



**A WOMAN'S REBUTTALS AND STRUGGLES
AGAINST PATRIARCHY IN CHRISTINA
DALCHER'S *VOX***

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring Literature in the English Department,
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

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Semarang, 8th April 2021

Risna Alfianingrum

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

There is no ease other than what Allah make easy; if He wish, He can ease sorrow.

Anonymous

I dedicate this thesis to

My beloved mom, sister, and myself

APPROVAL

**A WOMAN'S REBUTTALS AND STRUGGLES AGAINST PATRIARCHY
IN CHRISTINA DALCHER'S *VOX***

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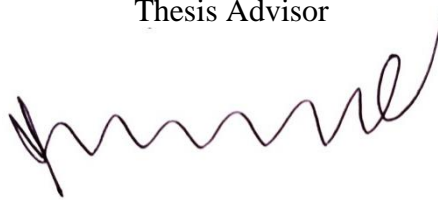
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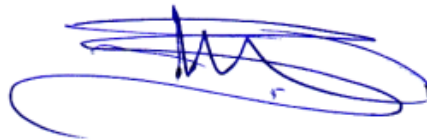
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I am well aware that this thesis is far from being the the desired thesis that people would even consider to read, therefore I am inclined to acknowledge any constructive criticism that can help steer this thesis into a successful thesis. Lastly, I am hoping that this thesis can help the readers who want to look for more insights about woman's rebuttals and struggles against patriarchy in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*.

Semarang, 8th April 2021

Risna Alfianingrum

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ABSTRACT

This research thesis analyses woman's rebuttals and struggles against patriarchy reflected by the main character's actions of Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, Jean McClellan. The objectives of this thesis are to analyse the forms of patriarchy, the causes of the main character's rebuttals, and the struggles of the main character that reflect liberal feminism spirit in the novel. This thesis uses feminism approach, whereas the method of data collection uses library research. This thesis uses theory of character, characterization, setting, and conflict, and theory of patriarchy and liberal feminism. The results of this research indicate that the rebuttals and struggles of the main character reflect liberal feminism spirit. It can be seen from the desire of the main character to develop her reasoning abilities to get an equal position with men. The causes of the main character's rebuttals are, firstly, she does not want to be subordinated, secondly, she wants to provide a better education for her daughter, and thirdly, she wants to regain her civil rights as a woman. The main character's struggles to make her dreams come true are by continuing her career for herself, teaching her daughter alone at home, and moving out of America.

Keywords: woman's struggles, woman's rebuttals, patriarchy, liberal feminism

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Feminism is a movement that aims at eliminating all forms of oppression experienced by women and restore women's basic rights to develop themselves. Feminism perspective as an analysis is an attempt to uncover the forms of inequality experienced by women to change it. In feminism, women are expected to have the same position and status as men, both within the family and society. It can be achieved by giving women the same opportunities as men in various matters, especially education. Women are also expected to be able to make autonomous decisions through an independence of thought that is obtained from a proper education. To gain the right to speak, develop themselves in public sphere, and get the same opportunity in education as men, women have to struggle hard to be free from patriarchy. This women's struggles phenomena are also reflected in a literary work written by Christina Dalcher entitled *Vox*.

In Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, the main character, Jean McClellan, struggles to earn an equality with her husband, restore a proper education for her daughter, and regain her long-gone liberty. Christina Dalcher is one of the authors who discusses how a woman survive in a society of male domination through her novel

entitled *Vox*. Christina Dalcher is a prestigious woman who has many achievements in the academic field. She is an actualization of American Dreams that strive for prosperity and success. Even so, Dalcher is a loving wife and mother for her family. In writing her novel, Dalcher is inclined to depict the main character as a woman who looks much through her representation in real life; an intellectual, driven, and loving woman.

In Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, women in the United States of America are trapped inside an extreme right-wing government whose main goal is to fully rule the United States of America with extremely conservative values. Since an extreme right-wing party wins the Presidential election some time in the 21st century, every facet of American life changes drastically. Women are the most disadvantaged party. They are forced to leave their careers to stay at home and to obey their husbands with complete submissiveness in fully practicing religious teachings. Consequently, women are not permitted to share more than 100 words a day. Girls are also not given the opportunity to receive the same education as boys. As a result, a woman's struggles that depict the value of feminism appear in America. It will be discussed further in this research.

This research is important to conduct since it deals with a novel whose setting of time is relevant to around the time when this thesis is written. This research will show that, even in the 21st century when people think that women have fully achieved their freedom, it can be taken away by actions of ignorance and extreme conservatism while both actions are still embraced by society. It can be seen from

how the main character of Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, Jean McClellan, struggles to break society norm; that a woman should not exhibit intellectuality and aoutonomy because she has destined to serve men in complete submissiveness. Jean McClellan, as a woman who has had a taste of proper education, uses her intellectuality to get an equal position with her husband, restore a proper education for her daughter, and regain her long-gone liberty.

1.2 Research Problems

The research problems of this research are as follow:

1. What are the forms of patriarchy faced by Jean McClellan in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*?
2. What are the causes of Jean McClellan's rebuttals in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*?
3. What are the kinds of Jean McClellan's struggles to regain her freedom in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problems of this research, there are three objectives of the study as follow:

1. To analyse the forms of patriarchy faced by Jean McClellan in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*.
2. To analyse the causes of Jean McClellan's rebuttals in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*

3. To analyse the kinds of Jean McClellan's struggles to regain her freedom in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*.

1.4 Previous Study

In relation to the previous research of Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, there is, *firstly*, a postgraduate thesis that has been written by Laurien Schonwille entitled *My Body Isn't Yours to Own: Body Politics and Narratives of Reproduction in Three Feminist Dystopias* (2019) emphasizing the use of narrative of reproduction in three literary fictions to create a world of dystopia.

Secondly, there are many undergraduate theses with a similar topic in different novels as researched by other writers, among other things are, an undergraduate thesis entitled *The Ideas of Liberal Feminism Revealed Through Christina's and Valhalla's Characters in Coelho's "The Valkyries"* (2009) written by Carlita Dewi analysing the characteristics and resistances of two female characters of the novel.

Thirdly, the next undergraduate thesis is entitled *An Analysis of Liberal Feminism in "The Notebook" Novel (1996) by Nicholas Sparks* (2020) written by Pande Made Gunawati discussing the traits of the main character of the novel that reflect liberal feminism values.

Fourthly, an undergraduate thesis that also analyses the liberal feminism values reflected by the main character's traits in the novel is written by Siti

Muthiah entitled *An Analysis of Feminism in Kate Chopin's Novel "The Awakening" as Reflected Through Edna Pontellier's Character* (2014).

However, there are other theses focussing on the topic of patriarchy which will be the fifth, sixth, and seventh previous researches. The *fifth* previous research is an undergraduate thesis written by Abdul Rahim entitled *Alessandra Giliani's Resistance to Patriarchal Ideology in "A Golden Web" Novel by Barbara Quick* (2019) discussing the actions of the main character of the novel that reflect a resistance against patriarchal ideology.

The *sixth* previous research is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Mina's Struggle Against Patriarchy Portrayed in Carolyn Cohagan's "Time Zero": A Feminist Criticism* (2019) written by Firstca Keny Haryoko specifying the main character's struggle against inequality by using her knowledge as a hacker.

The *seventh* previous research is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Women's Struggle under The Practice of Patriarchy in Alice Nannup's "When The Pelican Laughed"* (2016) written by Gavin Anditya Putra discussing the resistances of two female characters against bad treatments from male characters in the novel.

The *eighth* previous research is different from other previous researches that are written in the form of postgraduate and undergraduate theses. It is a research journal entitled *Balancing Work Life and Family Life* (2018) written by Tej Narayan Prasad Nepali analysing the obstacles of empowered women in balancing her time for career and family.

In complementing the previous reseaches related to the writer's thesis, there are other two undergraduate theses that specify women's struggles as its topic. The *ninth* previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *An Analysis of Woman Struggle in Louisa May Alcott's Novel "Little Women"* (2018) written by Heni Rahayu emphasizing the actions of the female characters in the novel to gain freedom in realising their dreams.

Lastly, there is an undergraduate thesis written in Indonesian entitled *Perjuangan Perempuan dalam Kesetaraan Gender pada Film Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* (2011) by Fitri Arum Sari emphasizing the main character of the movie who attempts to break the patriarchal system built by religion ideology.

This research thesis is very different from any other previous researches by specifying how the main character in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, who has a high intellectual background as a professor, breaks the myth about a woman who cannot be a professor and a good mother all at once. The previous researches emphasize the discussion of a female character who is single, unwilling to marry anyone, and has no children, whereas this research thesis discusses the main character whose traits stand in the opposition of the previous researches.

Furthermore, there is only one previous research that discusses Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, namely a postgraduate thesis written by Laurien Schonwille. Schonwille focusses on the making of modern dystopian fictions by looking at the use of narratives of reproduction, but she has not explained how the actions of the main character of Christina Dalcher's *Vox* correlate with feminism since

Schonwille only emphasizes the women-themed dystopia used by the authors of the three novels.

Different from Schonwille's research, the writer tries to analyse other issues that have not been explained by Schonwille, those are, women's career, education, and civil rights by identifying the forms of patriarchy in the novel and how the main character's actions reflect the spirit of liberal feminism by using her intellectuality to get an equal position with her husband, restoring a proper education for her daughter, and breaking the government's patriarchal ideology.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In this research, the writer discuss a woman's rebuttals and struggles against patriarchy, namely how the main character named Jean McClellan embodies a spirit of liberal feminism and how liberal feminism affects her life as a woman who is trapped inside a country where a patriarchal government dominates. This thesis tries to find how the practices of patriarchy grounded on religious teachings are described in the novel and how Jean McClellan lives to it, the causes of Jean McClellan's rebuttal, and how Jean McClellan struggles against the injustice she receives as a woman depicting liberal feminism values in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*.

1.5 Writing Organization

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer mentions six sub-chapters consisting of background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, previous study, scope of the study, and the writing organization of this thesis.

CHAPTER 2: THEORY AND METHOD

In this chapter, the writer explains theories and methods used in analysing Christina Dalcher's *Vox*. The theory explained is theory of intrinsic elements which includes character and characterization, setting, and conflict. Meanwhile the extrinsic theory explained is definition of patriarchy and theory of feminism especially liberal feminism.

CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer analyses intrinsic elements such as character and characterization, conflict, and setting. Furthermore, the writer also discusses extrinsic elements in accordance with the basic theories and concepts explained in the previous chapter, they are the practices of patriarchy in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, the causes of Jean McClellan or

the main character's rebuttals, and the struggles of Jean McClellan or the main character against patriarchy in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer concludes the analysis done in the preceding chapter, with a focus on findings of the study.

CHAPTER 2

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

2.1.1.1 Character and Characterization

Characters are figures in literary work acknowledged by readers for its specific moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities. The way to know a character's qualities is to look at the characterizations. There are three inferences that affect readers' interpretation about the moral, intellectual, and emotional attributes of a character, namely based on dialogue or what the character says and how the character says it in a particular way; actions or what the character does; and motivation or the character's grounds in doing or saying certain things (Abrams, 1999: 32-33).

2.1.1.2. Setting

In a literary piece, setting refers to the general location or place, historical time, and social circumstances in which an event occurs. There are three different categories of settings. The first type is setting of time presented in the form of hours, days, months, years, centuries, etc. The second type is setting of the place which shows where an event takes place. The third type is setting of social

circumstances which shows the situation of the community, social class, customs, accents, and lifestyle of the character (Abrams, 1999: 284-285).

2.1.1.3. Conflict

Conflict is a contradiction between two different ideas, actions, wills, or desires, that always involves a protagonist as the central character of a conflict. Conflict appears between a character with other characters, a character with society, and a character with himself (Perrine, 1998: 42).

2.1.2. Extrinsic Elements

2.1.2.1 Definition of Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a system of government in which women are exploited, controlled, and oppressed by men in order to be able to govern whole communities through their roles as household heads (Walby, 1989: 214). Patriarchy continues to promote women's dependence on men. It makes women lose their legal rights and opportunities to participate in making decisions. Along with the limited space for women to move, patriarchy tries to subordinate women, which means making women having less authority than men. As a system, patriarchy needs to be perpetuated through various ways, namely discrimination in opportunities and education, instilling society and family's expectation in the upbringing, the arrangements of family that places men as the central decision maker, and through forces and policies (Soman, 2009: 254).

Private patriarchy and public patriarchy are the two forms of patriarchy. Private patriarchy relates to oppression against women based on household management where women lose the opportunity to do paid work. Since then, men are taught to be the leader of life. In the field of household, men are taught to work and get a job outside of home while women must take care of children at home and do domestic roles as housewives. Private patriarchy is carried out by a patriarch within the household sphere (Walby, 1989: 228).

Public patriarchy deals with the oppressions carried out against women collectively by institutions or state. For example, several religious institutions promote rules that make women unworthy of the same opportunities as men. Women are considered a source of sin for men, therefore they are required to atone for these sins through obedience to men. Women's inferiority, weakness, and inability to lead are punishment for their past sins. In terms of work, women are not given the opportunity to give command even though they are actually capable. Meanwhile in education, women are not given the same opportunities as men. Public patriarchy is also carried out by a state with political policies that are inclined towards patriarchal interests.

2.1.2.2. Theory of Feminism

Feminism is a movement inspired by the values of equality in rights and obligations between men and women. It makes all forms of oppression and injustice between men and women are as much as possible to be opposed, both

through social and political movements. In short, feminism can be called a movement that fights for women's rights in a society that only prioritises men (Easton, 2012: 100). The people who are involved in the feminism movement are called feminists. Feminists oppose patriarchy by perceiving men and women's roles in society as constructed rather than innate. It means that women are oppressed, it is not because of their innate characteristics, more than that, it is because their true position is not understood well by society. For example, in colonial America, the position of women was resolute by Puritan worldview in 18th century. They saw men as the representation of God, therefore women had to serve and glorify men as a mark of their deferences to God. (Madsen, 2000: 2).

The struggles of feminists in freeing women from the shackles of oppression are divided into several types, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, marxist feminism, psychoanalyst feminism, multicultural feminism, and ecofeminism. This thesis focusses on the struggles of liberal feminism. Liberal feminists emphasise economic justices, equality in opportunity, and guaranteed rights that are directed to reform patriarchy rather than to perform structural shift of a male-dominated society (Madsen, 2000: 36-37).

According to liberal feminists, women's inferiority to men is caused by unequal treatments and opportunities received by women since they were kids. In fighting against women oppression, an equitable society is needed to guarantee women's autonomy in deciding what is best for them. It can be achieved through equal education, namely an education system that provides women and men the

same opportunity to develop their minds. The emotional biases of women are none other than because the opportunity limitations for women to develop their reasoning through education.

In addition, liberal feminists also fight for equal economic opportunities for women. Women who are married are not truly equal to men unless they take part in adding careers to complement their domestic and maternal duties. Liberal feminists also emphasise that women's reproductive capacity and motherhood is not an obstacle to their struggle, but something that must be accepted and respected by society (Tong, 1998: 17-43).

2.2 Research Method

2.2.1 Research Approach

Based on the background of the research that reflects woman's struggles against patriarchy, the writer uses feminism approach in analysing Christina Dalcher's *Vox*. Feminism approach in relation to literature is presented through literary study activities that focus on the analysis of woman's struggle against patriarchy. Basically, feminism fights for two things, namely women's equality to men and their autonomy to determine what is good for them (Yasa, 2012: 37).

The study of feminism should be able to reveal aspects of women's oppression against men. Endraswara (2003: 146) states that there are three focuses in analysing literary works with feminism approach, they are: a) female characters' positions and roles in literary works, b) female characters' lack of participation in

all aspects of life, including education and social activities, c) readers' responses to woman's emancipation in literary works. The aspirations of female characters, the relationships of female and male characters, the behavior and ideas of female characters identified by the author of the literary work, and the expression of female characters are some of the other focuses that should be considered when analyzing literary works using a feminism approach (Djajanegara, 2003: 52).

2.2.2 Method of Collecting Data

In analysing the forms of patriarchy and the protagonist character, Jean McClellan's struggles against patriarchy in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, the writer uses library research method to gather the data. Library research allows the collection of data from reliable written sources (George, 2008: 6). The main source of data is gained from Christina Dalcher's novel entitled *Vox* that was published in 2018. Based on the primary source of data, the data will be collected in the form of dialogues, monologues, phrases, descriptions, and quotations. The secondary data is gained from written physical and electronic sources, namely books, e-books, journal articles, and other publications on the internet.

CHAPTER 3
ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION
CHRISTINA DALCHER'S *VOX*

3.1. Intrinsic Aspects of Christina Dalcher's *Vox*

3.1.1. Character and Characterization

3.1.1.1. Jean McClellan's Moral Qualities

Jean McClellan is a forty-three-year-old woman who works as a cognitive linguist in America. Jean McClellan comes from a middle class Italian family who lives under the values of freedom in expressing oneself. Living away from her parents due to studying abroad makes Jean McClellan grow even more liberal during her college years. It affects Jean McClellan's moral qualities. In determining the right and wrong things, Jean McClellan is not influenced by certain values such as religion. Jean McClellan's moral qualities are influenced by those around her, especially by her best friend from college, Jackie Juarez. Jean McClellan's moral qualities that can be seen in the novel are empathy and courage.

Jean McClellan's empathetic nature can be seen through the way she cares about her daughter's education. Jean McClellan does not want her daughter to be oppressed like her in the future, hence she tries her best to save her daughter. Another Jean McClellan's moral quality that is seen in the novel is courage. Jean McClellan's courageous nature can be seen from the way she confronts a reverend

in front of her husband. As a girl, Jean McClellan is not a soft-spoken type. She does not like to sugarcoat. If she feels uneasy because of someone, she will immediately tell the person with a sarcastic remark as quoted in “...unless you want me to leave that locked up in your fucking lab, get off my back and let me do what I need to do, you little prick.” (Dalcher, 2018: 210).

3.1.1.2 Jean McClellan’s Intellectual Qualities

Jean McClellan has a high intellectual background. During college, Jean McClellan grows up to be a girl who loves books, ideas, and sciences. Jean McClellan intellectual qualities encompass communication and analytical skills. Jean McClellan’s high intellectual background is evidenced through her professor title. As a professor, Jean McClellan has the ability to speak her mind well. Even though she has to wear a word counter that restricts her from speaking more than 100 words a day, she can always calculate the effectiveness of her speech even only with a few words. Jean McClellan’s good communication skills are supported by her background as a cognitive linguist.

Jean McClellan also has a high analytical skill. Her high analytical skill goes along with her high standard in determining someone else’s competence as quoted in “I said, wondering how I was going to work, teach Sonia, and deal with a household of incompetent males over the next several month.” (Dalcher, 2018: 100). As a mother who has a high intellectual background, Jean McClellan strives to give her children the same opportunity to develop themselves in education. It

also helps her struggle against her husband and the government's patriarchal regulations.

3.1.1.3 Jean McClellan's Emotional Qualities

Jean McClellan's emotional qualities that can be seen in the novel are confidence and thoughtfulness. The conflicts that are faced by Jean McClellan affect most of her emotional qualities. Jean McClellan's confident nature can be seen from the way she is not afraid to show her firm grip of a woman when she is shaking hand with Morgan LeBron. Basically since she was a college student, she has been a confident person. Her confident nature helps her to pursue her education until she gains the title of professor. Jean McClellan's confidence nature can also be seen from the way she does not feel less competent than her husband at all.

As a mother, Jean McClellan is a thoughtful type. She always pays close attention to the academic development of her children. Jean McClellan's thoughtfulness towards her children can be seen from the way she never gets angry whenever her children do or say something wrong. Jean McClellan always tries her best to understand her children's reason in doing certain things. She knows well that her children is influenced by the government's indoctrination at school, hence rather than leaving her children, she wants to free her children from the government's indoctrination.

3.1.2. Setting

3.1.2.1. Setting of Place

The main setting of Christina Dalcher's *Vox* mostly takes place in Washington, USA. Specifically, one of the settings of place that contains important events in the novel is the house of Jean and Patrick McClellan that is located in suburban Maryland, where people with middle levels of education and economic ability dwell as quoted in "Far enough from the suburban Maryland bungalow I share with Patrick and the kids." (Dalcher, 2018: 109). Jean and Patrick McClellan's house is the place where Jean tries to take back her autonomous position in the household. In the house, Jean McClellan also teaches Sonia and perform her resistances against the government and Patrick's subordination.

3.1.2.2. Setting of Time

The events that take place in Christina Dalcher's *Vox* are set in the 21st century when women's emancipation is seen to have been fully achieved as quoted in "As usual, Jackie was ranting." "You actually think women should obey their husbands? In the twenty-first century?" (Dalcher, 2018: 39). At that time, technology and science dominate almost all aspects of human life.

3.1.2.3. Setting of Social Background

Christina Dalcher's *Vox* tells a story about an intellectual woman who lives under a patriarchal Puritan government who tries to subordinate women. The main

character in the novel, named Jean McClellan, belongs to a middle class family. Jean McClellan and her husband, Patrick McClellan, engage in professional occupations as a researcher and a doctor. In the novel, most of women already have the chance to develop themselves and reach a high level of education. In the public sphere, women are given the opportunity to do whatever job they want. Meanwhile, in private sphere, women are allowed to take double roles at once, namely as mothers and as paid workers. However, this situation does not last long.

Since America has been ruled by a patriarchal Puritan government, the life of American society changed drastically. Every aspect of American society life is strictly regulated by the teachings of religious scriptures, especially regarding the role of men and women. The goal is to bring American morality back to life. An extremely conservative belief that uphold patriarchal culture force all women to serve men with obedience and humility. A good woman according to American society at that time is a woman who can take care of the household well. To be able to take care of the household properly, women only need to be taught how to cook, clean the house, take care of children, and shop. They do not need to be taught other sciences such as History and Physics as quoted in “After all, one day my daughter will be expected to shop and to run a household, to be a devoted and dutiful wife. You need math for that, but not spelling. Not literature. Not a voice.” (Dalcher, 2018: 3).

In addition, working mothers are seen as a problem that makes the boundaries of the roles between father and mother become blurred. This makes women forget

about the simple things that are needed to raise their children and obey their husbands. At that time, women are seen as the sole servant of men. Men, in general, are the representations of God who need to be glorified. Women who refuse to serve men will be seen seditious.

3.2 Extrinsic Elements of Christina Dalcher's *Vox*

3.2.1 The Patriarchy in Christina Dalcher's *Vox* circa 21st Century

3.2.1.1 Women Expected to Obey Their Husbands

In Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, specifically in America after it falls into the hands of a patriarchal Puritan government, the understanding of the roles between men and women in the household is still very much influenced by patriarchal values. Men are given a vital role in the household, while women's roles are seen as only additional roles that depend on men. As a leader in the household, men have the privilege of making all kinds of decisions regarding their wives and children. Decisions made by men cannot be challenged by anyone, neither their wife nor their children. Therefore, women in America are set to perform obedience to their husbands.

The Puritan government who rules America, imposes regulations that are detrimental to women. However, these rules are considered the best rules because they are in accordance with the values of religious teachings. In private sphere, women are not allowed to object to their husband's decision. If they argue, they will be insulted and considered to have humiliated themselves as quoted in "We

are called as women to keep silence and to be under obedience. If we must learn, let us ask our husbands in the closeness of the home, for it is shameful that a woman question God-ordained male leadership.” (Dalcher, 2018: 84).

The subordinated state of women in America is experienced by the main character in Christina Dalcher’s *Vox* named Jean McClellan. The relationship between Jean McClellan and her husband, Patrick McClellan, exemplifies that women are required to obey their husbands as household heads. Patrick McClellan is a man of order. He is willing to do whatever the government orders to avoid confrontation. At a time when the government requires husbands to put electric bracelets on the wrists of their wives and children, Patrick does it in a very orderly manner. The electric bracelet is a words counter that will produce an electric shock if the wearer says more than 100 words per day. It leaves Jean McClellan with no other choices, but she must obey what Patrick’s order without any objections.

As a husband, Patrick has the privilege of the Puritan government to be the leader and decision maker in household. Instead of feeling uncomfortable, Patrick accepts the role wholly. As a father, Patrick considers that as a mother, Jean McClellan has a responsibility to care for the development of their children. Meanwhile, Patrick’s job is only to monitor Jean McClellan’s performance in doing so. In a dinner table conversation, for example, Jean McClellan’s role is only to watch and listen to Patrick’s conversations with their sons about school without involving Jean McClellan into it as quoted in “I watch and listen, my nails

carving half-moons into the flesh of my palms.” (Dalcher, 2018: 2). Patrick’s tendency to be obeyed by Jean McClellan can be seen when Patrick persuades Jean McClellan to come back to work for the government. When Jean McClellan refuses, Patrick says that it is better if she does not talk at all.

The placement of women as parties who must comply with men’s decisions as household leaders is a form of subordination to women, both in private and public sphere. Women’s thoughts are often seen as a bias from their emotional qualities, therefore it is difficult for women to make rational decisions. This understanding is reinforced by values in religious teachings that regard men as the representations of God. As a result, women lose their role as autonomous decision makers.

3.2.1.2 Women Obligated to Do Domestic Works at Home

After America is ruled by a patriarchal Puritan government, every American woman is compelled to quit her work. The loss of the role of all American women in the public sphere, is a form of public patriarchy. It is related to the belief that the best place for women is in their respective homes. For women who are married, the obligations they have to do are to serve their husbands, take care of their children, and keep the house clean, as stated in the book of Titus, as quoted in “...teach the young women to love their husbands, to love their children...keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands.” (Dalcher, 2018: 34).

The situation of women who have to lose their jobs is experienced by the main character, Jean McClellan. Jean McClellan is a woman with a bright intellectual background. Jean McClellan's desire to continually gaining experience and knowledge is very strong. Since America is ruled by a patriarchal Puritan government, Jean McClellan is forced to give up her brilliant career as a researcher and professor. She often misses the times when she can do what she wants, including to work.

Besides not being allowed to work, women are also not allowed to read and write. All books, pens, and other tools that can be used to carry out literacy activities are stored in a cupboard. Husbands are tasked by carrying the keys to keep their wives and daughters from reaching them. Therefore, women do not have other activities at home apart from doing domestic work. This rule applies to all women in America, and is carried out by husbands including Patrick, Jean McClellan's husband. Jean McClellan, as a woman who loves books and languages, feels so stressed by this rule.

According to patriarchal society, restrictions on the right for women to develop themselves are considered the result of women's own inadequacy. In fact, it is precisely society that pressures women therefore they are unable to develop themselves. Jean McClellan is a proof that women can do anything if they are given the opportunity to sharpen their skills, use their reasoning optimally, without losing their essence as a mother.

3.2.1.3 Different Education for Women from Men

The influence of the fall of America into the hands of the patriarchal Puritan government is felt by all the women in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*. While married women have to give up their glorious careers to devote themselves to their husbands and children, girls are still allowed to attend school. Access to education is still provided for girls, but what is taught to girls is not the same as for boys. This is one of the characteristics of a modern patriarchal society, namely the availability of access to education for women but with different quality of education between women and men. The difference in education between women and men is a form of public patriarchy because it is experienced by all women in a country in the public sphere.

The difference in education between women and men in Christina Dalcher's *Vox* can be seen through the interactions of Jean McClellan with her children, especially her first and last children. Jean McClellan has four children. Steven, Jean McClellan's first child, is a teenage boy who is currently pursuing secondary education. Meanwhile, Jean McClellan's last child, Sonia, is a six-year-old girl who is currently pursuing primary education. As a mother, Jean McClellan knows very well about the things that Steven and Sonia learn at school.

Steven as a boy accepts a different education from Sonia. These differences include access to reading books and general sciences such as History, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. Steven has more access to the mentioned subjects, while Sonia does not have access to reading and writing at all as quoted in "...girls

playing with dolls, boys arranged in a baseball triangle. I didn't see any books, but, of course, I hadn't expected to." (Dalcher, 2018:76).

Schools for girls only teach subjects related to domestic work, namely knitting, cooking, gardening, and caring for children. Girls are not allowed to read and write at all, let alone to speak. They are also forced to wear word counters like their mothers at home. The main purpose of differentiating education for men and women is to restore gender roles as stated in religious scriptures. Women are expected to become mothers who devote themselves to their husbands, homes, and children. Meanwhile, men are properly educated therefore they can become heads of families with high autonomy. The limited access for women to develop their reasoning is a form of oppression that prevents women from being able to make autonomous decisions. As a whole human being, women should be given equal opportunities in the field of education in order that they can make autonomous decisions.

3.2.2 The Causes of Jean McClellan's Rebuttals against Patriarchy in

Christina Dalcher's *Vox*

3.2.2.1 Jean McClellan Adamant about Not Being Subordinated

As a child of an Italian couple who free their children to express themselves, Jean McClellan grows up to be an independent woman. Her independent nature makes Jean McClellan able to decide everything herself. In addition, Jean McClellan's intellectual qualities support her to become a woman who does not easily fall

under other people's subordination. The evidence of Jean McClellan's tendency to be autonomous is shown when she refuses Patrick's request to return to work for the government. In the novel, Patrick orders Jean McClellan to return to work because he starts to need additional income to meet household necessities. However, Patrick does not tell his reason of ordering Jean McClellan to get back to work blatantly. He only insists that Jean McClellan take the government's offer to get back to work and then gets mad when Jean McClellan refuses to do what he orders to her.

Jean McClellan, instead of obeying Patrick's order, expresses a strong refusal. She even states that she will never go to work again if it is for Patrick because she no longer trusts her husband, "I couldn't put my finger on exactly the moment when I realized I didn't trust him." (Dalcher, 2018: 58). Even though she has to work in the end, she will do it for herself and her daughter, Sonia. Jean McClellan's rejection of Patrick's order shows that Jean McClellan is a strong-willed woman who is not easily subordinated. Patrick's tendency to be the man that the government wants him to be makes Jean McClellan even more reluctant to do what he orders her for. In order to maintain her autonomous position in the household, Jean McClellan does not hesitate to say offensive words to Patrick. As a woman who has successfully developed her rational abilities, Jean McClellan is willing to continuously make autonomous decisions, both private and public spheres.

3.2.2.2 Jean McClellan Concerned about Her Daughter's Education

Jean McClellan is described as a woman with high career achievements. She is not a housewife who just stays at home while waiting for orders from her husband. On the other hand, Jean McClellan is a woman who takes two roles in the household, either as a mother or a working woman. Jean McClellan also does both roles that she has very well.

Jean McClellan's concern for her children can be seen from how Jean McClellan wants a proper education for her daughter, Sonia. Sonia is a six-year-old girl who is currently pursuing her primary education. Like a general six-year-old child, Sonia has a high curiosity. Of course, Jean McClellan likes it because she has the ability to always answer her daughter's curiosity. Jean McClellan always tries her best to shape Sonia to become a woman who is smart, independent, and has a bright career. Unfortunately, Sonia has to lose the opportunity to develop herself since America is ruled by a patriarchal Puritan government.

During Sonia's time at school, Jean McClellan does not have the chance to accompany Sonia at all. Even when Sonia comes home, Jean cannot ask Sonia about the things she learns at school. This is because the word counters worn by Jean McClellan and Sonia do not allow them to talk much. As a responsive mother, Jean McClellan can determine from Sonia's behavior that she does not receive a proper education at school. For example, Sonia continues to refuse to speak. She even considers that not speaking at all is an extraordinary achievement

for a girl. Seeing what happens to Sonia, Jean McClellan is even more motivated to do something to save Sonia's future as quoted in "When I thought of Sonia—of whether she would be forced into a loveless marriage or sent away to a commune of whores where she could do nothing with her mouth but suck and moan—my blood boiled." (Dalcher, 2018: 118).

Jean McClellan's determination to provide a proper education for Sonia is one of the struggles waged by liberal feminism. According to liberal feminists, equal opportunities between men and women to develop their minds are the main access that can free women from men's subordination. The same education as men will shape women's reasoning to be able to be autonomous women.

3.2.2.3 Jean McClellan Resolute in Being Free from the Patriarchal Government

At the beginning of the novel, it is told that America is ruled by a movement that is initiated by an extreme right-wing organization called Pure Blue. The movement that is initiated by Pure Blue is called the Pure Movement. As the name implies, the Pure Movement has a special goal in America, namely to restore morality in America. It is supported by the election of a president who is extremely conservative that makes the Pure Movement's doctrines become easier to disseminate.

Since the beginning of the story, Jean McClellan has shown her displeasure in implementing all the rules set by the government. Jean McClellan is a woman

with a progressive mindset. She likes developing herself outside the home, meeting new people, but she still pays attention to the growth and development of her children. Jean McClellan's eagerness to be free from the patriarchal Puritan government is motivated by her desire to restore her autonomous position both in private and public sphere as quoted in "*Think about what you need to do to stay free. Well, doing more than fuck all night have been a good place to start.*" (Dalcher, 2018: 16). Jean McClellan wants to go back to develop her career as a researcher, read many books, meet her colleagues, and most importantly visit her parents in Italy. At that time, the American government prohibits its citizens from leaving America. The freedoms she had witnessed before in her native Italy are the reasons behind Jean McClellan's immediate escape from the shackles of the patriarchal American Puritan government.

3.2.3 The Struggles of Jean McClellan in Christina Dalcher's *Vox*

3.2.3.1 Jean McClellan's Struggles to Be Equal to Her Husband

3.2.3.1.1 Jean McClellan's Pursuit of Her Own Career

Jean McClellan is a woman with strong autonomy. She never wants to give her autonomy to anyone, neither her husband nor the American government. Jean McClellan's strong autonomy makes her unwilling to do something that is determined by others. Even if she decides to do that in the end, it is because she does not do it for anyone but herself. It can be seen from how Jean McClellan

refuses Patrick's order to return to work because she does not feel like doing it for Patrick.

As a career woman, Jean McClellan has an equal share of role with Patrick in the house. However, Jean McClellan's position is no longer the same after America is controlled by a Puritan government who implements the patriarchal rules. The loss of Jean McClellan's job makes her rely on Patrick to provide all the household needs. This condition makes Jean have to give all of the household decisions to Patrick, including the decisions to determine the household necessities that need to be fulfilled first. She even has a difficult time when her mother is sick because she cannot immediately pay the hospital bill for her mother's treatment before Patrick gives her the permission to do so.

As a man who has to support four children by himself, Patrick later realizes how important Jean McClellan's role is in balancing their household income. Patrick, who works as the President's personal health advisor, then promotes Jean McClellan to a position. Patrick also proposes Jean McClellan to the President to help research on drugs that treat brain paralysis. Instead of accepting the government's offer as a chance to get back to work, Jean McClellan turns down the offer because she knows that Patrick has deliberately promoted her in order to increase their household income. Jean McClellan even states that the thing that makes her turn down the offer is because she does not want to do anything for Patrick because she has lost her trust for Patrick.

As time goes by, Jean McClellan decides to accept the offer from the government without telling Patrick about her decision. She also does not ask for Patrick's approval in taking the offer. The reason that makes Jean McClellan accept the offer secretly is because she wants to continue her career while building hopes so that one day, she will return to be a free woman as before. Jean McClellan's decision to continue her career is not because Patrick asks her to do it, but she wants to do it for herself therefore she can restore her position as a decision maker in the house as quoted in. "There's no way I can win, but there's a way I can feel like a winner." (Dalcher, 2018: 78). Jean McClellan also demands that she has her paycheck sent right to her own bank account instead of what normally the government will do, that is, sending it to Patrick's bank account. Jean McClellan also demands the President to free her and her daughter from wearing word counters. However, this kind of exchange will never come to Patrick's thought before.

According to liberal feminists, women can only get the same position as men in the household if they do paid work besides doing household chores. The domestic work that is done by women is often underestimated because it does not generate as much money as the work done by men. Therefore, career is one of the important components for women to get an equal position with their husbands. As parties who take part in fulfilling household needs, women will naturally have the right to make autonomous decisions.

3.2.3.1.2 Jean McClellan's Habit of Inducing Her Husband with Housework

Since Jean McClellan is actively working again to complete the government's projects, she does not have much time at home. If previously Jean Jean McClellan could stay at home all day long, after she gets back to work, she only has very little time to stay at home. Even so, she still carries out her duties as a mother in the house, namely cooking, teaching the children, and shopping for monthly necessities. As a result, she often feels fatigue with the activities she carries out everyday.

Every morning, Jean McClellan has to get up earlier than usual to prepare her husband, Patrick, and the children's breakfast. As a result, she is often late arriving at the laboratory. Jean McClellan's regular lateness has resulted in her getting unpleasant statements from her colleagues. Jean McClellan is considered an embodiment of women's inability to work professionally. Feeling cornered by what people think, she starts looking for a solution therefore she is not burdened with double jobs at once.

Even though Jean McClellan has managed to get the opportunity to return to the public sphere, she still experiences injustice in private sphere. It should be noted that women do not have to burden themselves to achieve equality with their husbands. On the other hand, the relationship between women and men in the household needs to be seen as a partnership, that is, a sign that women and men need to work together in doing everything, including to increase income and share household chores.

Jean McClellan's constantly increasing activity makes her have a limited time to do household chores, such as cooking, cleaning, and taking after the children. She even does not have time to put the children to sleep. At first, Jean McClellan urges Patrick to start preparing his own needs. Patrick, who has no other choices, then begins to cook breakfast and dinner himself. As a doctor, Patrick is not required to work long hours like Jean McClellan, hence it is easier for him to do household chores and take care of the children as quoted in "Patrick reheated batches of soup and other one-dish meals, took care of the kids." (Dalcher, 2018: 184).

Liberal feminists believe that married women do not have to play two roles at the same time in order to achieve an equal position with their husbands. On the other hand, allowing men to have nurturing qualities will benefit both parties, including their children. It can be seen through the actions of Jean McClellan who shares the household chores with Patrick while she is working in the laboratory.

3.2.3.2 Jean McClellan's Struggles to Provide Her Daughter a Better

Education

3.2.3.2.1 Jean McClellan's Bargain with the Government

As a woman who realizes her position as a human being with autonomous will, Jean McClellan does not obey such a government's order. Instead, she takes the opportunity as a loophole to get her freedom back. Knowing that the government really needs her contribution in the project, Jean McClellan demands several

requirements that must be fulfilled by the government if they want her to join the project. Jean McClellan's reason of creating the agreement is to share in the benefits from what she is doing for the government. On the other hand, Jean McClellan wants to show the government that she actually has the power to decide what is best for her. Of course the government will not give her the advantages that she wants easily, but Jean McClellan's persistence allows her to get them from the government as quoted in "I want three things, Mr. President. I want my daughter's counter removed. I want her excused from school. I'll teach her at home Friday through Monday." (Dalcher, 2018: 94).

Jean McClellan is attempting to rid off her daughter from the patriarchal doctrines that she acquires at school. However, it is hard to prevent her daughter from acquiring the patriarchal doctrines earlier because she cannot control what her daughter will receive at school. Besides, the doctrines are inculcated very softly to shape women's behaviours that will maintain the preservation of patriarchy.

It takes Jean McClellan a long time to get rid off the doctrines that have already influenced her daughter. Jean's daughter, Sonia, even cries when she is forced to take off the word counter she is wearing. Jean McClellan has to pull every effort to convince her daughter that speaking is not a mistake or sin for women. What happens to Sonia shows that women's inferiority is not caused by an absolute thing called nature, but it is caused by the ideas instilled by the society towards women since they were still children. For example, if Sonia grew up in

the same environment as Jean McClellan when she was a child, it is likely that Sonia will have the same qualities as her mother. So will all women in general. Women who are taught to always listen, obey, and serve will become a woman who cannot maintain her own authority. They will forever see themselves as a subordinate of man. As a result, patriarchy will forever reign over women. Jean's action to exchange a trade with the government is a form of struggle to break the patriarchal system that continues to disempower women.

3.2.3.2.2 Jean McClellan's Endeavours to Teach Her Daughter

Releasing Sonia from patriarchal doctrines taught in school alone is not enough to shape Sonia into a woman with high autonomy in the future. Therefore, a special education that can replace patriarchal doctrines with views on autonomy and freedom is strongly needed. As a mother, Jean McClellan has a capacity to provide a proper education for her daughter. One of the steps taken by Jean McClellan in restoring Sonia's autonomous mindset is by fostering Sonia's curiosity about the outside world, especially regarding the things that happen around her. Jean McClellan personally does not want Sonia to become a woman who is insensitive to her surroundings like her in the past.

During the teaching of Jean McClellan at home, Sonia makes a lot of progress from her prior condition. A little girl who is passive and has no desire to show her self-ownership becomes a little girl who is cheerful, active, and has a spirit of leadership, "I am watching Sonia as she leads her brothers on a tour. She's all

words now, a geyser of them.” (Dalcher, 2018: 236). Previously, at school, Sonia is told that if she is able to keep her words very minimum, which means not saying more than one word on a day, she will be rewarded with a certificate and an achievement star. The system of giving gifts or rewards for women who are considered to have carried out patriarchal teachings well is the cause of Sonia’s tendency to have passive characteristics. Sonia perceives that the lesser a woman speaks, the higher her position will be.

As human beings with autonomous will, women need to see themselves as subjects of their own experiences. From realising their subjectivity, there will be a desire to determine their own destiny and to actualize themselves as a complete agent. Apart from teaching Sonia to be able to share her experiences, Jean McClellan also teaches general subjects that Sonia does not get previously at her school. Jean McClellan teaches Sonia to read more books, understand more vocabularies, and take everything she sees with a hint of curiosity. However, these steps are important to be taken as an effort to develop women’s reasoning abilities. By developing women’s reasoning abilities to the maximum level, women will eventually become capable to make weighty decisions regarding what is best for them. Women not only make decisions regarding themselves, but also influence their surroundings with their decisions.

3.2.3.3 Jean McClellan's Struggles to Be Free from the Patriarchal

Government

3.2.3.3.1 Jean McClellan's Rebellion against the Government

Basically, every human being has the right to civil liberties which are regulated and guaranteed by the state. However, the patriarchal system obscures women's civil rights which should be owned by all women by any conditions. In fact, the assurance of women's civil rights is a crucial point in being able to free women from the subordination carried out by the state and men as rulers systematically.

When the government of a country is unable to guarantee the civil rights of its citizens, then a struggle to reform the system, structure and laws of that country needs to be carried out. In Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, the discrimination carried out by the American government can be seen clearly from the placement of women into the domestic sphere, the inequality of education between women and men, and the limited freedom of expression for women. Jean McClellan seeks to reform American systems of government that are harmful towards woman through a rebellion she and her colleagues carry out.

As the only woman who has the opportunity to fill the public sphere by working to carry out government projects, Jean McClellan has become a representation of women in the public sphere. Women's representation in the public sphere is one of the main pillars of women's struggles to obtain their civil rights. The figure of Jean McClellan is a perfect image of a woman who has obtained her full autonomy through education. Then, along with this autonomy

will arise an awareness that she is oppressed. The starting point for women's struggles starts with the awareness that they are oppressed. Realizing that she is the hope of all American women, Jean then plans a rebellion against the American government.

The rebellion carried out by Jean McClellan and her colleagues aims to thwart the American government's plan to make a serum that actually causes speech disabilities. Then, to reform the American government, Jean McClellan brings out together the voices of all citizens, especially women, to hold large-scale demonstrations. She also invites fathers and husbands to participate in massive protests with the understanding that by ending this ultra-conservative system of government, they will save their daughters from oppression.

Jean McClellan and her colleagues use the serum they have previously made to cause disability of speaking to the important figures who play as the key to the establishment of this patriarchal government. The involvement of women in democracy is a major milestone in the liberal feminist struggle to restore women's civil rights as citizens who are guaranteed their human rights. Jean McClellan's struggle also creates a big impact on all women in America as quoted in "The radios and televisions came to life again; the presses started to roll out newspapers. Women marched in silence until their wrists and words were." (Dalcher, 2018: 324).

3.2.3.3.2 Jean McClellan's Departure from the United States

After America slowly returns to be a country that values women's freedom, Jean McClellan does not only sit back and feel satisfied with what she has gotten. She also makes good use of her rights, namely by taking her children out of America. After her husband, Patrick, dies in chaos during a demonstration, Jean McClellan is determined to start a new life outside America. The country Jean McClellan is aiming for is Italy, where her parents live as quoted in "But home called, and I needed to see my mother." (Dalcher, 2018: 317).

Previously, Jean McClellan cannot not decide where she wants to live because Patrick is an American. It makes her inevitably have to settle in America too. After her husband dies, she finally earns the freedom to decide where she wants to live. That is why she moves to her childhood home in Italy. Jean McClellan's desire to move on with her life and get away from everything that has locked her up in America is a manifestation of her autonomy. Even though at that time America has turned into a country that values equality and justice for women, Jean McClellan still manifests to be a woman who is free to decide where to live without feeling bound by her husband. Over time, Jean McClellan finds her new love in Italy. He is an old friend who makes Jean McClellan feel always loved and supported.

Jean McClellan exercises her individual right to settle in Italy with her children. Jean McClellan's desire to re-manifest her identity as an Italian is a manifestation of her individuality as a woman. Liberal feminists emphasize on

women's struggle to reform the established system, and that is what Jean McClellan struggles for. She fights for equality by showing to everyone that she is able to decide what is best for her, even for her surroundings. She fights for a reformation in America that makes the country free from an ultra-conservatism which marginalizes women. Jean McClellan even has a plan to actualize her political right as quoted in "*Imagine, Jeanie*, she wrote. *Twenty-five percent in the Senate and the House. Twenty-five! You should come back and get in on it. Maybe next year*, I wrote back. And I meant it." (Dalcher, 2018: 320).

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Liberal feminism is a type of feminism that fights for a reform of the existing system, namely patriarchy. To reform means to make changes to the existing system without breaking the system as a whole. Liberal feminism considers that women also deserve the same opportunities as men, both in the private and public spheres. This opportunity can be achieved through equal rights between women and men in the fields of economy, education, and politics as reflected in the struggles of the main character in Christina Dalcher's *Vox* named Jean McClellan.

Jean McClellan, the main character of the novel, lives in a society that sees men as the representatives of God. Based on religious teachings, women are created by God to devote themselves to their husbands and children. As a result, women are not given the opportunity to develop themselves like men. Jean McClellan is a woman with a high intellectual background, hence she does not want to be under anyone's subordination. Equipped with high intellectual qualities, Jean McClellan strives to restore her position in household sphere to be equal with her husband, Patrick McClellan. Jean McClellan fights for her position in household by continuing her career, therefore she can acquire the same financial power as Patrick. After getting the same role as Patrick, Jean McClellan urges Patrick to participate in doing household chores, therefore Jean McClellan's

relationship with Patrick changes from a subordinated relationship to a relationship that works together as a pair of partners.

The loss of opportunities for Jean McClellan's daughter to develop reasoning and abilities due to differences in the education of girls from boys triggers Jean McClellan to restore her daughter's education. As a mother with a high intellectual background, Jean McClellan trades her competence for freedom and guaranteed education from the government for her daughter. Jean McClellan believes that the limited opportunities for women to develop reasoning from an early age will make women lose their autonomy in the future. Equal access to education between women and men is the main key that can save women from the shackles of patriarchy. With proper education, women will be able to make autonomous decisions. This autonomous decision does not only affect women themselves, but also their environment.

Jean McClellan's persistence in releasing America from the patriarchal system that presses women to develop themselves through equality in economics and education shows that Jean McClellan is a representation of liberal feminism. Jean McClellan is able to regain her equality, freedom, and civil rights without forgetting her role as a mother. Beside being a mother who is willing to sacrifice herself for her children, Jean McClellan is also becoming a loving sweetheart of a man who is willing to love and support her.

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APPENDIX

1. Biography of Christina Dalcher

Christina Villafaña Dalcher is a South American writer who was born in Washington D.C., the United States of America in 1958. Dalcher attended tertiary education at Georgetown University in 2006 and graduated with a doctorate in the fields of Phonology, Phonetics, and Italian. As a novelist, Dalcher is fond of making stories with the upper-class society backgrounds and a woman with a high intellectual achievement as the main character. As a woman with high prestige and achievements, Dalcher often highlights the educational issues in the novels she writes, specifically for women. Besides being an active writer, Dalcher is also active in various seminars and research in the field of linguistics with satisfying achievements. Dalcher also taught at universities from various countries such as the United Kingdom, United States, and United Arab Emirates. In 2005, Dalcher married to a man named Bruce Dalcher. Dalcher's husband was a maritime policy adviser in the United States and he was appointed as the representative of IMO (International Maritime Organization). In writing her novels, Dalcher is active in discussions with her husband who has experiences in the field of politic and international law. This is why her novels are always related to political issues.

Dalcher wrote her first novel *Vox* in 2018, which was later called as the reimagining of *The Handmaid's Tale* novel by Margaret Atwood. *Vox* is a dystopian novel whose main character is a female professor who fights against the society of male domination to gain her freedom as a woman. She wrote the novel in between her busy life as a researcher. In April 2020, Dalcher released another dystopian novel entitled *Q* with the story of an intellectual female figure who tries to save her daughter from the shackles of an authoritarian government.

During her career as a writer, Dalcher has written two dystopian novels that focus on the struggles of women to maintain their position in society.

2. Summary of *Vox*

A totalitarian regime who claimed itself as The Pure Movement occupied the United States of America after it succeeded in the general election in the 21st century. It created a major shift in America as a far-right party that was severely influenced by extremely conservative doctrines starting to make several regulations that brought women into a state of powerlessness. All women were expelled from all fields of work and prohibited to say more than 100 words a day. At school, girls were only taught the domestic works needed to master as a devoted housewife in the future. In general, women were told to exhibit modesty and to glorify God by glorifying men.

All women in America lost their careers as their educational achievements were not recognized by the government. They had to painstakingly escape from their glorious past achievements. Jean McClellan, the main character of Christina Dalcher's *Vox*, was not an easily silenced woman. She continued fighting the rules regarding the maximum number of words by continuing to speak and fight for her equality and freedom. Previously, Jean McClellan used to be a laid-back woman who did not take the country's political issue seriously, although her college friend who was actively involved in feminist campaigns, Jackie Juarez, had always reminded her what could possibly happen to women in the future if she kept on denying the signals. Jean lived a less vigilant life for about twenty years before she realised, all the things she perceived as Jackie's vague prophecies had become real. Twenty years after her last meeting with Jackie Juarez, Jean had been married to Patrick McClellan and having four children. They were the eldest

son Steven, then the twin boys Sam and Leo, and the only daughter she and Patrick had, Sonia.

Patrick and the other three boys in the house were not obligated to wear the electric bracelet. Only Jean and Sonia did. Jean started to worry how the regulation would affect Sonia's speaking development as she considered Sonia is in her critical age to develop her vocabulary. Meanwhile Steven, her seventeen-years-old son, had been severely influenced by the religion doctrines as the school's curriculum changed thoroughly. Unlike Jean, Patrick tended to be quiet and mild towards the entire problems in their family. Patrick's occupation as the president's science advisor made him side with the government. The government's intention to subordinate women and Patrick's tendency to be the man that the government wished him, made Jean was subordinated by Patrick too at home. As days go by, she started to show her resistances against Patrick by regaining her equal position with Patrick. Jean then continued her career to herself and urged Patrick to have a share of household duties.

Jean McClellan was a professor of linguistics before she was expelled from her job and took a role as a housewife. As a woman who has a high intellectual background, Jean McClellan wanted her children to develop themselves through education. Therefore, she was concerned with her daughter's rational development as the government started to wear them a bracelet that would electrocute them if they reached the maximum words of the day. Besides, her daughter was only taught domestic subjects at school. Jean McClellan was eager to use her intellectuality to save her daughter from the shackles of patriarchy by agreeing an offer from the government, that she should work for them on a linguistic project and as the return, Jean demanded she and her daughter were refrained from wearing the bracelets. Jean made used of the moment to teach her daughter, Sonia, by herself at home because she had been dreaming of a better and more equal education for Sonia and other girls since then.

Later on, Jean McClellan found out that the government made use of her linguistic research to produce a formula that will cause a severe damage in the part of brain that produces language. Much to her surprise, Jean started to find several allies who called themselves Anti-Pure. They helped her to fight against the government by influencing people to do massive demonstration and causing chaos in the White House. Meanwhile Patrick, Jean's husband, was shot death in a chaos inside the White House. After Patrick's funeral, Jean and her children moved to Italy, and there, they lived with Jean's new lover as a new family.