

## Political consciousness and feminist interpretations of social events in Isabel Allende's *Violeta and the house of the spirits*



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### ABSTRACT

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This study examines political consciousness and feminist interpretations of social events in Isabel Allende's *Violeta* and *The House of the Spirits*, focusing on how historical and political realities shape women's identities and resistance within patriarchal societies. Using a qualitative sociological content analysis, the study draws on feminist existentialism, particularly Simone de Beauvoir's concept of woman as the "Other," to analyze character development, narrative structure, and socio-political contexts embedded in the novels. The findings reveal that Allende intricately links personal experiences with broader political forces such as dictatorship, social injustice, and class conflict, portraying women as active agents who challenge gender hierarchies and reclaim autonomy. Characters such as Violeta, Clara, Blanca, and Alba demonstrate feminist awakening through resilience, emotional labor, and political engagement, illustrating how women's lives are shaped by, and respond to, political oppression and social transformation. The study also highlights Allende's use of historical realism and feminist discourse to amplify marginalized voices and critique male-dominated power structures in Chilean society. Practically, this research contributes to feminist literary studies by offering a framework for understanding how political awareness and gender consciousness intersect in Latin American literature. It further provides insights for scholars and students examining the role of literature in reflecting social change, empowering women's voices, and fostering critical awareness of gender and power relations.

**Contribution/ Originality:** This study is original in integrating political consciousness with feminist existentialism to analyze *Violeta* alongside *The House of the Spirits*. Unlike earlier studies, it jointly examines historical events, gendered power relations, and women's agency, offering a comprehensive sociopolitical-feminist reading of Allende's narratives.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Sociology studies the functioning of society and the operations of groups. It examines the behavior of people in society concerning their public and civic issues and how they approach resolving them as true or right (Byerly, 2024). The method of reading books is often enhanced when the concept of sociology is integrated with literature. Readers observe the stories, characters, and themes of their books as outcomes of specific societal conditions. Nasution's idea is that literature fundamentally involves people using language to express and share their thoughts (Lapoutre, 2024).

A literary text can show the author's view of the world, their life experience, an imaginary world, intense emotions, or a combination of all these (Esteban, Guilló-Arakistain, & Luxán-Serrano, 2022). The passage argues that writers do not create in a vacuum; they always need some kind of starting point or inspiration drawn from reality or social life. To write a story that society will accept or appreciate, a writer should carefully observe social ideas, values, and problems and collect "realities" (facts, experiences, social situations) before shaping them into a narrative (Rojas, 2024).

Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits* explores the changing roles of women in Chilean culture, along with political problems and family ties. Allende's novel explores what it means to be strong, to be recognized, and to survive difficult situations. The story gives readers a deeply emotional picture of life (Ramcilovic-Suominen, Giuntoli, Oliver, & Mehta, 2025). This study examines how the women in *The House of the Spirits* are portrayed and how their experiences connect to key feminist ideas. It also considers the social and cultural conditions of the time when the novel was written, which helps explain how Allende discusses themes such as gender, freedom, and societal expectations (Hatab, 2023). The research focuses closely on the main characters, the structure of the story, and the important conversations that shape the narrative. It highlights the feminist messages in the novel and shows how these ideas make the story richer and more meaningful (Jetmarová, 2022).

The problem may lie in the study of political thoughts and feminist perspectives of Violeta and Isabel Allende in their works *Violeta* and *The HOS*. It may be based on a superficial analysis that oversimplifies issues or lacks the numerous connections between situations, ethnic groups, and the Allende government in the work done by Allende. The emphasis on feminist perspectives and political consciousness may cause the research to overlook such crucial aspects as post-colonial history, the functioning of monetary systems, or cultural interpretations, which alter the events and characters in the books. Additionally, concentrating on this section may diminish the significance of the story by Allende. She combines political and personal narratives, and applying a contemporary mode of thought to past events may distort their original context.

### 1.1. Objectives

- To examine how political awareness and feminist views are connected in *Violeta* and *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende.
- To analyze the way social and political events affect how the characters grow, how men and women interact, and how they fight against patriarchal systems in the chosen books.
- To explore Isabel Allende's ways of telling stories about women's strength and social change through the lens of feminism and politics.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Some research works presented in the literature were dependent on feminist and political perspectives in Isabel Allende's *Violeta* and *The House of the Spirits*; a few of them were reviewed here.

González and Jiménez (2025), Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits* explores gender, class, and political power with a focus on the Trueba family, mainly the women. The book's social underlying forces and personal experiences are shaped by Chile's 20th-century political and historical environment. A feminist analysis reveals how Allende uses this post-colonial setting to investigate these themes.

Ahmad and Mukattash (2025) have presented the Trueba house: a feminist fortress in Allende's HOS magic realist world. In the story, women characters start in household surroundings but then inquire into the male-controlled structure by mixing society and isolated roles. Also, the Trueba house, with its tunnel design and odd events, makes the variance between what's natural and supernatural blurred. The blurring reflects how feminine characters transcend the constraints of their domestic space.

Guerrero (2024) has presented the Chilean anti-street harassment law: How a feminist social movement exploited the system of political opportunities. Although street harassment (SH) was not a new phenomenon, its societal problematization in Latin America dates back only a decade, when feminists in their early twenties organized against it. These days, five South American countries have unique regulations hostile to SH: Chile, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

Jesudas (2025) has presented Allende's and Clay's transitivity analysis of language, emotion, and social commentary was developed. It examines how functional linguistics (FL) is used to study language in social settings, with a focus on transitive analysis and systematic functional linguistics. A significant aspect of FL is transitivity analysis.

Todorova (2024) has presented facing the limitations of learning and teaching committed to solidarity and social justice. The research uses creative student audio productions and self-reflection to reveal that, despite learning about critical theories such as postcolonial, race, feminist, queer, Indigenous, and others, both racially privileged students and those from disadvantaged social groups engage in power dynamics that extend the notion of solidarity.

In 2025, Abdullah (2024) has presented. In the Americas, magical feminism refers to using magic to fight against the oppression and marginalization of women. How magical feminism keeps women in the Americas from being oppressed and marginalized. In order to address the numerous ways that women in the Americas have been victimized, not just due to their gender, but also due to their race, ethnicity, political beliefs, social standing, financial instability, and other factors, magical feminism provides them with a voice.

In 2024, Roncero-Bellido (2024) presented Chicanx and Latinx feminist Testimonios. The reclaiming of testimonio by Chicanx/Latinx feminists to express flesh theory-based theories, practices, and pedagogies was examined in this chapter. To achieve its objective, the chapter examines life-writing studies to understand the way Chicanos and Latinos employ testimony and how these practices challenge essentialist, Western conceptions of autobiography. Table 1 presents a consolidated review of feminist and sociopolitical studies related to Isabel Allende's works, highlighting key themes, methodological approaches, and research gaps. It demonstrates that while feminist and political analyses are extensive, integrated studies combining political consciousness and feminist interpretations remain limited.

**Table 1.** Consolidated review of feminist and sociopolitical studies related to Allende's Works.

Author(s)	Focus of the study	Key Contribution / Findings
González and Jiménez (2025)	Gender, class, and political power in Allende's <i>The House of the Spirits</i>	Shows how the novel uses Chile's 20th-century post-colonial context to explore feminist themes through the women of the Trueba family.
Ahmad and Mukattash (2025)	The Trueba House as a feminist space in HOS	Argues that the home becomes a "feminist fortress." Women begin in domestic roles but challenge male control; magical realism blurs natural and supernatural boundaries to show women transcending limitations.
Guerrero (2024)	Chilean anti-street harassment law	Examines how a feminist social movement in Latin America used political opportunities to address street harassment; now several South American countries have specific SH laws.
Jesudas (2025)	Transitivity analysis in language, emotion, and social commentary	Uses Functional Linguistics (FL) and transitivity analysis to study how language constructs meaning in social contexts.
Todorova (2024)	Learning and teaching for solidarity and social justice	Shows that even when studying critical theories (Postcolonial, feminist, queer, etc.), students still engage in power dynamics, revealing limitations of solidarity.
Abdullah (2024)	Magical Feminism in the Americas	Defines magical feminism as a tool for resisting oppression based on gender, race, class, politics, and identity; gives marginalized women a voice.
Roncero-Bellido (2024)	Chicanx/Latinx feminist Testimonios	Studies how testimonios challenge Western ideas of autobiography; highlights embodied, lived experiences, and feminist storytelling practices.

The generic review of recent research highlights feminist literary criticism, magical realism, and socio-political analysis in exploring gender, class, and power, though broader intersectional and contemporary applications need further exploration. The research gap lies in the limited analysis of the integration of political consciousness and feminist interpretations in Isabel Allende's works, particularly *Violeta* and *The House of the Spirits*. While considerable scrutiny has been directed towards Allende's depiction of past incidents and political occurrences, there exists a deficiency in concentrated examination regarding how these events, in conjunction with feminist themes, influence the growth of characters and societal roles, especially through the prism of feminine dynamics and opposition to patriarchal systems of power. The main aim of the study is to exhibit the political awareness and gender equality reflection in Isabel Allende's creation. The empowerment of women and the difficulties in traditional gender treatment in a heavily political environment can be clearly understood by the writing of Allende.

Major contributions of this paper include.

- The study introduces a model called Political Consciousness and Feminism in Isabel Allende's *Violeta* and *The House of the Spirits* (PCFI-IAV-HOS) to analyze political and feminist themes in the novels.
- Allende's works, especially *The House of the Spirits*, deal with authority, social justice, and resistance, reflecting the political instability seen during Latin American dictatorships.
- Her novels highlight women's struggles and strength. In books like *Eva Luna* and *Daughter of Fortune*, she challenges traditional gender roles and emphasizes empowerment, independence, and dignity.
- Allende blends political and feminist ideas to show how political conflict shapes women's lives. Her writing supports women's rights, questions gender inequality, and gives a voice to marginalized groups.

### 3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study uses content analysis, a qualitative method, to examine feminist and sociological themes in Isabel Allende's *Violeta*. By reading the novel repeatedly, the researcher closely analyzes the social, political, and gender issues shown in the story. It focuses on how these themes develop through the experiences of the main character, *Violeta del Valle*. The data was gathered through careful reading, paying attention to social class, gender roles, and power relations that shape *Violeta*'s identity. The study identified, grouped, and coded recurring ideas from a sociological viewpoint to highlight the feminist and social concerns in the novel. This method helps uncover deeper social meanings and feminist ideas within the narrative.

Literature reflects society by showing issues of class, gender, politics, and human relationships, while sociology studies how people interact within social systems. *Violeta* mirrors 20th-century Latin American society by linking personal experiences with major historical events. The study uses Simone de Beauvoir's feminist existentialism from Beauvoir (1949), especially her idea of woman as the Other, defined and limited in relation to men. It examines how *Violeta* resists these gender and social restrictions to build her own identity beyond class and gender boundaries.

*Violeta*'s journey from a daughter to an independent woman illustrates Beauvoir's belief that womanhood is shaped through lived experience and self-awareness, not by nature. The novel also connects political awareness, understanding social injustice and power structures, with feminist awakening. *Violeta*'s personal struggles overlap with political events such as dictatorship and inequality, showing how feminist identity and political consciousness grow together in Allende's work. The feminist approach in this study explores how culture, politics, and society affect gender relationships. It challenges male-centered norms, strengthens the female voice, and seeks to transform power structures. *Violeta*'s story becomes a path toward gender freedom and political involvement, demonstrating how personal growth contributes to wider social change. By combining sociological analysis, Beauvoir's feminist theory, and political consciousness, the study reveals how Allende portrays women's resilience, empowerment, and activism during social transformation. This combined approach provides a deeper understanding of how feminist ideas and political awareness shape women's identity and agency in *Violeta*.

Political consciousness refers to how deeply an individual understands political and social issues within society, including systems of power and governance. It is influenced by education, personal experiences, and participation in public discussions, shaping one's views on justice, rights, and civic duties. Feminist interpretations examine political, cultural, and social issues through the lens of gender equality. They aim to uncover and challenge unjust power structures and support women's rights. These interpretations work to change social perceptions about gender, identity, and roles by questioning existing hierarchies and drawing from imagination, real experiences, or both.

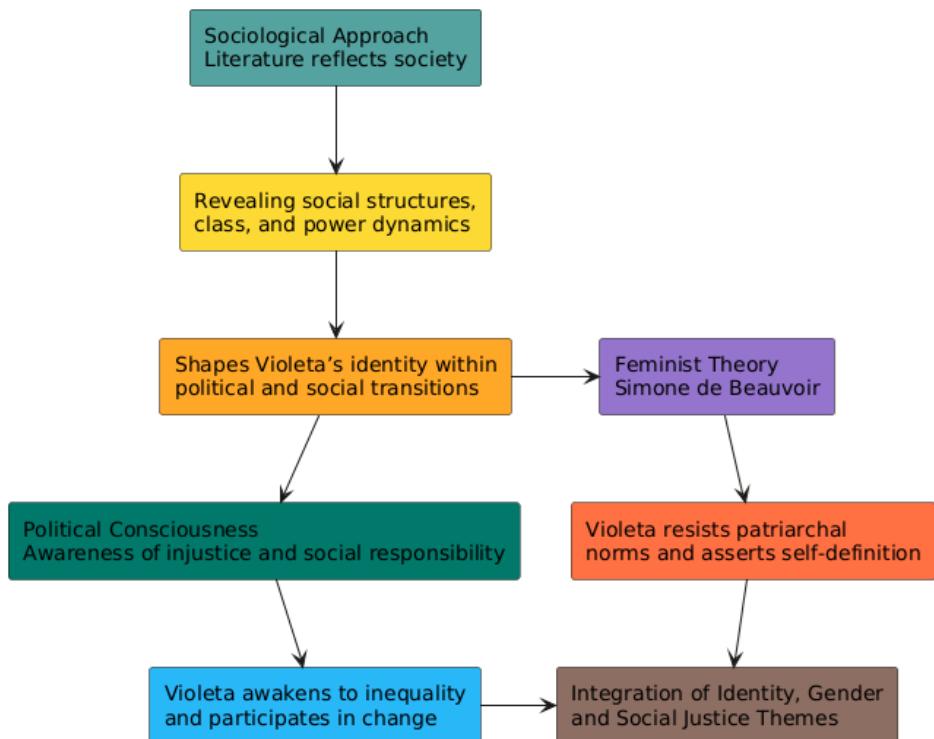


Figure 1. The flowchart of political awareness relates to feminist interpretations of Allende's literary works.

Violeta's identity, as shown in Figure 1, is shaped by influences that are social, political, and gender-related. A close look at society shows that literature mirrors society, pointing out class and power structures. These factors shape Violeta's development as big social changes happen. We can then go in two directions: feminist ideas from Simone de Beauvoir, which explain why Violeta resists control by men, and her political awareness, which shows her understanding of injustice and her actions for social change. These ideas together relate to the main ideas of identity, gender, and fairness in the story.

#### 4. FINDINGS FROM SOCIOLOGICAL CONTENT ANALYSIS IN VIOLETA

##### 4.1. Pandemic

Pandemics are defined by Grennan as epidemics that spread globally. The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918, which afflicted more than one-third of the world's population and killed about 50 million people (Allende, 2022). Allende places her story in a pandemic's historical setting, mixing fiction and fact. The economic troubles and loss Violeta's family faces reflect real social problems that occurred during widespread disease. These descriptions show how pandemics break down social structures and reveal how easily humans can be hurt. This blending of fictional events and history demonstrates how humans have persisted through time. Additionally, using Simone de Beauvoir's feminist existentialism, the pandemic setting also reveals how women are positioned as "the other," expected to absorb emotional, domestic, and social burdens while men remain associated with agency and public power (Beauvoir, 1949).

This book's author explains the story from the viewpoint of the protagonist, thoroughly outlining the overall situation during the virus's spread. As is often the case when a disease strikes a community, Violeta's family experiences a decline in their financial situation and the death of family members. Similar to what actually occurs in real life. The flu or infections that had occurred in Spain were described by Martini, Gazzaniga, Bragazzi, and Barberis (2019) and some of their colleagues in their essays. It is reported that in Martini et al. (2019), on March 4, 1918, Albert Gitchel, a chef at Camp Funston in Kansas, suffered from fever, coughing, and headaches. He was one of the earliest confirmed cases of the "Spanish flu" in history. In three weeks, 1,100 soldiers were admitted to hospitals, and numerous others were impacted (Martini et al., 2019). It demonstrates that the pandemic known as "the flu" or "Spanish flu" is a real-life event rather than just a book or an author's invention. This real-life parallel also shows how, in Beauvoir's terms, women's suffering is often normalized during crises, as their experiences are shaped by patriarchal expectations of sacrifice and endurance. Allende roots her fiction in actual historical events. This choice reinforces her claim that stories keep public memory alive and show resilience during hard times. Because Violeta's story includes real historical details, it changes from just a personal memory into a wider look at how all people are open to being hurt. So, the book connects memory and history, uniting the emotional truth of the story with documented facts.

A pandemic occurs when individuals are exposed to disease outbreaks that prevent them from leaving their homes in order to prevent the disease from spreading. The same situation recently occurred in the real world, as the world is still recovering from COVID-19 (Allende, 2022). This is mentioned in the book, which clearly indicates that our feelings and reactions to society will not change at any time. As technology and the medical field progress, the fear of existence still prevails. Technological development will not protect from basic fears. The main subject in the book has lived through different pandemic conditions. The main character, who has experienced various pandemics, serves as solid proof of repeated suffering and the maintenance of hope in any pandemic situation. The restriction of movement here also symbolizes how women's freedom is circumscribed in public and private spheres, reflecting Beauvoir's claim that society limits women's autonomy through structural constraints.

The current pandemic has affected interpersonal relationships and social interactions, as well as highlighting the irony of experiencing two pandemics. It contrasts the chaos of the outside world with the serenity of Santa. The global impact of the epidemic juxtaposes the chaos of urban life with the tranquility of nature. The narrative examines themes of death and life, as well as how the protagonist is affected by this particular circumstance. Lockdown is employed when certain circumstances necessitate that people remain at home, in addition to when a virus strikes. Through the dialogue below, the author was able to convey the tense situation. The novel's dialogue takes place during a military revolution against the government. Most of these novels record historical occurrences (Allende, 2022). The restriction of movement here also symbolizes how women's freedom is circumscribed in public and private spheres, reflecting Beauvoir's claim that society limits women's autonomy through structural constraints.

Allende argues that while tech mediation is needed, it shows the emotional gap caused by current ways of control. This idea relates to recent lockdown experiences, where isolation changed how we were governed and how we interacted daily. The text shows the conflicting ideas of protection and alienation that mark group reactions to crisis. The recurrent battle of concern as well as living, demonstrates a larger perspective of adaptation in people. The story says that toughness and caring are sentimental ingredients to survival, even when one is entangled and losing. Battered with a mixture of historic and personal narratives, the novel by Allende ponders over the duration passing, memory, and silence that sustains people through repeating their issues.

The term is used to describe the military pressures that have reached such an extent that they have issued orders and directions on TV. This is a demonstration of the value of the information that governments or organizations release in times of emergencies. These recommendations might be regarded as a proactive way of safeguarding the population and yourself. This implies that face-to-face or direct communication may be restricted or not possible in the first place.

Messaging can be an effective way to communicate and coordinate during challenging conditions. This comment highlights how lockdowns are altering daily life, with television instructions becoming crucial for directing behaviour. It emphasises the importance of seclusion and alternative communication during a military takeover. From a Beauvoirian perspective, this also shows how women are often relegated to passive receivers of authority, positioned as "the other" who must adapt to systems designed by and for male-dominated power structures.

#### **4.2. Racist**

Fredricksen's assertion was referenced by Suryanto and Fredricksen (2002) and associates (2002; 1 on Racism). According to him, racism is defined as: "The term 'racism' is used in a loose and unreflective manner to describe the hostile or unfavourable sentiment of one ethnic group or 'people' towards another and the acts that follow from such attitudes." Group-centred bias and snobbishness are described by Suryanto and Minawati (2017) as a fairly common human fault. However, there are situations where a group's hostility toward another is shown and expressed with a ferocity and zeal that surpasses that (Allende, 2022). The novel suggests that racism during this period functioned as an extension of colonial authority, reinforcing a hierarchy in which weaker or marginalized communities were pressured into compliance. The narrative shows how social and political systems justified excluding people, which shaped the lives of those on the margins.

There were many arguments in the 1900s. The weak are still heavily colonized and subjected to coercion. The writer of this novel uses a significant number of real facts referring to challenges that were typical during the period. The argument is implicitly evident because the text suggests that colonial societies were not just afraid of cultural outsiders but also created methods to shut them out, control them, or even criminalize them. Besides being entertaining, the work provides readers with substantial insights into the history of Europe and America during that period. This quote draws attention to the colonial past and the countries attempting to colonize, which many independent nations had to struggle with. It represents the tension between the state and social groups regarded as barbaric or not fitting governmental expectations. These representations are explained with the help of Simone de Beauvoir's feminist existentialism, where her idea of woman as the other (Beauvoir, 1949) is the key signal. It demonstrates that the same applies to domination among genders, races, and colonialism. Colonial powers consider some issues as inferior to others, just as patriarchy considers women as secondary and dependent, defining them in terms of the dominant group.

By examining these images through the lens of feminist existentialism, especially the concept of women as the other (Beauvoir, 1949), the structural domination patterns between genders, races, and between the colonizers and the colonized can be seen as similar. Colonial power treats some groups as lesser others, like how patriarchy puts women in a secondary position where they are dependent and defined by their relationship to the dominant group.

In a democratic and inclusive society, the value of religious and cultural diversity is also emphasized by this theory. The main character in the book believes that being Catholic is a negative trait, even though he practices it. Not only were indigenous people and local communities sensitive to strangers, but they were also subjected to government persecution. The section before the quote below illustrates a situation where people dislike outsiders, such as individuals from Africa, Asia, and India. That is why the remark below highlights Europeans' bigotry against Indians (Allende, 2022). Such depictions reveal how racism operated both socially and institutionally, shaping public perception and legitimizing unequal treatment. This argument suggests that institutional bias frames the outsider as a constant threat.

In this scenario, Violeta was concerned about the opinions of many individuals. Violeta fears that migrants' differing perspectives may lead to confrontations and criminal behaviour against local populations. There is a significant amount of additional material available for readers of Isabel Allende's novel. Historical occurrences, tribal disputes, and violence against women are all examined in the work. The period was marked by numerous incidents of violence, including the killing of women, and women did not have equal rights, according to passages from the

book. The dreadful mood in this work is not solely due to the presence of viruses, wars, and conflicts. This also applies to the current discourse. Her reaction illustrates how fear of difference is often internalized even by those who are themselves subordinated within the social hierarchy. According to Beauvoir, this internalized fear shows how those on the margins, like women, learn to live within systems that treat them as outsiders. The women hold all the social worries and the expectations. But in the final, those feelings will hurt them (Beauvoir, 1949).

#### *4.2.1. Abuse of Women*

This quote emphasizes how prevalent violence against women is, perpetrated by their husbands, boyfriends, and even their fathers. The passage demonstrates how significant violence in relationships between people of the opposite sex is in our culture. The words in the book clearly show the horrible death of women because of this violence. There are defects in the legal system. The words What about the police? And they wash their hands of it, revealing the legal system's failure to effectively deal with the abuse of women. The police do not appear to safeguard the victims of abuse very well. In this case, the story refers to the shocking fact that those institutions that are meant to safeguard citizens may instead lead to inequality, where the perpetrators have the power of authority.

#### *4.2.2. Unfairness and Deceit*

In the case of Susana, the abuser is a policeman. He might not be blamed even if he murders Isabel Allende. He can also use the excuse of self-defense, which is an injustice in handling violence against women. This means that justice or adequate punishment will never be served, especially where the perpetrator happens to be in law enforcement. This scenario indicates inherent injustice and deception in law enforcement. It explains how the legal system may not stand up to defend women against injustice, violence, and corruption, more so where agents of law enforcement are concerned. The occurrence of such instances illustrates an even larger point: that the application of law systems by people of corruption or the patriarchy causes them to be accomplices to the perpetration of evil instead of administering justice. A further examination indicates that strong legal modifications and additional actions are needed to protect women against domestic violence and ensure that victims receive justice. The protagonist promotes the rights of other women along with feminist groups, which she believes are not being fairly fought for.

#### *4.3. Family*

The process of observing a child through the feet of the father, as he kills himself, may evoke strong feelings, especially pity for the main character. The horrific situation marks a pivotal point in the development of the major character. According to the narrative, this early encounter with death significantly influences the psychological development of the main character (Allende, 2022). This argument demonstrates how trauma can impact an individual's sense of self.

The psychological and physical effects of suicide are characterized by this expression. The protagonist shakes his coffee cup while standing still next to his father. The main character's emotional sorrow is conveyed through the depiction of emptiness and uncanny calm. The impact of this long-lasting experience might still be felt even after the funeral. The protagonist finds contentment in living with his aunt and uncle after the regrettable incident. The author's portrayal of Santa Clara's surroundings, which the protagonist may understand, stands in stark contrast to the depressing tone of the preceding quotation (Allende, 2022).

The effects of the surroundings on the book's protagonist after a tragic incident. Nature and country living provide a peaceful and delightful atmosphere for the main character to grow up in. This remark discusses the strong emotional bond between Uncle Bruno and the main character. Since his daughter died when still a baby, Uncle Bruno sees the protagonist as the reincarnation of his daughter, and the protagonist sees Uncle Bruno as a substitute for the father he had lost. This reveals their close and committed love, which fills an emotional gap in their lives.

When the main character comes, Uncle Bruno acts like the happy person he used to be. This suggests their relationship gave him happiness and a new beginning, likely after he experienced pain. This also shows the character's growth and their strong bond with Uncle Bruno in Santa Clara. The study shows how family, where someone lives, and emotions all impact a person's personality. The main character returns home to grieve the loss of his mother despite his hectic work schedule (Allende, 2022).

This novel's protagonist frequently encounters depressing circumstances. He lost his daughter in addition to his parents. The author offers insight into the fact that life is more than just happiness. The protagonist of Isabel Allende's book has encountered a number of circumstances (Allende, 2022).

The central character in this passage shows Nieves' passing and muses over the future of his grandson Camilo, who recently lost his mother. This paper exhibits a profound feeling of loss, unfulfilled expectations, and a high level of emotion about traumatic loss. The protagonist feels ambivalent because she is depressed by the death of her daughter and is preparing for the future of her grandson.

These sequences can be examined under the various ways feminist existentialism has been used to understand the historical experience of women and how they have been treated across different periods as the other, specifically, Beauvoir discussed emotional labor as feminized and historically, the expectation of women (Beauvoir, 1949). Even though the protagonist is a man, the novel imposes traditionally gendered expectations of stamina, nurturing, and emotional resilience quietly on the male protagonist. This highlights the contribution of patriarchal systems assigning otherness to those who are not within the normative power. Articles listed in Scopus, Taylor and Francis, and Elsevier also purport that emotional vulnerability, grief, and care work are coded in a social manner as secondary attributes that are associated with subordinate identities. This strengthens organizational pecking orders, even within families.

#### 4.4. Crime

The novel highlights the fact that a woman is very vulnerable when alone in a risky situation. Without the help of her family, the main character would have become a victim of abuse and the subject of evil (Allende, 2022). This fact can be aligned with the argument by Simone de Beauvoir in book 2, *The Second Sex*, when she writes that women have been regarded as the other and made helpless by systems that privilege male dominance (Beauvoir, 1949). Gendered vulnerability in social spaces is still influenced by patriarchal standards.

This study argues that society perceives women as objects, using and discarding them accordingly. The societal structure is patriarchal, within which women face not only physical but also moral judgment and social abandonment. As individuals with the right to safety and freedom, the protagonist's identity is often treated with contempt and disregard. This commentary exemplifies the protagonist's violent and startling encounter with an odd man who assaults Isabel Allende. The main topics of this analysis include the dangers the protagonist faces, the unfairness and neglect of her identity, and the ambiguity and fear she experiences in these circumstances. The novel's main character, Violeta, endures additional trauma after losing Allende's father. Fighting for the rights of fellow citizens is beneficial for women. However, the author contends that a woman's struggle for women's rights is misguided. Not only can careless acts, classified as a single crime, be committed. The author succeeds in enlightening his audience (Allende, 2022). This interpretation supports Beauvoir's point that when women show agency, it is often perceived as irrational or over the top, which then reinforces their position as the other. Women who resist oppression are frequently labeled as deviant.

The other character in the book, Jose Antonio, tries to liberate Isabel Allende despite being punished and imprisoned by Teresa. This is evidence that the characters in the novel are supportive of one another. This remark reflects both views of Teresa on the system that is present and the feminist agenda. He saw the activities of the president as part of a US conspiracy to replace mother's milk with powdered milk. This shows that he does not like laws and efforts to raise serious societal issues. This statement can be seen as a reflection of Teresa not being able to express radical ideas and the consequences of going against the system and authority. This reading reveals how

strong, persevering, and committed Teresa was in her efforts to defend the truth and her opposition to certain opinions. Violeta does not agree with the approach of Teresa, and she believes that women should struggle to have their rights. Teresa is even harmed by it. This remark is used to explain how the main character assists a woman who has a desire to reveal the atrocities committed by Violeta's former husband. One of the moral lessons that can be learned as admirable in the behavior of Violeta is her willingness to justify the moral high ground. This sense of togetherness reinforces the notion that women, even though considered different, construct supportive systems that go against the confines of male-dominated systems (Allende, 2022).

This paper singles out how Zoraida is trying to bring forward drug trafficking and financial criminal activities, and her determination to make the culprits answer. In the given case, Violeta comes to the rescue despite Julian being a former husband or a relative. This similarity helps us to believe that women, though perceived as different from support frameworks, can push against the boundaries of male-centered systems.

#### **4.5. Religion**

The main characters in the book, Allende's family and Violeta, belong to Catholicism, according to the author's information. Allende also demonstrates the applicability of Catholic doctrine and practices to other spiritual beliefs and endeavors (Allende, 2022). Allende presents that women should participate in Catholic prayers that will empower them and help solve problems. Simone de Beauvoir's concept of woman as the Other provides a lens through which we can view women's inclination toward prayer. In this view, religious devotion isn't necessarily a free choice but rather a culturally constructed expectation placed on women (Beauvoir, 1949).

This encapsulates the perception of Father Juan Quiroga's famed healing skills and rescue efforts. Although church leaders have not formally recognized these holy figures, our analysis shows how powerful public opinion and their association with miracles are not limited to the discussion of religion in general. In this tale, Violeta and Allende's family are depicted as fervent Catholics. Violeta's mother encouraged Allende to persevere in prayer. Catholicism is portrayed in the book "Violeta" as an essential part of the lives and social environments of the protagonists, but it also demonstrates how women can be oppressed and controlled through the exploitation of rituals and beliefs (Allende, 2022). From Beauvoir's viewpoint, these actions show how religious systems controlled by men mold women's identities, reinforcing the expected roles of sacrifice, humbleness, and moral obligation as "the Other."

Because the mother of the major character feels that English prayers are immoral and might not be understood in heaven, she insists that Allende's child pray in Spanish before going to bed. This underlines the importance of employing the right language and observing religious traditions in prayer. This quote indicates that there is one more character in the book, Miss Taylor, who is a member of the Church of England. The religious beliefs of Miss Taylor do not allow Allende to attend the Catholic mass or recite the rosary with the rest of the members of the main character's family. This shows a lack of equality in the practice of religion and the religious freedoms granted. These limits can be explained by the idea presented by Beauvoir, who states that women are commonly regarded as secondary. The rules of religion can limit women's choices, influence how women behave, and affect how they perceive themselves in terms of their faith. This demonstrates religious discrepancies and the religious freedoms that people are actually enjoying.

#### **4.6. Government Problem**

The House of the Spirits is an interplay of politics and government. Fighting within the government is one of the major issues depicted in the story. This leads to solid arguments, such as the one between Juan Martin and his father Julián (Allende, 2022). They discuss the affairs of their country and the role of the United States in it. According to Juan Martin, U.S. assistance is not helpful, and there are nothing like rebels to fight. This demonstrates that the older and younger generations, such as Juan Martin and Julián, tend to disagree on issues of politics and the world.

Their quarrel is representative of the situation in the country during the early 1970s, when no one could accept the way the government was functioning or what foreign nations must or must not do. The novel raises such problems as money, conflicts between authorities, and the way families could be split according to political ideology. The argument clearly indicates that there is a lack of understanding and view between the parents and children, and how this reflects the conflicts in the whole society.

This demonstrates the complexity and conflict of the politics of the country during the given period of time. Based on the president's character, this line expresses the main character's contempt for him. In his story, the author discusses a range of social conflicts (Allende, 2022). The president is portrayed by the protagonist as a wealthy man who is conceited, a socialist, and a traitor to his class. This indicates that the character may not agree with the president's political aspirations and has a negative opinion of his leadership. The characters' opinions on presidents and politics are made clear by these quotations. The president's discontent, opinions on socialism and communism, and worries about the state of the economy are highlighted in this analysis. This demonstrates the character's worry about the political and economic state of their nation, as well as how complex political beliefs can be. At the time, citizens were placed under lockdown as a result of this military coup. People were not allowed to leave their homes during periods of unrest. This tension is used by the author to emphasize the protagonist's commitment to raising his grandson (Allende, 2022).

One notable aspect of the coup, which occurred on a Tuesday in the spring, was the assault on the presidential palace, which resulted in the death of the president and the military taking control. According to this quotation, the military takeover led to numerous massacres and acts of bloodshed. The word "bloodbath" describes an especially violent and bloody event. This means that the coup was an overthrow of the government, and the coup-related deaths were numerous. As this quotation says, the nation came under military rule after the coup. The military also replaces the civilian regime in the novel, and this is a significant shift in politics in the country. The novel examines the effects of this takeover on violence and the immense change in the nation. These are the political incidents that influence the lives of the characters and the whole society. It is against this background of unrest that the personal story of the main character (connected to the birth of Camilo) is laid. Allende takes these incidents to ridicule the manner in which the military destroys its citizens, supposedly on behalf of the nation, yet it employs violence and force in inhumane ways. The military is severe and creates a negative impression instead of safeguarding and providing care to citizens. They also illustrate how women are challenged by systems dominated by men, and this is related to the thoughts of the philosopher, Simone de Beauvoir. Women are commonly marginalized in matters of power, and they are left to put up with such situations instead of taking initiative to improve their lives. The novel demonstrates the way military coups suppress the freedom, security, and autonomy of women, and it is obvious that bigger social structures can restrain the decisions of women, which is significant in the contemporary research on gender and power.

#### **4.7. Human Psychology**

Violeta's meeting with the therapist for therapy to analyze the events that happened to her father, who died in a gunshot. The emotions raised were unable to be experienced in this scenario. The father had no fear or feelings regarding the shot. He could only describe what he saw honestly, as well as the sensations of emptiness and calm he experienced.

Violeta felt the grief of her father's death, which led to trauma and remained in her memory as an unforgettable moment. The protagonist then has the impression that his mother is all around him. This illustrates how a mother and child maintain an emotional bond even after the mother passes away. The protagonist feels at home and at peace when the spirit of Isabel Allende's mother is present. The dynamics of the main character's relationship with his mother are the main focus of this analysis. Despite feeling disappointed and unsatisfied with their relationship, the main character undergoes emotional cleansing to overcome these negative emotions. Even though his mother has passed away, the main character senses the presence and influence of Isabel Allende's spirit in his life (Allende, 2022).

Mother-daughter relations are the purest form of love without asking for anything in return. Her mother knows what is needed and buys them for her; not only material things, but also, many mothers sacrifice their lives for their children in various ways.

This reading offers a feminist existential perspective on how women, especially mothers, become central to emotional labor. Beauvoir's concept of the Other suggests that women are often perceived as emotional anchors whose presence and sacrifices stabilize family distress, even after their departure (Beauvoir, 1949). This idea illustrates how the main character finds healing and emotional clarity by contemplating his mother. Such themes are prevalent in current studies of gendered care and the reliance on relationships for emotional well-being.

The main character consents to see a doctor in order to help him overcome his destructive addiction after being persuaded and encouraged to do so by Josephine Taylor and his brother. This shows that the main character is aware of the issues in his relationship with Julian and is making an effort to reform. The unhealthy relationship can be ended by the family and best friends. They provide assistance, support, and constructive criticism. The character in the study meets a therapist and undergoes therapy to heal from the violence he experienced in the unhealthy relationship and to move away from bad habits. This observation, through a Beauvoirian lens, implies that women like Josephine Taylor take on the emotional work of helping the main character heal. Aligning with Beauvoir's concept of women being placed in supportive roles by patriarchal systems, their work becomes vital but overlooked, thus reinforcing women's position as the Other in domestic and emotional contexts (Beauvoir, 1949).

#### *4.8. Community Organizations*

An advocate for women's and children's rights and justice is one of the book's supporting characters (Allende, 2022). Teresa Rivas pushed for important legal reforms that are now recognized as fundamental rights. The goal of Isabel Allende's actions and writings is to advance social justice and gender equality for women. In that context, she emphasizes legal and economic rights, violence against women, and the recognition of women's fundamental rights. As a result of representing Teresa's assurance, the description commences a gap to study how distinctive groups can catalyze larger equal rights changes, particularly in societies marked by political instability and organizations unable to maintain supremacy. This quote highlights Teresa Rivas' position and contribution to the feminist movement. She was resolute to quit Isabel Allende's career and work full-time to fight gender inequity. Isabel Allende also aims to influence social and legal change through her activities with several organizations, which will eventually ensure the protection of women and their equality. This phrase also shows the significance of women's fight for justice and equality. Teresa Rivas is the representative of a great number of women who protect their rights and make valuable contributions to society. Feminist struggle in social movements is beneficial as it delivers positive changes to society. The book touches on issues that are complex, such as the feminist movement, which seeks to improve the condition of women, politics, family, and love. The feminism described in the novel by Violeta reflects real-life situations (Allende, 2022).

The devotion of Teresa demonstrates how women tend to assume shifting roles despite the historical position that placed them at the periphery of political decisions (Beauvoir, 1949). This follows from Beauvoir's perspective regarding women as the Other. Unfair social structures are addressed by female activists since they cause change, and this is where female agency develops within the constraints of patriarchy. The study also indicates that women who challenge gender regulations tend to outrage the regimes that refer to them as secondary. This concept is very relevant to Teresa, as her work challenges the boundaries imposed on her.

These organizations, free of the restraints of military control, have worked diligently to improve gender equality and women's rights, resulting in legal developments such as the legalization of divorce and abortion in some circumstances. The statement highlights the women's society's role in bringing about community and authorized changes, representing the power of their conflict. It also emphasizes the struggles women face in politics and organizations, but their efforts eventually led to the election of a woman president, indicating their achievement in

the pursuit of their civil rights (Allende, 2022). The entrance of women into politics, like the rise of female leaders, changes how women are viewed, since they are no longer simply defined in contrast to men. This analysis shows how women take control of their identities by working together and changing institutions.

The political developments that occurred following the election of the first female president, who prioritized women's issues, including domestic violence. Promotion of the Nieves Foundation, the goal of which coincides with Isabel Allende's goals, increases the popularity of the foundation and attracts investments. The government and organizations, such as the Nieves Foundation, should collaborate to ensure that social change is achieved. It is also evident that where women are in politics, primarily where women are the leaders, good things ensue. The authored writing suggests the role of women in governance challenges the ancient ideology that the male should be the bosses. These leaders fight back against the subordinate roles of women used by Beauvoir in her ideas. This perception enables us to view the story in the light of the real developments in feminist activities and the legal transformations (Beauvoir, 1949).

## 5. DISCUSSION ON FEMINIST THEMES IN THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS

The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende is a story that explores the weaknesses of patriarchal societies and yet appreciates the power of women. The novel interprets the female characters, such as Clara, Blanca, and Alba, in their own ways in order to fight against gender stereotypes. The variety of female empowerment in the story is emphasized by Clara and her mystical powers and silence in defiance, Blanca and her desire to find love even in social injustice, and also Alba and her political inclination. In addition to telling these stories about each other, Allende remarks on the modes of overpowering structures' attempts to subjugate female ones, and she demonstrates the unending might of women. Like The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende's work effectively incorporates intersectionality and class conflict themes, bringing out the various oppressions women face in Chilean culture. Through characters such as Clara, Blanca, and Alba, the novel shows how social status and ethnicity contribute to gender-based prejudice, which permeates the lives of marginalized women. This narrative is a negative comment on the patriarchal structures that enable such malpractices. The novel highlights female strength and shows how powerful and unstoppable women can be. Allende introduces several strong female voices, and through them, she redefines both femininity and masculinity. This gives the story a powerful impact. The novel also stands as an important feminist work that remains relevant today, especially in discussions about gender and justice.

### 5.1. Feminist Mystics and Resistance

#### 5.1.1. Clara: The Feminist Mystic

Clara shows a bold rejection of patriarchal ideals, reflecting Isabel Allende's constant interest in personal freedom and self-expression. This challenges the usual expectations placed on women in Chilean society. The supernatural power of Allende goes a long way in suggesting that she is independent and thus able to exist without the ordinary dictates of reality.

Clara says independence, and emphasizes and makes her philosophical and divine pursuits more prominent than ordinary obligations, and discards her social restraints, finely and forcibly. With this character, Allende develops an image of women who are liberated as well as who strive for self-awareness and power. Clara is disdainful of the patriarchal power in her outright independence and spiritual influence. Clara is not the one who makes her bossy partner, Esteban Trueba, submit.

Rather, she attains independence through her magical ability and silent protest. Her spirituality is a refuge and a form of protest at the same time, since it assists her in going beyond social boundaries and challenging gender roles. Allende considers mysticism a method to help in women's liberation, paying attention to the fact that it requires self-awareness and strength to eliminate biased social roles.

### *5.1.2. Blanca and Alba: Breaking the Chains of Patriarchy*

Allende views Blanca as gently determined and constant, as she considers love and freedom in spite of her father's control. Blanca's private bond with Pedro Tercero García recommends that she obey the usual comments for women, viewing her liberation. Even when she has to leave her home and is forced to marry, Blanca does not accept the usual male-dominated ideals, making a life that suits her, showing her strength through her ability to survive and change. This study leads to a quiet boldness of tyranny, viewing the significance of individual liberty when faced with social restrictions. Alba, who gets qualities from her mother, Blanca, views power and struggles against biased systems, performing as an icon of faith in a society offended by tyranny and male power. Allende's strong commitment to justice and political action challenges those who try to silence women, showing that women's agency and unity can bring real change. Her connected novels explore feminism and freedom, urging people to rethink old gender roles and imagine a world where women make their own choices and break free from male control. Blanca and Alba stand for resistance and strength against male-dominated oppression. Their self-discovery emphasizes how female independence and togetherness can change things. Allende's characters encourage readers to think about the continuing fight for gender equality and imagine a future where women can reach their full potential.

## **6. NARRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FEMINIST DISCOURSE**

Writing, The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende raises the issue of feminism through the use of the characters and the specific story format, which brings the readers into the feminist discourse. Allende breaks the rules of male-centered standards and gives voice to women more powerfully through the utilization of story techniques with the associated parts. It is a combination of historical beliefs, reality, and fantasy that tends to concentrate on the lives of women beyond the norms of the community. The novel is an ensemble of women and a clear division of gender roles in the characters of Clara, Blanca, and Alba, who show various expressions of female power. Allende switches the time and the point of view to explore the way female identity transforms through generations and shows the connection between history, culture, and the lives of women. She raises her voice against male dominance and at the same time tries to envision women as powerful by juxtaposing the past and the present. Allende uses her characters, who challenge gender stereotypes, to demand equality, liberation, and solidarity. The fact that she explores conventional power dynamics using female perspectives encourages new perceptions of gender and identity. The story structure of The House of the Spirits enhances feminist discourse by centering on women's perceptions and contradicting male supremacy using magic realism and a nonlinear plot. Allende creates an environment in which female ideas are listened to, and a glimpse of a better world is provided.

### *6.1. Critique and Controversy*

The House of the Spirits by Allende is a necessary novel for readers as it addresses issues of equal rights and civil rights. However, feminist literary critics have pointed out issues with the presentation of gender and power. According to the book, women's rights are addressed, as well as strong female characters such as Clara, Blanca, and Alba. Critics claim that these characters are connected with men, which supports traditional gender roles rather than challenging male-dominated norms. The House of the Spirits has also faced criticism regarding its depiction of sexuality, domestic violence against women, and Chilean history. Such portrayals of assault and abuse by Allende have sparked debate over whether it is appropriate to depict trauma in that manner. Critics argue that the story is more about provoking thought than providing a historically accurate account. Nevertheless, the book has a reputation as a feminist work and addresses themes of power, identity, and the fight against injustice. It is seen as a reminder of how women fought and how people can be powerful when fighting injustice. The reviews of The House of the Spirits demonstrate the complexity of feminine conversations and the challenge of adequately representing gender, power, and identity within literature. Despite its issues, the book has left a significant mark on women's writing and remains meaningful to readers worldwide.

## 7. CONCLUSION

This section analyzes the awareness and feminist perception of social events by both Violeta and The House of the Spirits (HOS) by Isabel Allende. The books indicate the relations of personal experiences with larger political tendencies, such as how dictatorial regimes, injustice, and social strife affect human life. The heroines in these two powerful works show how gender, power, and historical change are closely connected, stressing the need for freedom and fairness. Simone de Beauvoir's power method highlights that their stories reflect political chaos and restore women's place in history. By recording the effects of tyranny, revolution, and resistance, Allende closely examines political awareness and its role in shaping feminist ideas. These books challenge common beliefs, and further study of them can deepen the discussion on feminist resistance and political consciousness.

### 7.1. Limitations and Further Recommendations

When scholars study politics and feminism in Isabel Allende's Violeta and The House of the Spirits, their work can be limited if they focus on only one viewpoint. Allende's novels actually combine many issues such as class, gender, race, and politics. If a study looks only at feminism or only at political themes, it may miss other important ideas, like how economics, colonial history, or cultural differences shape the events and the characters. Also, when researchers judge the past using modern perspectives, it can reduce the true depth of Allende's work, especially because her novels already question traditional beliefs and challenge accepted ideas. Most sources agree that researching only one issue, like feminism or political awareness, is not enough. While many recent studies talk a lot about feminism, magical elements, and the impact of politics, there is still a strong need for research that looks at how all these forces, gender, class, power, and culture, work together in her stories, especially for readers today.

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