managed to capture the interest of producers; therefore, many of her novels have been transformed into motion pictures. One great example is her novel *Firefly Lane*, which follows the story of two best friends going through life and was recently adapted to television, becoming a #1 Netflix series worldwide. Moreover, her new novel, *The Women*, was published in 2024 and follows a young woman during the 1960s serving in Vietnam as an army nurse. In short, Hannah's work often reflects the resilience of women in challenging situations, giving them a voice and helping to uncover untold stories. She strongly advocates for female authors in contemporary fiction, helping women worldwide feel recognized and understood.

## 2.4 Plot

*The Great Alone* is set in the 1970s and follows the journey of the Allbright family into the ruthless and wild Alaska, as they try to start a new life away from the personal issues they had after the Vietnam War. The story is narrated by Leni Allbright, a thirteen-year-old girl, whose father, Ernt, was a Vietnam War veteran suffering from anger issues and haunted by his past. Her mother, Cora, was a loving mother who would do anything to keep Ernt happy, even if that meant leaving everything behind and sacrificing Leni's safety.

After Ernt struggled to find peace after the war, he impulsively uprooted his family and moved them to Alaska, hoping that isolation would bring him tranquility. At first, the female characters feared the lack of planning and how unprepared they were, but as they continued, they were mesmerized by the beauty of Alaska's wilderness. Leni and Cora embraced the challenges of their new life and the community they started to create, one of them Matthew Walker, a friend of Leni's. However, as the long winter approached and the days became shorter and darker, Ernt's mental health started declining, and he went back to being abusive and controlling, both physically and mentally.

Leni and Cora were forced to learn the hard truth: they were on their own and they needed to make strategic choices to survive not only the wilderness but also the abuse of their loved one. Throughout the story, Leni was caught between her love for her family and her father's fear of stability, always being afraid of doing or saying the wrong thing that could set him off. This pushed her to find a safe space with Matthew and the rest of the community. Overall, the novel explores themes of survival, isolation, resilience, family, and love, with two female characters having to find strength in themselves and each other to face the violence at home and figure out how to escape this nightmare. Through this powerful story, the novel delves

into the impact of untreated trauma, the power of mother-daughter bonds, and how people can be shaped by their environment and the people around them.

## Chapter III

### Methodological Framework

A well-conducted research study allows readers to grasp the intricacies of the involved processes. For this reason, this chapter thoroughly examines the methodology employed in the investigation, as it provides a detailed exploration of the various methods used to analyze the novel, highlighting the specific techniques and frameworks applied. This section delves deeper into the different research approaches, specifically qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. These approaches were analyzed thoroughly, highlighting their importance and the contexts in which they are most effectively applied. However, the researcher will primarily concentrate on the qualitative approach for this project. This focus is complemented by a literary analysis, allowing a rich exploration of the novel's portrayals of language and its relationship to power dynamics and gender roles.

This chapter delves into the strategic approaches employed to gather comprehensive information, detailing the types of sources utilized, which can be categorized as either primary or secondary. The research also explores different categories of analysis to better understand the methodology behind these strategies. The discussion begins with feminism, offering a broad framework to illustrate how the subsequent categories—gender roles and power dynamics—intertwine and relate to the overarching theme of patriarchy, which serves as the final analytical lens through which the novel's use of language is examined. Furthermore, the analysis will incorporate various literary elements, including motifs, themes, and symbols, enriching the investigation and providing deeper insights into the text's complexities.

Moreover, the text provides a comprehensive overview of the various instruments utilized for data collection, detailing the thoughtful considerations that guided the researcher's selections. It presents illustrative examples of the tables employed in the study, showcasing how data was organized and interpreted. Additionally, the text explains the data collection process in-depth, clarifying the steps taken to gather information and the analytical methods applied to interpret the collected data effectively. This comprehensive overview aims to shed light on how the research was structured and executed, reinforcing the integrity of the findings.

### **3.1 Research Approach**

Before initiating an investigation, it is essential to clearly define and understand the research approach that will guide the study. This involves determining the methods and strategies used to gather and analyze data and establishing the overall framework for conducting the research. These steps ensure the investigation is well-structured and effectively address the research question. It is essential to define that research is, a “more formal, systematic, and intensive process of carrying on a scientific method of analysis” (*Research Methodology*, Singh & Bajpai, 2008, p.23). Moreover, the research approach, as defined by the University of Newcastle (2024), is “the strategies, processes, or techniques utilized in the collection of data or evidence for analysis in order to uncover new information or create better understanding of a topic.” These definitions emphasize the importance of a well-organized and systematic approach in ensuring that the research yields meaningful and reliable insights.

There are three methods for collecting data. The first one is the quantitative approach. This method, as the name says, uses numbers to analyze data. As noted by the University of Newcastle (2024), the numerical data it gathers can be measured, categorized, or ranked to uncover patterns. Usually, this type of approach is used for answering questions such as how

much, how many, to what extent, or how often. Researchers can utilize various tools within the quantitative method, with surveys being a primary one. Surveys involve administering the same questions to a large group to gather their opinions. Another tool is doing experiments and creating hypotheses in laboratories, which goes hand in hand with documenting screening, that is, sourcing data for reports. Lastly, observation is a tool that repeats in every method; however, the way it works varies. In this context, it involves counting the times an event occurs or coding data.

On the other hand, the qualitative method focuses mainly on behavioral data. Explained by the University of Newcastle (2024), it helps researchers to understand complex concepts, social interactions, and cultural phenomena by examining individuals' live experiences, behaviors, and emotions and analyzing the meanings they assign to them. This methodology enables researchers to explore the underlying reasons and mechanisms behind specific events and understand the emotional factors that influence those occurrences. One tool used in this approach is interviews. They are utilized in sessions that can be either structured or unstructured, depending on the topic. A similar tool is focus groups, where several people gather to discuss a particular topic. Document analysis is part of the interrogation process, and can evolve emails, letters, or even reports. Moreover, investigators can add oral history or life stories. Lastly, observations play a big role as they can be used in role-play, on-site, or by context clues.

The final approach is the mixed method, which effectively combines qualitative and quantitative research techniques. This comprehensive strategy allows researchers to analyze numerical data alongside contextual behavioral information, providing a complete understanding of the subject matter. Using this approach, researchers can gather and examine data from multiple sources, facilitating the triangulation of findings. This triangulation process is essential

as it not only helps to corroborate the results, but it also enhances the overall validity and reliability of the information gathered, leading to more robust conclusions. Choosing this method requires considering “the differences of both ways of research concerning appropriate designs and appropriate forms of assessing the procedures date and results” (*An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, Flick, 2009, p.298). All of this must be contemplated before deciding whether this method is correct and justifies choosing both instead of focusing on only one.

Several key factors influence the selection of the most suitable method for an investigation. First and foremost, the goal of the research plays a crucial role in determining the approach. This goal defines what the researcher aims to achieve. Additionally, the nature of the information sources, whether they are people, documents, or observational data, also impacts the chosen method. Lastly, the timeframe allocated for data collection and analysis is critical, as it dictates how thorough the investigation can be. After carefully evaluating these aspects, the researcher chose the most effective methodology: the qualitative approach. This method enables the analysis of textual data, including the novel's language, character development, and narrative structure, which helps critique and understand the societal norms of 1970s Alaska. Furthermore, it facilitates the incorporation of feminist literary criticism to understand better the social and cultural frameworks of the time and how they compare to contemporary views on gender dynamics, emphasizing the shifts and advances in literary representation.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The research design functions as a detailed roadmap for the investigation, providing essential context that guides data collection efforts to ensure meaningful results. It helps the researcher to select the most suitable instruments for gathering data while systematically organizing these tools. This thoughtful approach streamlines the research process and enhances

the overall quality and reliability of the study's outcomes. For this investigation, an exploratory study design has been chosen. The analysis focuses on Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*, and the feminist literary frameworks. The aim is to examine power dynamics, gender roles, and feminist perspectives through textual and thematic interpretation. It is essential to know that thematic interpretation is. As described by Muhammad Naeem, Wilson Ozuem, Kerry Howell, and Silvia Ranfagni (2023), it is a method to analyze qualitative data that involves identifying patterns, such as keywords, and interpreting their meaning.

This exploratory study employs a feminist literary approach by integrating previously discussed theories, including social feminism, intersectionality, cultural hegemony, and the patriarchal bargain. This framework enables a deeper understanding of how female characters navigate power imbalances and societal expectations in 1970s Alaska, while illustrating how these dynamics have evolved. To illustrate these characteristics, the researcher aims to gather data primarily from the text *The Great Alone*. This analysis encompasses a rich array of elements, including vivid descriptions, engaging dialogues, diverse narrative techniques, and various thematic components that underscore the complexities of gender roles, the nuances of power dynamics, the intricacies of family relationships, and the challenges faced in feminist struggles. The main objective is to thoroughly examine the data to uncover and highlight the most pertinent elements of this study.

The thesis uses a close textual analysis to interpret the work's narrative structure, intricate language, and complex characters. By carefully examining these elements, the research delves into significant themes such as survival, domestic violence, resilience, and a sense of community. These themes play a crucial role in shaping the representation of gender roles and power dynamics and illustrate how these cultural forces have molded language. Moreover, this

methodology facilitates a holistic understanding of how literature interacts with societal structures to influence and reinforce prevailing ideologies. This dynamic is illustrated in the novel, as it critically engages with and reflects upon the intricacies of patriarchy. Ultimately, the research aspires to illuminate the progress and limitations within language, literature, and society, unraveling the complexities that define our understanding of these areas.

### 3.3 Information Sources

The information sources used in this investigation vary; however, it is critical to understand how information is defined before proceeding. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines information as “knowledge obtained from investigation, study, or instruction.” Employing trustworthy and meticulously organized sources aims to create a robust framework for analysis. This strong foundation not only aids the researchers in constructing their work more effectively but also empowers readers to grasp the underlying principles and evidence that shape the entire project. By relying on well-structured information, the researcher can enhance the credibility of their findings and provide clarity to the audience, allowing for a deeper comprehension of the topic. This research uses three types of information sources: primary, secondary, and tertiary.

As explained by the University of Minnesota Crookston (2024), the primary sources are “records of events or evidence as they are first described or actually happened without any interpretation or commentary.” Examples include books, journals, reports, poems, letters, interviews, theses, or correspondence. For this research, the primary source is the novel *The Great Alone*. This is the foundational literary work from which the investigator extracted a wealth of data, encompassing various themes, motifs, symbols, and quotes. These elements are examined to shed light on the intricate dynamics of power and the complex roles of gender within the narrative.

Moreover, secondary sources “offer an analysis or restatement of primary sources” (University of Minnesota Crookston, 2024). These often add value to the knowledge gathered from primary sources, as they provide different perspectives or interpretations. They can be books or articles that review other people's work, textbooks, biographies, literary criticism, commentaries, histories, and more. This project uses as secondary sources feminist literary work, such as books, articles, essays, and theses discussing feminist approaches to literature, as well as historical and cultural contextual resources, such as books that provide insights into women's lives in the 1970s to compare them to modern times. Lastly, tertiary sources are “sources that index, abstract, organize, compile, or digest other sources” (University of Minnesota Crookston, 2024). These are usually not credited to authors, and some examples are dictionaries or encyclopedias, fact books, guidebooks, handbooks, and manuals. This study uses many tertiary sources to explain the meaning of words and understand the basics of the research.

### **3.4 Analysis Categories**

This research conducts an in-depth analysis of specific categories related to the topic to better comprehend the investigation's objectives. These categories function as analytical lenses, enabling a structured examination of themes, motifs, symbols, characters, and narratives. By exploring these components, the research aims to uncover how language is crucial in perpetuating gender roles and shaping power dynamics within the text. The study emphasizes the importance of clearly defining these categories, which allows researchers to narrow their focus and systematically investigate specific aspects of the text. This approach enriches the understanding of gendered language and highlights the interplay between language and societal norms. By addressing all relevant facets coherently, the research aspires to provide significant insights into how language influences perceptions of gender and power in various contexts.

### **3.4.1 Feminism**

This category offers an in-depth analysis of the novel through a feminist lens, emphasizing its critique of and engagement with feminist themes. It delves into the complex struggles and triumphs female characters face, illustrating their journeys and obstacles in a patriarchal society. Additionally, the analysis investigates how the author reflects the feminist movements of the era, providing context for the characters' experiences. The research employs detailed tables to systematically evaluate recurring motifs, themes, and symbols that resonate with feminist concerns throughout the narrative. Key concepts such as empowerment, resistance, freedom, and autonomy are explored, highlighting how these elements shape the female experience in the story. Through this comprehensive examination, the analysis sheds light on the novel's contribution to the discourse surrounding gender equality and the ongoing fight for women's rights.

### **3.4.2 Gender roles**

In addition, this category delves into the intricate representation of societal expectations placed on women and men in 1970s Alaska, juxtaposing these norms with contemporary beliefs. It examines how female characters navigate, and either reject or embrace traditional roles such as wife, mother, caregiver, and daughter. This exploration extends to male characters, scrutinizing how they embody and perform the ideals of stereotypical masculinity. Through this analysis, the text sheds light on the broader cultural landscape and the shifting dynamics of gender roles across time.

### **3.4.3 Power Dynamics**

This category delves into the intricate relationships among characters, emphasizing power distribution, negotiation, and conflict dynamics. It offers a critical examination of how patriarchal authority manifests both within the family unit and the broader community. This analysis seeks to understand individuals' responses to such authority, whether they resist, subvert, or navigate these power structures in other ways. Focusing on female characters, the study explores their lived experiences under the constraints of patriarchal power dynamics. It aims to illuminate how these characters challenge traditional gender roles and the implications of their actions in pursuing gender equality. Additionally, the analysis contextualizes these experiences within a historical framework, tracking the advances in the fight for gender equality and the evolution of societal power structures from the 1970s to the present day.

### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

This investigation's primary data is derived from the novel *The Great Alone* through a thorough analysis. The researcher initially read the novel before starting the investigation and then re-read it to gather further data. By highlighting significant quotes in each chapter, the investigator could understand, illustrate, and analyze the book's themes and information, facilitating the selection of research instruments. The information is categorized into five sections to continue the data collection process, each organized in a table format. Each table focuses on a specific topic, with the intention of including at least five relevant quotes per table. This approach allows the researcher to elaborate on each theme. The analysis table examines how various topics are portrayed in the novel and their relevance in contemporary society. It illustrates that even in fictional works, women continue to face challenges similar to those experienced by real-life women.

**3.5.1 Gender Roles Table**

The first table provides a detailed examination of the representation of gender roles within the novel. It explores how male and female characters respond to, adhere to, or resist the societal expectations placed upon them. By analyzing their behaviors, relationships, and the pressures they face, the table highlights the complexities of gender dynamics in the story, and it offers insights into the author's broader cultural commentary regarding traditional gender norms.

Gender Roles				
Quote	Context	Historical Reflection	Contemporary Reflection	Commentary

*Table 1 illustrates the representation of gender roles as seen in the book. Researcher's creation.*

**3.5.2 Power Dynamics Table**

The second table provides a comprehensive analysis of the power dynamics present within the novel, focusing specifically on the interactions between male and female characters. It delves into various moments that illustrate themes of control, dominance, and resistance, highlighting how these elements manifest in their relationships. This examination reveals the power struggles and uncovers the complexities of gender roles and the societal expectations placed upon the characters. Analyzing these instances gives the research a deeper understanding of the underlying tensions and conflicts that drive the narrative forward.

Power Dynamics				
Quote	Context	Historical Reflection	Contemporary Reflection	Commentary

*Table 2 illustrates the representation of power dynamics as seen in the book. Researcher's creation.*

**3.5.3 Themes Table**

The third table provides a comprehensive analysis of significant themes associated with feminism. It delves into concepts such as survival, highlighting how individuals navigate and overcome challenging circumstances. The theme of resilience explores the ability to recover and adapt in the face of adversity. Empowerment is discussed as a crucial element in enabling individuals to assert their rights and gain control over their lives. Additionally, the table addresses the critical issue of domestic violence, examining its impact on individuals and communities while emphasizing the need for awareness and action to combat this pervasive problem.

Theme		
Themes	Quote	Commentary

*Table 3 illustrates the representation of the book's themes. Researcher's creation.*

**3.5.4 Motifs Table**

The fourth table provides an in-depth analysis of recurring motifs that reinforce the themes discussed earlier. It highlights elements such as repetitive events, which serve to emphasize key narrative points, symbolic acts that convey deeper meanings, and vivid imagery that paints a clearer picture of the concepts at play. These motifs create a rich tapestry of meaning, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of the underlying themes.

Motifs		
Motifs	Quote	Commentary

*Table 4 illustrates the representation of the book's motifs. Researcher's creation.*

### 3.5.5 Symbols Table

The fifth and final table analyzes significant symbols within the novel that carry feminist connotations and play a vital role in the discourse surrounding gender and power dynamics. Each symbol is examined in terms of its relevance to feminist themes, illustrating how it reflects the struggles and empowerment of women. This detailed exploration underscores how these symbols enrich the narrative and offer deeper insight into societal norms and the complexities of gender relationships within the story's context.

Symbols		
Symbols	Quote	Commentary

*Table 5 illustrates the representation of the book's symbols. Researcher's creation.*

### 3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

The data collection process systematically gathers relevant textual evidence from Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*. This effort focuses on pinpointing quotes that align with the objectives, including gender roles, power dynamics, themes, motifs, and symbols of feminism. To facilitate analysis, the selected quotes are organized into structured tables. Each table not only presents the quotes, but also provides a thorough examination of their representation within the context of the novel, a comparison to how these themes manifest in the contemporary world, and any insightful observations offered by the researcher. This approach aims to enrich the understanding of the text while connecting its themes to broader societal issues.

The first step is to closely read the text and highlight quotes from each section or table while taking notes emphasizing critical themes in the narrative, character dialogues, and descriptions. Next, categorize each quote under one of five pre-identified topics. Evaluate each

quote to determine its significance and relevance to its category before assigning it to a section.

Once a quote is categorized, create a table listing each quote and accompanying commentary.

The collected data will undergo qualitative analysis to identify any patterns or themes. To do this, the investigator performs a thematic analysis and reviews all recurring symbols and motifs related to the main topics. This allows for comparing historical and contemporary reflections to examine how society has evolved. This method facilitates a structured and thorough data collection and analysis process, ensuring accurate results.

## Chapter IV

### Data analysis

This chapter aims to analyze the information from the book *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah through the data collection instruments created in the previous chapter. The investigation focuses on how language, character development, and narrative structures reflect and critique 1970s social and cultural expectations for women in rural Alaska. The study looks to interpret key textual elements through a qualitative approach to identify recurring feminist themes. The primary examination method organizes textual evidence into tables that categorize book quotes under specific themes, such as gender roles, power dynamics, and feminist motifs. The goal is to examine each quote in relation to its historical and contemporary significance, which allows for a comparative analysis of past and present feminist ideals. Moreover, the researcher will provide reflections and commentaries highlighting how the novel contributes to feminist discussions.

Furthermore, by using feminist literary analysis, the study explores the portrayal of women's experiences within a patriarchal society in isolated environments, exploring how characters conform or resist traditional gender norms and stigmas. Apart from this, the use of theories such as intersectionality helps to examine how different factors play roles in shaping the experiences of women in isolated places. This framework allows for a better interpretation of the power dynamics and gender roles within the novel, as it is easier to consider how there are both implicit and explicit representations of the oppression of gender. In brief, the data analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of *The Great Alone*, while it critiques and reshapes how language and gender narratives are portrayed across literature.

#### **4.1 Approaches to the Investigation**

When embarking on an investigation, it is essential to adopt a structured approach that directs the investigator toward definitive conclusions that enrich the work's purpose. A well-defined methodology helps to ensure that all aspects of the investigation are thoroughly examined and understood. Additionally, it fosters a coherent narrative that connects findings to broader implications, ultimately giving the investigative endeavor a more profound significance and impact. As explained by Masterclass (2021), literary criticism and its approaches have multiple benefits, such as gaining a worldview by considering different perspectives, having the tools to understand literature truly, and creating new spaces to push the boundaries of what is known as literature.

This thesis utilizes textual analysis to explore the feminist themes in *The Great Alone*. By examining the novel's dialogue, descriptions, and symbols, the researcher aims to highlight the realities of women in 1970s Alaska. Additionally, a comparative approach contrasts the gender norms and power dynamics of that era with contemporary feminist ideals, revealing the evolution of societal constraints. A contextual framework allows for an analysis of the social structures of the 1970s, providing insight into the limitations and opportunities faced by women. The combination of these approaches offers a deeper understanding of the novel and its characters within a significant historical context and connects literary elements with broader social discussions.

#### **4.2 Theories vs Literary Work**

The theories used offer an in-depth analysis of the novel through quotes. This section compares the book's text and the theories to understand whether the research can reach the

objectives of the investigation. This analysis will explore how feminism is depicted in the novel, and with the help of tables, each topic will have its own space for reflection and review. The first tables will reflect directly on how feminism is portrayed through power dynamics and gender roles in the 1970s and how they are compared to today's beliefs. At the same time, the last three will focus on textual analysis and the impact of feminism on how language is used. This analysis aims to deepen the reader's understanding of the themes and concepts presented by the author in the novel *The Great Alone*. This examination offers fresh interpretations and insights by dissecting the narrative's intricacies and exploring the character's underlying motives, allowing for a more nuanced connection with the researcher's ideas. Through thoroughly exploring the text, readers will engage with the emotional depth and complexity of the story, ultimately enriching their appreciation of the novel.

#### **4.2.1 Book Analysis**

Throughout this investigation, the researcher concentrated on feminist approaches and their theories. These theories are essential for analyzing the quotes, as they offer insight into how feminism can affect women's lives differently based on their circumstances. The tables below showcase how the novel employs these theories to portray feminism in the past and present and provide an in-depth research analysis. This analysis offers readers a unique perspective on how language can support feminism or reinforce patriarchy.

**Table 1. Gender Roles**

<b>Gender Roles</b>				
<b>Quote</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Historical Reflection (1970s)</b>	<b>Contemporary Reflection</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<p>“We have to understand and forgive,” Mama said. “That’s how you love someone who’s sick. Someone who is struggling.” (Page 124)</p> <p>“When he came home, he looked like a dead man,” Mama said. “But he loved</p>	<p>Cora, Leni’s mother, expresses repeatedly how loyalty and endurance define being a good wife, which she uses to justify staying with her abusive husband.</p>	<p>Before, women were expected to prioritize their roles as wives and mothers over anything else. Divorce and domestic violence carried a stigma and were often minimized. Many women, especially in rural areas such as Alaska, felt trapped due to financial dependence and societal expectations.</p>	<p>Feminist movements today have made it more acceptable for women to leave abusive relationships by bringing awareness and helping in the creation of campaigns, laws, and even shelters to help women. However, there is still cultural and religious pressure that makes it difficult for women to leave these situations.</p>	<p>This quote is an excellent example of how traditional gender roles position women as lesser than men by stripping them of their autonomy. Even though, society has made improvements, women still have expectations to serve men, which shows that gender norms can transform but not disappear completely.</p>

<p>us. Loved us like air. Said he couldn't sleep if I wasn't in his arms, although he didn't sleep much then, either." (Page 87)</p>				
<p>"We are not going to tell your father I got money from my mother," Mama said. "He's a proud man." (Page 19)</p>	<p>Worrying about her family, Cora asked her estranged parents for monetary help. However, due to his insecurities, they couldn't tell Ernt, Leni's father. He believed that men must be the</p>	<p>The traditional family structure made men the only providers and women the homemakers. Even though, women were entering the workforce, they were faced with discrimination and lower wages, leaving</p>	<p>Nowadays, households usually have dual incomes, and roles as stay-at-home fathers are more common. Nevertheless, there is still a pay gap, and women are expected to handle most or all the household responsibilities.</p>	<p>This reflects how strong the gender roles of the past were and how they slowly transitioned. There is still much work to be done to remove the pressure from men to be breadwinners and from women to be homemakers.</p>

	household's sole providers and authority.	them still financially dependent.		
<p>“Mama loved him too much to leave him. Still, even now, with her face bruised and swollen. Maybe what she’s always said was true, maybe she couldn’t breathe without him.”</p> <p>(Page 128)</p>	<p>Cora decides to stay with Ernt despite his abuse, convinced that love should erase her pain and suffering. Her fear of the unknown is what keeps her attached to him.</p>	<p>The text reflects how women had fewer resources to escape abusive marriages. Divorce was frowned upon, and the laws were stricter as abuse was seen as a private family matter instead of a crime. Women were expected to endure and stay to keep the family together, even if it destroyed them.</p>	<p>Domestic violence awareness has improved, as well as the laws protecting women. However, many still face barriers when leaving relationships due to economic dependence, stigma, and many more reasons.</p>	<p>This showcases how love, fear, and societal expectations can intersect to keep women in dangerous situations. A lot of progress has been made, but there is a long way to rid women of the constraints that keep them in these patriarchal structures.</p>
<p>“Leni watched the men come together, each one clapping</p>	<p>Ernt tries to turn the men against the town leader, while the women try to calm them</p>	<p>During this time, the second wave of feminism was challenging gender roles, but traditional</p>	<p>Modern society challenges gender roles constantly, as there are multiple movements</p>	<p>The quote encapsulates the gender roles feminism has been trying to dismantle throughout the years.</p>

<p>Fad on the back as if he said the perfect thing. Within moments the women were left sitting alone in the muddy center of the compound.” (Page 184)</p>	<p>down. However, Ernt is a firm believer in traditional masculinity, where men are supposed to be strong, assertive, and emotionless while women are submissive and nurturing.</p>	<p>expectations still dominated many households. The ideals that men were supposed to suppress their emotions while women were their caretakers, were deeply engrained in rural and conservative areas.</p>	<p>advocating for emotional intelligence in men and female empowerment. Nonetheless, toxic masculinity persists and is a daily struggle in different settings.</p>	<p>Even though, there are a lot of ideas that promote gender equality, there are still phrases like “man up” that showcase that there are still changes to be made.</p>
<p>“Leni knew about that reticence and understood it; lots of times it was better to stay silent.” (Page 6)</p>	<p>Leni hears this throughout the novel to reinforce the idea that women should be obedient and silent, especially when men are speaking.</p>	<p>Women’s voices were not valued or dismissed; especially, when men were around. In the 1970s, changes in women’s rights saw small advances to this. However, the societal pressure remained that</p>	<p>While women have gained more rights to express themselves, there are still gender biases. Women who speak up are seen as “bossy” or “difficult” instead of being seen as assertive, which showcases that</p>	<p>This illustrates how patriarchal norms dictate women’s behavior, and even if there is progress, there are still expectations around communications. This further reveals the importance of the feminist movement in</p>

		women should stay quiet in the presence of a man.	society still prefers to see women silenced.	continuing the fight for equal representation and voice in society.
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Table 6 illustrates the representation of gender roles as seen in the book. Researcher’s creation.

**Table 2. Power Dynamics**

<b>Power Dynamics</b>				
<b>Quote</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Historical Reflection (1970s)</b>	<b>Contemporary Reflection</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
“There was no one who would stop her dad from building a wall or shutting them away, no police who would protect them or come in an emergency.” (Page 248)	This is said to reflect the complicity in the community regarding domestic abuse, reinforcing that it is a family matter that should remain private.	Domestic violence was often dismissed and seen as private matters; even the police rarely intervened unless it was too late. Society discouraged women from expressing their opinions, which strengthened male dominance.	Today, social awareness and laws have improved, but there are still victims of domestic abuse who face the same barriers. There is a lot of victim-blaming and reluctance to intervene in many communities.	This displays how society has been complicit in domestic abuse, and even though there have been significant advances, women still struggle to find their voices in a world that wants to keep their issues hidden.

<p>“Leni shot her mother a warning look. Mama knew better than to say anything about anything when he was drunk.” (Page 91)</p>	<p>Leni learns this when she realized that defying authority could have consequences.</p>	<p>Men had power in the 1970s, especially in isolated and traditional communities like Alaska, while women and children were expected to obey without question, or they would suffer punishments otherwise.</p>	<p>Although physical and economic coercion persists, power dynamics have shifted, giving marginalized people a voice. Nevertheless, in certain atmospheres, there is still an expectation that they should submit to power to avoid problems.</p>	<p>Even if societal progress has been made, power imbalances continue to impact on the lives of individuals, especially those in vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>“You aren’t welcome on this land, Matthew Walker. If you and your dad want to pollute your own place, apparently I</p>	<p>Ernt justifies his control and abuse over his family by asserting his authority over his household and their decisions.</p>	<p>Back then, domestic authority was considered man’s domain. It was believed that men had the ultimate control over their homes, which left women defenseless.</p>	<p>Societal changes have challenged male dominance in the household, as there are laws against domestic abuse. Even so, patriarchal beliefs still remain and keep women from leaving dangerous situations.</p>	<p>This exposes outdated but prevalent beliefs about male dominance in the home. Despite advances, the fight for gender equality within family dynamics continues, especially in isolated communities that resist change.</p>

<p>can't stop you, but you stay off my land and you stay away from my daughter.” (Page 229)</p>				
<p>“A thing can be true and not the truth, now shush. We don't want to make him mad.” (Page 94)</p>	<p>Cora says this to Leni, supporting that women should submit to male authority to keep peace.</p>	<p>During this time, patriarchal authority dominated all spheres, and women who challenged this were deemed “difficult.” Moreover, with the feminist movement, these ideals were dismantled, but many still felt the pressure to conform to submissive roles.</p>	<p>Even with more rights being given to women, gender biases persist. Women who speak up are still labeled as aggressive, which shows that the expectation remains and that women should continue to be quiet.</p>	<p>This quote uncovers how power dynamics suppress female agency, reinforcing submission as a survival mechanism. Although women have more autonomy today, society still expects them to act a certain way to be liked by others.</p>
<p>“Ultimately, it didn't matter</p>	<p>Leni expresses her frustration</p>	<p>Thanks to feminist efforts, male-</p>	<p>Nowadays, women have more</p>	<p>Power dynamics have historically marginalized</p>

<p>what she or Mama wanted. Dad wanted a new beginning. Needed it. And Mama needed him to be happy” (Page 10)</p>	<p>with the norms that place men in decision-making, while women must accept their choices to avoid conflict.</p>	<p>dominated decision- making was challenged. Nevertheless, men still held authority over women in many houses, workplaces, and other spaces.</p>	<p>opportunities to make decisions at home and in professional settings. Nonetheless, gender imbalances continue in leadership roles, with more men in power positions.</p>	<p>women’s voices, and even if progress has been made, there is much more to be done to fight for equal representation in all atmospheres where decisions need to be made.</p>
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Table 7 illustrates the representation of power dynamics as seen in the book. Researcher’s creation.

**Table 3. Themes**

Theme		
Themes	Quote	Commentary
Survival	<p>“That was how they did it, she and Mama. They took turns being strong. It was how they’d gotten through the war years.” (Page 35)</p>	<p>This quote challenges traditional gender roles and highlights women's strength. Feminism advocates for recognizing women’s tenacity, challenging the norm that depicts women as weak and dependent. As seen in Leni’s journey, she struggles to find her self-worth in a male-dominated environment. Still, she survives and even thrives in a harsh environment with qualities often associated with men. This theme</p>

		aligns with feminist ideals emphasizing women’s ability to endure and break free from hardships, reinforcing that survival is not gendered but a product of determination.
Resilience	“Leni was afraid to stay and afraid to leave. It was strange-stupid, even but she often felt like the only adult in her family, as if she were the ballast that kept the creaky Allbright boat on an even keel.” (Page 3)	The book portrays how women persevere, even in the most challenging scenarios, highlighting their physical and emotional strength. Feminism has fought for women’s empowerment and the right to leave toxic relationships for decades, yet seeing Leni’s and Cora’s journey proves why these fights cannot stop. Their endurance speaks to the broader message of resilience and self-determination.
Domestic violence	“You don’t stop loving a person when they’re hurt. You get stronger so they can lean on you. He needs me. Us.” (Page 5)	Cora says this, revealing how emotional manipulation can keep women trapped in dangerous relationships. Feminism sees domestic violence as a systematic issue, arguing that patriarchal structures excuse male aggression while victim-blaming women. Cora’s belief that love means enduring pain and abuse reflects how society has conditioned her to stay silent.
Family dynamics and	“A woman has to be tough as steel up here, Cora. You can’t count on anyone to	The theme reflects the expectations set on women, especially mothers, to be the emotional backbone of the family, even if that means sacrificing themselves

<p>the burden on women</p>	<p>save you and your children.” (Page 51)</p>	<p>for their children or partners. Cora’s role in the novel is complicated. She was trying to survive abuse while protecting her daughter in any way that she could. Feminism often critiques the inequality in emotional labor in families, as women often have more responsibilities to care for the emotions of others. Feminism looks to dismantle this and advocates equal emotional labor.</p>
<p>Isolation and community</p>	<p>“They could stay here, she and Mama, and live among their friends in this place they’d grown to love.” (Page 328)</p>	<p>Leni and Cora experience both physical and emotional isolation due to their abusive household. However, they did not expect that the Alaskan community they had just met would provide them with moments of hope and connection. This illustrates how isolation and community can be intertwined, particularly when discussing women’s support networks. Feminism highlights the importance of collective support and how it can be a lifeline for those trapped in difficult situations. Communities offer strength and a way out for those who need it.</p>

*Table 8 illustrates the representation of the book's themes. Researcher's creation.*

**Table 4. Motifs**

<b>Motifs</b>		
<b>Motifs</b>	<b>Quote</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
The harsh Alaskan wilderness	“Alaska herself can be Sleeping Beauty one minute and a bitch with a sawed-off shotgun the next. There’s a saying: Up here you can make one mistake. The second one will kill you.” (Page 28)	The Alaskan environment plays a significant role in demonstrating the struggles women face in patriarchal societies. Alaska is unforgiving and harsh, just like the oppressive systems set by the patriarchy that restrict women’s autonomy. Leni and Cora must battle against the wildness of Alaska and Ernt’s abuse, which only shows the strength and resilience needed to survive adversity.
The trap of love and loyalty	“She saw how love could be dangerous and beyond control. Ravenous.” (Page 262)	Love and loyalty can become traps for women, forcing them to stay in dangerous situations for the sake of others. Cora remains in her marriage out of misplaced devotion, believing love means enduring pain. Meanwhile, Leni struggles with her love for her mom and her need to escape. This is repeated multiple times throughout the story as love manifests differently.
The repetition of violence	“He has hit you before. “No,” Mama said. Hardly ever.” (Page 123)	Domestic abuse and oppression have a cyclical nature, as they often repeat themselves, and it is so deeply ingrained in patriarchal society that breaking

		from it is no easy task. Cora's acceptance of her suffering and her denial that it will not happen again showcase how abuse can be normalized and how women can be conditioned to tolerate mistreatment as an inevitable part of life.
Female bonding and support	<p>"We'll all take care of you. It's always been that way in Kaneq." (Page 287)</p> <p>"Leni couldn't help herself. She launched herself around the coffee table and into Large Marge's arms. The woman's bulk enfolder her, made her feel safe." (Page 255)</p>	Despite their hardships, Leni and Cora's relationship is defined by love and sacrifice. This motif exemplifies the importance of female empathy and solidarity in overcoming tragedy. Feminist literature often highlights the power of women supporting one another to resist the patriarchy, and <i>The Great Alone</i> is no exception. The friendships they form with other women in the community save them and provide safe spaces when they have none.
The idea of escape and freedom	"Now that she'd allowed herself to actually think about freedom, the idea of returning to captivity seemed impossible." (Page 281)	The idea of escape is common in feminist narratives, especially when women must fight for independence. The book presents escape as fleeing from abuse but also breaking free from the shackles of patriarchal society. Leni's realization that she must leave to survive shows that freedom is not given, and she must have enough courage and determination to accomplish it.

*Table 9 illustrates the representation of the book's motifs. Researcher's creation.*

**Table 5. Symbols**

<b>Symbols</b>		
<b>Symbols</b>	<b>Quote</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
The cabin	“And there it was: the home they’d come to claim. A small cabin built of age-blackened logs, with a slanted, moss-furred roof that was studded with dozens of bleached-white animal skulls.” (Page 32)	The cabin represents a cage, a powerful way to connect with the reader since many women face the same kind of entrapment. At first, the cabin is seen as a fresh start, much like a marriage. Nevertheless, as the story advances, it becomes a place of suffering and isolation for Cora and Leni, which reflects how homes can become a trap where oppression thrives in secrecy.
Northern lights	“The northern lights appeared overhead, cascading in swirls of yellow, green, red, and purple, Impossible, magical color.” (Page 332)	The northern lights symbolize hope and new beginnings, appearing when Cora and Leni finally break free from their abuse. They are a reminder that beauty and freedom still exist. In feminist media, they illustrate women's persistence and the ability to dream for a better life despite their challenges.
The ocean	“Leni stared down at the sea, rolling inexorably toward her. Nothing you did could hold back that rising tide. One	The ocean symbolizes the unpredictability of life, and the internal struggles women face under the patriarchy. For Cora and Leni, the sea illustrates how turbulent their lives are, as they are trapped in

	<p>mistake or miscalculation and you could be stranded or washed away.” (Page 88)</p>	<p>an abusive household while longing for freedom. In feminist literature, the ocean illustrates how some forces, like women’s will and resistance, can never be restrained.</p>
<p>Photographs</p>	<p>“Instinctively, she lifted her camera and minimized her view of the world. It was how she managed her memories, how she processed her world. In pictures. With a camera, she could crop and reframe her life.” (Page 375)</p>	<p>Photographs in the novel depict the illusion and expectations of the ideal life. They capture a happy version, which describes how society often pressures women to perform the “perfect mother/daughter” role. In feminist media, the contrast between photographs and reality underscores how women’s struggles are hidden beneath a carefully constructed mask.</p>
<p>Books</p>	<p>“Books are the mile markers of my life. Some people have family photos or home movies to record their past. Me, I’ve got books. Characters. For as long I can remember, books have been my safe place. I read about places I can barely imagine and lose myself in journeys to foreign lands to save girls who didn’t know</p>	<p>Books portray both intellectual freedom and emotional refuge, especially for Leni. As she grows up in a toxic and violent environment, books become her safe space and her way to space her reality. This symbol is often seen in feminist literature, which sees education as empowerment. Historically, access to education has always been a tool for women’s liberation. In <i>The Great Alone</i>, they offer Leni a way to dream of a bigger life beyond her abuse and isolation, where she can see</p>

	<p>they were really princesses.”  (Page 240)</p>	<p>how healthy relationships work, believe in love and  friendship, and see a better world for women.</p>
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*Table 10 illustrates the representation of the book's symbols. Researcher's creation.*

## Chapter V

### Conclusions and Recommendations

#### 5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

In this chapter, the investigator will gather her conclusions and recommendations about the literary analysis of Kristen Hannah's novel *The Great Alone*. The researcher will synthesize the key findings to confirm that all the objectives outlined at the beginning have been thoroughly addressed. This synthesis will summarize the results and provide an in-depth explanation of their significance, illustrating how each finding contributes to the overall investigation. Additionally, the investigator will take the time to revisit the original research question, critically analyzing whether it has been adequately answered based on the findings. This review will thoroughly compare the results with the initial hypothesis to ensure alignment.

Furthermore, the researcher aims to identify any constraints or limitations encountered during the investigation. This includes discussing any methodological challenges, issues related to data collection, or unforeseen factors that may have impacted the results. The investigator will clarify how these limitations were addressed or mitigated throughout the study and discuss the implications of these constraints on the findings and their interpretations. Moreover, the researcher will provide recommendations and guidance on how this study can be applied in the real world in various contexts, such as literary studies, feminist research, or education. It will also provide insights into other areas the study can expand upon to explore different concepts or frameworks. This thorough analysis will enrich the understanding of the research process and contribute valuable insights for future studies in this field.

## 5.2 Conclusions

This section refers to the general objective and the three specific objectives proposed at the beginning of the research. The objectives outlined in this study reflect the researcher's initial intentions and serve as a roadmap for the investigation. Established at the beginning of the research process and in the initial chapter, these objectives not only clarify the focus of the study but also help the researcher to stay aligned with her overarching goals. By keeping these objectives in mind, she ensures that each investigation step is purposeful and contributes effectively towards achieving the desired research outcomes. Each objective will be explained individually, with a separate interpretation provided for each one.

### 5.2.1 General Objective

**To analyze the representation of gender roles and power dynamics in Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*, focusing on how language, character development, and narrative structure reflect and question 1970s social and cultural expectations of women in Alaska and comparing them to contemporary feminist perspectives**

The main objective of this study was achieved through a thorough literary analysis of Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*, focusing on its portrayal of gender roles and power dynamics conveyed through language. This investigation employs feminist literary criticism to examine how the novel reflects and challenges the social expectations of women in 1970s Alaska, while also drawing parallels with contemporary feminist perspectives. A detailed evaluation will be provided for each specific objective, allowing for a more comprehensive discussion of each section.

### 5.2.2 Specific Objective 1

**To examine the portrayal of female characters in *The Great Alone*, analyzing the linguistic and narrative techniques that convey their alignment with or resistance to 1970s gender norms**

The first specific objective was accomplished by focusing on the linguistic and narrative techniques used by the author to portray female characters to reveal how the novel reflects the 1970s norms and how the characters conform or resist those expectations. The investigator found, through a close reading inspection, that the internal monologues, dialogues, and language emphasize these characters' struggles. For example, Leni's gradual claim for independence represents resistance. At the same time, her mom, Cora, is submissive and driven by fear and loyalty towards her husband, which illustrates the societal expectations of enduring abuse silently. Additionally, the research examines how the third-person narration influences the reader's perception of gender roles, particularly by revealing the internal monologues these women are going through and their conflicts.

Furthermore, the investigation scanned recurring literary devices, such as symbols and motifs, to show how they reinforce or challenge traditional gender roles. One clear example is the harsh Alaskan wilderness, which serves as a metaphor for both female endurance and the entrapment women feel in patriarchal societies. Subsequently, how the book represents relationships, especially the dynamics among men and women, was thoroughly assessed to understand the power imbalances and how language sustains them. By combining feminist literary theory with textual analysis, this research demonstrates how *The Great Alone* reflects women's conformity to and resistance against societal norms of the 1970s.

### 5.2.3 Specific Objective 2

**To analyze how language and characterization reveal power dynamics between men and women in the novel, considering how these literary elements reflect the feminist struggles of the time**

The second objective was completed by examining how the author employed linguistic techniques and character portrayals to show authority structures among male and female characters in the novel. This analysis focused on how the narrative tone, verbal exchanges, and descriptive elements reinforce or challenge men's dominance and how women continue to fight and resist the constraints. An approach taken was dissecting the characters' dialogue and internal thoughts. This helped to show how men use speech to assert superiority and how women react to these interactions. The study found patterns of coercive language, interruptions, and dismissive remarks made by men. Accompanied by moments of silence, coded speech, and confrontations as defiance from the women. This illustrates the power imbalance ingrained in the novel's interpersonal relationships.

Another important aspect was character development. Ernt, for example, remains an authority figure whose influence is maintained through intimidation and aggression, while Cora and Leni evolve through the story to reflect the complexities of submission and rebellion. The novel's use of internal monologue revealed unspoken feelings, which provided insights into how the female characters perceived their oppression and created strategies for survival. Moreover, it considered broader narrative techniques, such as symbolism and recurring motifs, to show power struggles. One is how Alaska represents the entrapment of women, which reinforces how external forces can increment internal conflict. By integrating the textual study with feminist

theories, the researcher demonstrated how the novel captures gendered power dynamics through its storytelling mechanisms.

### **5.2.4 Specific Objective 3**

**To assess how the novel's portrayal of gender roles and power dynamics interacts with contemporary feminist perspectives, focusing on shifts in narrative style and character dialogue that highlight evolving societal expectations**

The third objective was achieved by evaluating how *The Great Alone* represents gender roles and power dynamics in the 1970s, and how it engages with modern feminist viewpoints. This was accomplished with a comparative analysis of the novel's narrative strategies, dialogue, and character arcs. One method used is examining the female characters' evolution and agency. The study proved how Leni's journey went from dependency to self-determination and how it aligns with contemporary feminist beliefs, which emphasize autonomy and self-empowerment.

Furthermore, the shift in the character interactions is a key element of interpretation. The contrast between male dominance in verbal exchanges and female resistance was investigated through a feminist linguistic lens to understand how language serves as a tool for oppression and defiance. The study explored contemporary ideas, such as intersectionality, to understand the character's experiences. In short, this multi-faceted approach showed that the novel captured the gender roles and power dynamics of the 1970s while being a bridge for ongoing conversations about equality, agency, and the power of community.

## **5.3 Restatement of the Research Question**

**How does *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah depict gender roles and power dynamics in isolated regions in the 1970s, and how does the novel's use of language, character**

**development, and narrative structure reflect both the reinforcement and resistance of patriarchal norms over time?**

After an extensive examination of *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah, the investigation uncovered how the novel rotary gender roles and power dynamics in remote areas during the 1970s, thanks to the review of language, character progression, and storytelling techniques. The analysis relied on comparison tables, allowing for a structured evaluation of textual evidence and its evolution across different periods. These tables served as a crucial tool in organizing and categorizing excerpts from the novel, focusing on gender roles, power dynamics, feminist themes, symbols, and motifs. By recollecting these quotes and interpreting them in a historical and contemporary context, the researcher could identify how female characters navigated societal constraints in an environment where isolation made gender roles even more prominent. The contrast between past and present perspectives was crucial in understanding the extent to which resistance and conformity to patriarchal expectations were expressed.

One finding was that the novel's depiction of gender roles and power dynamics is deeply intertwined with its setting. The Alaskan wilderness acts as a literal and metaphorical constraint, reinforcing traditional roles, where men are perceived as providers and women as caretakers. Nevertheless, through Leni's transformation and Cora's resilience, the novel also reflects how women can push through harsh conditions and be victorious. The comparison tables help the reader to see this transformation in the quotes, as their character develops and they gain agency, emphasizing how personal growth and defiance emerge despite oppressive circumstances.

Moreover, by assessing the dialogue, the researcher was able to demonstrate how language reinforced hierarchies within the novel. Patterns of speech and silence were scrutinized to reveal how male dominance is asserted and how women express resistance, whether through

words, actions, or internal monologues. Additionally, it explored techniques such as symbolic imagery. The comparison tables for symbols, motifs, and themes highlighted recurring elements that reinforce patriarchal narratives. These devices not only enriched the narrative, but also served as a means for critique, positioning the novel within a broader feminist literary context. Ultimately, the findings emphasize the novel's role in highlighting the historical realities and ongoing gender discussions, effectively connecting the past and present in an insightful and thought-provoking way.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Upon completing the investigation and reflecting on the study's findings, the researcher developed recommendations to facilitate further exploration and broaden the themes examined in *The Great Alone*. These suggestions are designed to enrich the present research and serve as valuable pathways for future investigators. By delving into these avenues, they can uncover additional results or gain deeper insights into the underlying topics; thus, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the narrative and its implications.

While this study focused on *The Great Alone*, future research could explore how gender roles impact other rural or isolated areas and how they are reflected in literary work. This would help to create a comparative analysis with novels featuring isolated communities, which could broaden the understanding of how gender roles and power dynamics shift depending on the time period or cultural background. In line with conducting a comparative analysis, another recommendation would be to add additional research focused on linguistic patterns in other literature that reinforce or challenge patriarchal norms. Examining the speech patterns, silences, and other strategies of characters in similar novels can provide more insight into how language is used to create self-determination and power.

Additionally, given the discussions about the past and current gender struggles and feminist beliefs, it would be valuable to create a timeline of how feminism changed over time. This could help to trace the evolution of gender representation in fiction by having a representation of the novel per era and a description of each, which allows for an assessment of how modern narratives continue to challenge societal expectations. Another recommendation is to have a deeper exploration of linguistic elements, such as word choice, tone, and dialogue structures. This could uncover how feminist authors use language to reinforce or challenge gender norms.

Furthermore, future research could incorporate how different audiences interpreted *The Great Alone*, particularly gender roles and power dynamics, and if they felt that language plays a role in a patriarchal society. This study could be across different demographics, such as gender, age, and geographical location, and it could provide a perception of the novel's impact on current discussions about feminism and patriarchy. Moreover, the findings of this project can be applied in academic discussions on feminist literature, women's studies, and literary criticism, and serve as a case study for exploring the intersectionality of gender, geography, and historical fiction. In short, these recommendations can help to expand this and future research to continue contributing to creating a rich and more nuanced understanding of gender representation in literature.

**Appendix**

**Gender Roles Table**

Gender Roles				
Quote	Context	Historical Reflection	Contemporary Reflection	Commentary

*Table 11 illustrates the representation of gender roles as seen in the book. Researcher’s creation.*

**Power Dynamics Table**

Power Dynamics				
Quote	Context	Historical Reflection	Contemporary Reflection	Commentary

*Table 12 illustrates the representation of power dynamics as seen in the book. Researcher’s creation.*

**Themes Table**

Theme		
Themes	Quote	Commentary

*Table 13 illustrates the representation of the book’s themes. Researcher’s creation.*

**Motifs Table**

Motifs		
Motifs	Quote	Commentary

*Table 14 illustrates the representation of the book’s motifs. Researcher’s creation.*

**Symbols Table**

Symbols		
Symbols	Quote	Commentary

*Table 15 illustrates the representation of the book's symbols. Researcher's creation.*

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