

The Historical Criticism in *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck

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ABSTRACT

World War II occurred in Germany between 1933 and 1945, under the rule of Hitler and the Nazis, pitting Germany against the Allies. Propaganda played a significant role in their efforts to secure victory. Propaganda was employed to manipulate the perceptions and positions of various groups to align with the Nazis' agenda. This study focused on the forms of propaganda used by the Nazis against Non-Aryan groups, including Gypsies, Slavs, Jews, and Polish. It also explored how German society responded to this propaganda during the period of 1933-1945, as depicted in Jessica Shattuck's novel "The Women in the Castle." The research applied historical criticism, using the gray and black propaganda theories proposed by Seabury and Codevilla (1990). Additionally, the theories of gray and black propaganda by Garth S. Jowett & Victoria O'Donnell (2005) were used to support the research findings. The study felt under the category of literary criticism, gathering data from quotes, conversations, and narratives found in the novel "The Women in the Castle," published in 2017 by William Morrow. The research yielded three main results: First, it identified seven instances of gray propaganda and three instances of black propaganda. Second, it uncovered nine positive and seven negative responses to Nazi propaganda targeting Non-Aryan groups. Finally, the novel "The Women in the Castle" effectively reflected the actual socio-political conditions of Germany from 1933-1945, spanning from Hitler's rise to power as chancellor to World War II and the Holocaust, which involved various propaganda efforts to garner support from the populace. However, there were also those who resisted and acted as opposition.

Keywords: propaganda, Nazi, historical criticism

INTRODUCTION

The Women in the Castle deals with a historical novel, so this novel is highly suitable for using a historical criticism approach. Historical criticism attempts to understand a literary work by exploring the social, cultural, and intellectual context that created it (Gioia

& Kennedy, 1995). According to Taine, there are three essential components to the flow of historicism: (1) race, (2) milieu, and (3) moment. Race contains items related to ethnicity and genetics. The milieu is linked to the region of residence, while the moment is a significant event that takes place at that time (Wibowo, 2017).

The Women in the Castle describes the reflection of the history before World War II until its war occurred, starting from how the Nazis and Hitler used propaganda to gain support and sympathy from German society, the responses to Nazi's propaganda, and revealing social and political conditions in 1933-1945 under Adolf Hitler.

Propaganda generally means changing the other party's understanding or position to suit our desires. According to Linebarger (1947), "Propaganda consists of the planned use of any form of public or mass-produced communication designed to affect the minds and emotions of a given group for specific public purposes, whether military, economic, or political" (Anwar, 2016, pp. 96-97). However, propaganda is often related to the discourse of media decoding that spreads the ideology, hegemony, and performance of power or other political opponents (Bungin, 2018).

Several studies have been conducted with the same object, including Kusumohastuti (2020), Simon (2015), Callaghan (2017), Smith (2018), and Burghardt (2017). In addition, the same approach has been studied by Laili (2013), Noviani (2015), and Wibowo (2017). From the previous studies above, no studies apply the historical-critical approach to the novel *The Woman in the Castle*.

The researcher applied black propaganda and gray propaganda theory by Paul Seabury and Angelo Codevilla (1990) and supporting theory from Garth S. Jowett & Victoria O'Donnell (2005) to discover the forms of Nazi propaganda against non-Aryans, such as the Gypsies, Slavs, Jews, and Polish. This research also explained how German society responded to Nazi propaganda portrayed in Jessica Shattuck's *The Women in the Castle* and described German's socio-political condition in 1933-1945. This research expected to attract the public's attention regarding world history through literary work and increase readers' awareness of reading and studying history.

Gray Propaganda and Black Propaganda based on Seabury and Codevilla (1990)

Gray Propaganda

Gray Propaganda is the semiofficial amplification of a government's voice. Foreigners are focused on what a nation's government says and what the country's nonofficial and authoritative voices say. Thus, a government can strengthen its hand in political warfare by enlisting the support of these voices. Gray propaganda can also help foreigners deceive themselves and give a government the dangerous pleasure of saying things that it does not mean or has not thought through (Seabury & Codevilla, 1990).

Black Propaganda

Black propaganda deals with information (true or false) that appears to come from a source other than the one from which it originated. Information or suggestion that is black propaganda enjoys the appeal of appearing to come from a disinterested source when they do not. For this reason, black propaganda can be powerful. However, Black propaganda must be consonant with other policy efforts in order to be effective at all. There is a constant temptation to run black propaganda, like other secret activities, not as an adjunct to policy but as a policy in itself (Seabury & Codevilla, 1990).

Gray Propaganda and Black Propaganda based on Jowett & O'Donnell (2005)

Gray Propaganda

Gray propaganda is a type of propaganda that falls somewhere between white and black propaganda. The source of gray propaganda may or may not be identified, and the accuracy of the information is still being determined. In some cases, the message's source was correctly identified, but the information needed to be more accurate. Gray propaganda is also used to embarrass an enemy or competitor, and this propaganda is not limited to governments (Jowett & O'Donnell, 2005).

Black Propaganda

Jowett and O'Donnell (2005) add that black propaganda is when the source is concealed or credited to a false authority. When the identity is hidden, the analyst's task is demanding and quite challenging to detect black propaganda until all the facts are known. Black propaganda has a deliberate distortion. The success or failure of black propaganda depends on the receiver's willingness to accept the source's credibility and the message's content. Furthermore, Black propaganda has the potential to discredit other individuals and organizations by spreading lies, fabrications, and deceptions, including all types of creative deceit but revealing the identity of black propaganda can lead to the subversion of the propaganda itself (Linkov, Roslycky, & Trump, 2019; Jowett & O'Donnell, 2005).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was considered literary criticism because the research attempted to analyze a novel as literary work. Furthermore, literary criticism is primarily interested in analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating primary sources (Klarer, 2005). The data in this analysis were obtained from quotations, conversations, and narratives.

The researcher used a historical criticism approach by applying gray propaganda and black propaganda theory by Seabury and Codevilla (1990). The data source used for this research was the novel, *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck, published in 2017 by William Morrow, an Imprint of Harper Collins Publisher. This novel consisted of 297 pages and 38 chapters.

The researcher did several ways to collect the data. First, read the novel *The Women in The Castle*. Second, reread the novel. Third, highlighted quotations, conversations, and narratives depicting Nazi propaganda and the responses of German society; also, the social, political, and economic conditions of Germany from 1934-1950 are reflected in the novel. Fourth, classified the data based on the problem of study. After classifying the collected data, the researcher continued to analyze the data by ensuring and verifying the finding, then concluding.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Forms of Nazi propaganda against non-Aryans — the Gypsies, Slavs, Jews, Polish, and the Communists.

There were two forms of propaganda that the Nazis used in the novel *The Woman in the Castle*, namely gray propaganda and black propaganda.

Gray Propaganda

Gray propaganda is the semiofficial amplification of a government's voice. The source may or may not be identified, and the accuracy of the information was uncertain.

The first gray propaganda was further disseminated through the German Paper in cornering the Polish population for the war that occurred, written in the following excerpt.

“—but Ania believes the stories she reads in the German papers, which call it a war of self-defense. According to the papers, the Poles have made a number of incursions onto German soil, murdering innocent citizens and taking over their radio station in Gleiwitz. Their next lager is also fine. It is 1940. Germany is at war. Most German papers still call it a war of self-defense” (Shattuck, 2017, p. 210)

The above narrative showed that information had been spread through German newspapers saying that Poland attacked Germany first, killed innocent citizens, and took over the radio station Gleiwitz. That was why Germany called this war a form of self-defense and cornered Poland. Again, German made this gray propaganda to justify the war they made through Nazi newspapers as the semiofficial of a government's voice.

The second propaganda has released through the German newspaper; gray propaganda was carried out regarding Poles and Slavs' customs, as the following quotation.

“The Völkischer Beobachter runs disturbing stories about their poor hygiene and laziness. They breed like rabbits and live on the best, most arable plots of land, much of which, until he last war, belonged to Germany. They need German order, modernity, and management. And Hitler is just the man to bring this to them—look at what wonders he has done for Germany's crime rate! It is not just unemployment he has fixed; under his leadership the country has become a much safer, more peaceful, and more orderly place.” (Shattuck, 2017, p. 210)

From the above quote, gray propaganda was also spread through German newspapers, which reported Poles and Slavs' customs regarding their laziness and independence. Hitler described them so severely. Thinking that the Poles had taken the German citizens' land and only reproduced there so that their race was considered inadequate and one-sided by the German population, Germany needed Hitler. The propaganda spread through German newspapers was also included as the semiofficial of a government's voice. The accuracy of the news was uncertain, especially regarding Poles and Slavs' bad habits and criminal behavior.

The third propaganda came when Hitler blamed the Jews, mainly for economic matters.

“Listening to the radio at that first lager in 1936, Ania believes Hitler's assertion that Jews are rich businessmen who have profited from Germany's troubles and taken the best jobs in Germany. Furthermore, those who are not rich, which is to say mostly the eastern Jews who have immigrated here from Poland, Romania, and the Baltic, are freeloaders and Bolsheviks. They are Trotsky followers, the same people who set the Reichstag on fire and created the “Bavarian Soviet Republic.” Her The grasp of the details is vague, but she understands this last group of agitators is dangerous. She accepts this in the abstract, of course. The actual Jews she knows are different. For example, Herr Goldblum, the grocer, or the Cornbluth girls from her grammar school are neither rich nor Bolshevik. They are kind, ordinary people who belong to the wrong group. However, how can Hitler know who is a “good Jew” and who is not? Easier to evict them all and prevent infiltration. Where will they go —back to Poland, Romania, wherever they came from? America? Israel? Madagascar?—is not Ania's concern.” (Shattuck, 2017, p. 209)

From the quote above, this gray propaganda vilified the image of the Jews. This propaganda showed that Hitler blamed the Jews for exploiting Germany's situation, and many Jews became businessmen there. It made Hitler feel that he had seized the land of the

German people, and as for the poor, Hitler and the Nazis considered him parasites and members of the Bolsheviks, and Trotskyites, who had burned to the ground and founded the Bavarian Soviet Republic. At first, Ania believed Hitler's statement even though she still doubted the information, until finally, she met the Jews, and the reality was different. The Jews he met were other; they were good. This information shows that the level of accuracy of information is uncertain and spread by the semiofficial government's voice through radio.

Black Propaganda

Black Propaganda is "information (true or false) that appears to come from a source other than the one from which it originated by or unknown source. The source of black propaganda may be concealed or credited to a false authority. Black propaganda also had the potential to discredit other individuals and organizations by spreading lies, fabrications, and deceptions. Black propaganda was also considered disinformation because the information was false and veiled.

The first black propaganda came when the Nazis accused the Jews of being the cause of Ernst vom Rath lying in the hospital. A seventeen-year-old boy, one of a family of Polish Jews expelled from Germany but not allowed into Poland, shot Ernst vom Rath, as shown in the narrative below.

"In Paris, Ernst vom Rath lay in a hospital bed, the victim of an attempted assassination, and in Munich the Nazis were whipping the country into a frenzy for revenge. Never mind that prior to the event no one had even heard of vom Rath—an obscure, midlevel German diplomat—and that his assassin was a boy of seventeen, or that the shooting was itself an act of revenge: the assassin's family was among the thousands of Jews huddled at the Polish border, expelled from Germany, barred entry by Poland. The Nazis were not deterred by complex facts." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 7)

The data above showed that there was no definite source that provided information about the attempted murder of Vom Rath, which was carried out by a child who came from Polish Jewry. No one had heard about Ernst vom Rath before, also that his position was valid, but the Nazis did not try to find this source's accuracy because it benefited the Nazis in their mission to destroy the Jews in Munich. The source of this black propaganda could not be identified, and this information tends to be one-sided.

The second black propaganda was distributed through leaflets to refugees about the victory that Germany would achieve, as in the following quotation.

"Occasionally, they come across stations set up by the National Socialist People's Welfare, where boisterous volunteers hand out soup and propaganda: the Germans are merely waiting for the newest installment of weapons before they turn back the tide; the Russians are so desperate they are conscripting women; the supposedly kindly American troops advancing in the west are only. The frontrunners—they are followed by Jewish Einsatzgruppen, eager for revenge. That is why it is imperative to continue the fight. The Germans must triumph or be killed. No one believes it. The Germans are losing. It is clear from the flood of humans marching west." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 96)

The above narrative also showed that the volunteers received propaganda leaflets of unknown origin. The message convinced the residents there that Germany would soon win and reverse the situation while Russia would lose. However, in reality, Germany ended in defeat. This propaganda includes black propaganda because the source cannot be identified, and this message spreads lies.

The third propaganda was when Hitler planned resettlement for the Jews under the pretext that the Germans needed more space and resources, as explained below.

"Early in her Landjahr training, she received a glowing booklet about a camp for Jews in Poland, a clean, orderly place, with a hospital and vocational training programs. The word resettlement conjured an image of a village emptied of its inhabitants, who had been resettled to another village, emptied of its inhabitants, who had also been resettled, and so on—with each population pushing farther into the wide and roomy east. A continent of people shifting to make Lebensraum, living space, for their bursting population. There is an easy logic to it. After all, there are eighty million people living on five hundred thousand square kilometers in Germany." (Shattuck 2017:213)

"But now, everyone knows the "settlements" are really just camps, and the camps are no better than the squalid "Jew houses" where the few remaining Jews in German cities have been confined" (Shattuck, 2017, p. 213)

From this data, a booklet revealed camps for Jews in Poland. The booklet described that the camp the Jews would occupy was clean and orderly, with a hospital and a vocational training program. However, it was all a lie because the Jewish camps were even worse than the Jewish homes. Therefore, this propaganda was black propaganda because it was unknown where the source of the booklet came from and it was full of falsity. Apart from that, this propaganda aimed so that the people of Germany would agree to the resettlement idea for Jews.

The Responses of German Society to Nazi Propaganda

Positive Responses

Nazi propaganda received various reactions, including the positive response from followers or the German community, such as the conversation below regarding vom Rath's death.

"By the champagne fountain, Gerhardt Friedlander argued with the Stollmeyers, a set of drunken, ruddy-faced twins who have devoted Nazis. The crowd cleared a nervous circle around them. "The conspiracy of world Jewry will not stop at murdering vom Rath," one of the Stollmeyers ranted. "We must take action against them—" "Do not be a fool," Gerhardt spat. "Vom Rath was killed by a deranged seventeen-year-old, not a conspiracy."

"A deranged seventeen-year-old who was a Jew and a Bolshevik," his opponent argued, "who wanted to destroy the pride and unity of the German Volk . . ." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 19)

The conversation above showed that Gerhardt Friedlander and the Stollmeyers believed the information provided by Nazis about the death of Vom Rath, who was killed by young Jews and Bolsheviks, denying that it was not a conspiracy but a reality and thought. Jews existed to destroy German pride and unity. Both were loyal followers of the Nazis.

Therefore, the German people's support of Hitler's propaganda about Germany required more space in their country shown in the narrative below.

"At the Golden Onion, Benita and Connie sat beside a pleasantly flickering fire, and Connie ordered each a glass of the local cider and a schnitzel. It struck Benita as comical—a fancy staff officer from Berlin ordering this. "So tell me," he asked when their cider was before them, and the Jägerschnitzel steamed greasily on its plate. "What do you think of all this marching, saluting, and repatriating the German peoples of Europe?"

Benita was shocked at his question—the implication and glib tone. It was, maybe, a trick, she thought. After all, had he not said he was here on some official business?

"I think it is a kindness by our Führer to bring them back into their motherland. And also the German people need more room and space," she parroted Fräulein Brebel in a confused rush. (Shattuck 2017:49)

"Who told you that?" Connie asked, laughing.

"No one—it's what I think," Benita said, straightening herself.

"And what of all the opponents and Communists and Jews who've been arrested?"

Benita stared at him in disbelief. It was a traitorous line of questioning. Furthermore, the basis for the question was fuzzy in her mind—indeed, in Frühlinghausen, no significant number of people had been arrested. She stared down at her hands and could feel the blood racing to her cheeks." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 49)

The conversation above showed that part of German society, Benita, supports what Hitler wanted to do: herald the German people's return to Europe. They also did not care about the fate of Jews, Communists, and all German opponents, even though they would be arrested or removed. Hitler convinced the German people that what he was doing was in German society's interest, which today needs more space to live.

Many ardent Nazis also considered that they belonged to a superior race, while the nonAryans - the Gypsies, Slavs, and Jews were a lowly race, as in the quotation below.

"The laborers wore P for Polen, or "Polish worker," stitched onto their ragged uniforms. They reported to Roland Zeppel, the farm overseer. Untermenschen, he called them. "under people"—the Nazi term for non-Aryans—the Gypsies, Slavs, and Jews at the bottom of the lot. Marianne had said they are people, too, when she heard him use the word. It would help if you treated them with dignity. Roland Zeppel whipped out a Nazi pamphlet about managing foreign laborers. "Do not confuse Polish workers with Germans. They are not allowed at the table. Fraternizing is punishable by law." Marianne glared at him.

She had never liked the man. He had been a party member from the beginning, and even before that, he was not well-liked. He had no skills, smarts, or education to distinguish him, which made him just the sort to be taken with the notion that he belonged to a master race." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 106)

The data above explained that the Nazis and the ardent believed so strongly that they were a superior racial group. They felt they were entitled to be treated non-Aryan - the Gypsies, Slavs, and Jews like bondsmen and considered them a lowly race who deserved no company. Being friends with them was against the law. That is the flyer the Nazis made, and they agreed to it.

To recognize their lowly race, Nazis judged the Jews to represent crime, as in the quotation below.

"Ania also accepts Hitler's statement that Poles and Slavs and easterners belong to a lower race, disproportionately represented in civilization's criminal elements. In her training as a youth leader she learned the science of this: genetics and brain size and forehead measurements, statistics of their incarceration for stealing and rape and murder." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 209)

The data above explained that Ania accepts Hitler's statement that Poles and Slavs were a lowly race representing crimes such as murder, rapists, and thieves, identical to genetics, brain size, and forehead width.

Through radio, propaganda about the ugliness of the Jews living in Germany also spread. It showed in the following quotation.

"Listening to the radio at that first lager in 1936, Ania believes Hitler's assertion that Jews are rich businessmen who have profited from Germany's troubles and taken the best jobs in Germany. Moreover, those who are not rich, which is to say mostly the eastern Jews who have immigrated here from Poland, Romania, and the Baltic, are freeloaders and Bolsheviks. They are Trotsky followers, the same people who set the Reichstag on fire and created the "Bavarian Soviet Republic." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 209)

The narration above explained that Ania believed that the wealthy Jews had seized all the jobs in Germany, and they have succeeded in becoming wealthy executives. They took advantage of opportunities when things went wrong in Germany. On the other hand, poor Jews were considered parasites and members of the Bolsheviks. Besides, Ania was convinced by Hitler's statement regarding the Jews mining their wealth in Germany, as shown in the narrative below.

"Volunteers distribute tickets to those waiting: two coats per family, two pieces of bedding, and shoes for everyone. What a windfall! Thank goodness she has arrived early enough for the best picks. She selects a lovely camel-colored wool coat with silver buttons for Anselm (much finer than any he has ever owned), a thick green wool cape for Gudrun, two feather beds, and a practical pair of shoes for each. The question of where all this has come from does not even occur to her until she checks out. Redistributed the volunteer stamps on a paper listing the items Ania had selected. "Redistributed from where?" Ania asks.

"From deportees," the volunteer says curtly.

So these are belongings Jews sent east have left behind. The thought is dismaying. Some little boy had to leave this handsome coat. Nevertheless, it confirms what the Führer has been saying—the Jews of Germany have made themselves unreasonably rich. Who would leave behind such a coat unless they owned an even better one they could bring along?" (Shattuck, 2017, p. 213)

The quotation above explained that Ania was increasingly convinced that the Jews in Germany only enrich themselves with abundant wealth because Ania got the distribution of valuable things such as robes, coats, shoes, and others. According to Ania, the staff was excellent, confirming what Hitler said was true.

In German newspapers, Germany attacking Poland was a form of self-defense, as shown in this narration.

"When the boys are two and three, Germany invades Poland. No one wants war—it has been only twenty-one years since their last one!—but Ania believes the stories she reads in the German papers, which call it a war of self-defense. According to the papers, the Poles have made a number of incursions onto German soil, murdering innocent citizens and taking over their radio station in Gleiwitz. She is an intelligent woman, but she is not a skeptic. It must be true if the paper reports it." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 210)

From the data above, Ania believed in the self-defense story. How in the newspaper was written, Poland had attacked parts of Germany and killed innocent citizens. The German people, including Ania, agreed to the war, which Hitler called a form of self-defense.

Likewise, the concept of deportation and murder, according to Hitler, is the quote below.

"In the last year, Ania has heard new horror stories: of KZ inmates worked so hard they drop dead, of women and children shot to death in the woods, of giant ovens where Jews are gassed. She does not believe the worst of these. The Führer who dreamed up Landjahr lagers and one-pot Sunday dinners would never order such unconscionable things. It is one thing to deport the Jews, another to murder them. The stories smack of Allied propaganda—the kind written on the leaflets that the RAF drops." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 215)

The narrative above told Ania did not believe that Hitler did such heinous things as ordering prisoners to work hard to death and gassing Jews. Ania did not believe that and still thought Allied propaganda spread through the air.

Negative Responses

Aloof, from positive responses or statements of approval to news, issues, or information disseminated by the Nazis, some parts of German society chose to oppose the rhetoric of Hitler and the Nazis or reject their ideas and refuse to believe their propaganda.

As Marianne did in response to a story in which the Nazis ransacked Munich over a rumor that young Jews would kill one German diplomat, Ernst vom Rath, shown in the quotation below.

"In Paris, Ernst vom Rath lay in a hospital bed, the victim of an attempted assassination, and in Munich the Nazis were whipping the country into a frenzy for revenge. Never mind that prior to the event no one had even heard of vom Rath—an obscure, midlevel German diplomat—and that his assassin was a boy of seventeen, or that the shooting was itself an act of revenge: the assassin's family was among the thousands of Jews huddled at the Polish border, expelled from Germany, barred entry by Poland. The Nazis were not deterred by complex facts. All the more cause to gather reasonable people here at the castle, away from the madness! Marianne had argued just yesterday. Today, in the rain, her argument seemed trite." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 7)

From the data above, Marianne felt she disagreed with the Nazi actions of taking revenge and tearing apart Munich because of a rumor about one of his diplomats, Ernst vom Rath. He was being attempted murder by a young Jew aged seventeen whom he said was one of the Jewish families stranded on the Polish border after being kicked out of Germany. Even though it is a rumor, the Nazis do not care. According to Marianne, it was essential to gather logical minds to fight the madness of Hitler and the Nazis. Of course, Marianne also did not believe the rumors that spread, such as the conversation below.

"As the news spread, guests with government roles or substantial properties in nearby cities took off down the hill, speeding drunkenly around curves, honking and flashing their headlights. They were followed, more soberly, by the few Jewish guests. A few voyeuristic idiots drove to the neighboring town of Ehrenheim to see how far the rioting had spread.

By the champagne fountain, Gerhardt Friedlander argued with the Stollmeyers, a set of drunken, ruddy-faced twins who have devoted Nazis. The crowd cleared a nervous circle around them. "The conspiracy of world Jewry will not stop at murdering vom Rath," one of the Stollmeyers ranted. "We must take action against them—"

"Don't be a fool," Gerhardt spat. "Vom Rath was killed by a deranged seventeen-year-old, not a conspiracy."

"A deranged seventeen-year-old who was a Jew and a Bolshevik," his opponent argued, "who wanted to destroy the pride and unity of the German Volk..."

Marianne could not listen. This absurd Nazi blather was everywhere, ripe for adoption by the simpleminded Stollmeyers. How had those two ever made the guest list? Thank God Gerhardt was there to put them in their place." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 19)

The data above showed that Marianne strongly disagreed with the Nazis. According to Marianne, their ideas were too ridiculous, and the Nazis were too quick to conclude the rumor even though they did not know the truth of the news. Apart from that, Marianne also criticized other matters regarding the case of Ernst vom Rath.

"Poor Ernst vom Rath lay in some hospital bed and thousands of Jews slept out in the cold borderland. Germany was being run by a loudmouthed rabble-rouser, bent on baiting other nations to war and making life miserable for countless innocent citizens. And here they were, drinking champagne and dancing to Scott Joplin." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 14)

The narrative revealed that Marianne dislikes Hitler because, according to her, Hitler was a figure who has a big mouth, liked to fight, and made people miserable. The most prominent thing was that Hitler was a provocateur of all his ideas or propaganda to provoke other countries to go to war. It was also evident that many Jews were displaced at the border compared to the fate of the supposedly unfortunate Ernst vom Rath.

In addition, there were the reasons for the war that served as the basis for Poland's Nazi seizure, as illustrated in the narration below.

"Mama!" Elisabeth, age six, and Katarina, age four, shrieked delightfully. Elfie, their sweet, mild-mannered au pair, glanced up at Marianne with a beleaguered expression.

"Isn't it true that Hitler is going to take back Poland next?" Elisabeth asked, bouncing on the mattress.

"Elisabeth!" Marianne exclaimed. "Where did you get this idea?" "I heard Herr Zeppelin saying it to Papa," she said, still bouncing

"No," Marianne said. "And why would you think that was anything to be excited about? It would mean war!"

"But it's supposed to be ours." Elisabeth pouted, stopping mid-bounce. "And, anyway, Herr Zeppelin said the Poles can't manage themselves." "What nonsense," Marianne said, irritated that Albrecht had allowed the child to hear such talk. Zeppelin was the overseer of their estate in Silesia and an ardent Nazi. Albrecht tolerated the man's nonsense because they had grown up together: Weisslau was a small town.

"But it was ours, wasn't it?" Elisabeth insisted. "Before the war?" "Elisabeth," Marianne said, sighing, "you concern yourself with what is yours, please—and that includes the book you are supposed to be reading with Elfie right now." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 8)

From the above conversation, Marianne did not like the idea of the Nazis wanted to conquer Poland. According to him, there was no need to seize what did not belong to Germany, and he certainly did not like any war that the Nazis had to take Poland.

Hitler's idea of a superior race in the book *Mein Kampf*; his 'struggle' also received a negative response from German society.

*"It is our duty," Connie said. "If we don't work actively to defeat Hitler, it will only get worse. This man—this zealot who calls himself our leader—will ruin everything we have achieved as a united nation." He continued, "If we don't begin to mobilize like-minded people against him, if we don't begin to actively enlist our contacts abroad—the English, the Americans, the French—he will draw us into a war, and worse. If you listen to the things this man says—if you really listen, and read—it's all there in that hideous book of his, *Mein Kampf*; his 'struggle' is to turn us all into animals! Read it, really read it, know thine enemies—his vision is medieval! Worse than medieval, anarchic! That life is nothing more than a fight for resources to be waged between the races—this 'Master Race' he likes to speak of and the racial profiles he has devised—these are the tools he will use to divide us and conquer." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 16)*

From the narrative above, Connie wanted to fight and defeat Hitler because he feared things would worsen. According to Connie, Hitler would turn German society into an animal, as stated in the book *Mein Kampf*; his 'struggle,' Hitler's vision, and mission were terrible, according to Connie. Hitler only wanted to compete for resources with the superior race that always proclaimed his designs' racial profile. That idea could potentially divide German society's unity, so he gave the idea to his friends for active resistance.

How the Nazis scapegoated Jews - even Marianne and her friends know, as the quote below shows.

"For so long Marianne and Albrecht and many of their friends had known Hitler was a lunatic, a leader whose lowbrow appeal to people's most selfish, self-pitying emotions and ignorance was an embarrassment for their country. They had watched him make a masterwork of scapegoating Jews for Germany's fall from power and persuade his followers that enlightenment, humanity, and tolerance were weaknesses—"Jewish" ideas that led to defeat. They had wrung their hands over his dangerous confections, his fervor, and his lack of humanity. But Freddy Lederer's account was something new to Marianne. She lay in bed that night and knew Connie was right. Hitler must die." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 64)

The data above illustrated how Marianne, Albrecht, and their friends were convinced to fight against Hitler after hearing Freddy Lederer's story about how Hitler made dangerous amalgamations for the Jews and pushed his human side away. Hitler also considered the Jews lost because of their actions. According to Hitler, virtue, humanity, and tolerance are weaknesses, which provoked *Albrecht* and his friends' opposite reactions. They were against that.

While Ania was thinking and imagining talking to her daughter about Nazi ideas and deeds, she was confused.

"The Völkischer Beobachter runs disturbing stories about their poor hygiene and laziness. They breed like rabbits and live on the best, most arable plots of land, much of which belonged to Germany until the last war. They need German order, modernity, and management. And Hitler is just the man to bring this to them—look at what wonders he has done for Germany's crime rate! It is not just unemployment he has fixed; under his leadership, the country has become much safer, more peaceful, and more orderly. Weren't you alarmed by all the racist talk? Hitler's rants about the "Jewish virus" and "the noble German"... You cannot read more than four sentences by the man without knowing he was a racist fanatic, Ania's daughter will press. I did not notice, all Ania could say. Moreover, it is true, as outlandish as it sounds. She has never been taught that drawing distinctions between races is dangerous. In Germany, there is no significant history of equal rights." (Shattuck, 2017, p. 209)

The above conversation showed that Ania denied what she agreed to do about Germany, requiring Hitler to German rule, modernity, and governance. She imagined her daughter would answer how racist Hitler's speeches were about the "Jewish virus" and "German nobility." She had the same opinion as his daughter in his heart, but he still hesitated to admit it.

The Socio-Political Conditions in Germany in 1933-1950

The socio-political conditions in Germany in 1933-1945, written in the novel *The Women in the Castle*, reflected the situation in Germany under the reign of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. After World War I, German society became increasingly interested in the Nazis. Some saw him as a young, dynamic, and proactive force that could improve Germany's social and economic problems. German society also likes the ideology of anti-Semitism and anti-communism. In addition, they were passionate about revolutionary change with the Nazis and interested in the "superior race" or Aryan vision presented to pure-blooded Germans. The Nazis said that the Aryans had their place as a superior society (Shoah Resource Center, 1993, p.2).

Hitler created the German youth movement by forming active, domineering, brave, and brutal youths to create rugged and robust young people. He succeeded (Anti-

Defamation League, 2019). Apart from German youths, Hitler also formed the League of German Girls to realize his superior racial ideology (Breitman, 2017).

Hitler used anti-Semitism as a political weapon to gain the support of the German public, blaming the Jews for Germany's problems, such as Germany's defeat in World War I, leading to the economic depression and the threat of the Bolshevik communist border. The accusations were increasingly intensified so that the German people believed that or at least they agreed with Hitler. Once in control, he implemented the Enabling Act, which suspended individual liberties and gave powers to the executive (Anti-Defamation League, 2019).

Hitler strengthened his campaign of intimidation, terror, and violence. He and the Nazis used the government, police, courts, and schools to carry out their terror executive. In addition, propaganda was also spread through newspapers, textbooks, music, art, film, and radio to implement their racist ideology where the Germans were the superior racial purity. At the same time, the Jews were the lowest race, aged and evil (Anti-Defamation League, 2019). The Nazi leadership spread propaganda to glorify Hitler through posters, the press, and other media (Holocaust Encyclopedia, 2022).

Terror is not only carried out on Jews but anyone who is considered an enemy of the state, such as communists and other radicals (Anti-Defamation League, 2019, p. 1). The Nazis used the Reichstag's burning to eliminate the communists (Hodder & Stoughton, 2018). It culminated in the enacted Nuremberg laws, which established clear racial criteria for German citizenship and prohibited mixed marriages and sexual relations between German Jews and "Aryan" Germans (Breitman, 2017, p.23). The Nuremberg Law also stipulates that Jews are Second-class citizens must wear a star-shaped symbol as their identity (Anti-Defamation League, 2019).

Under his leadership, Hitler formed the SS (Security Police) and the Gestapo (Special State Police). The Nazis also created concentration camps, ghettos, transit camps, and labor camps throughout Germany to concentrate the Jewish population. This action would make it easier for them to execute and eliminate Jews, Poles, communists, and anyone else who was not willing to work for the Nazis and was considered inferior, along with the SS and the Gestapo (Anti-Defamation League, 2019; World Without Genocide, 2013).

Hitler wanted to unite all ethnic Germans on the European continent under one flag, starting with the return of Austria to the German Reich or empire known as the Anschluss on March 12, 1938. After that, Hitler and the Nazis began deporting around 17,000 Polish Jews to the Polish border through the Gestapo, expelled from Germany but not allowed into Poland. As a result, the secretary of the German embassy, Ernst Eduard vom Rath, was shot by one of the Polish Jewish children in Paris whose parents were victims of this action (Breitman, 2017).

This shooting was Hitler's reason for revenge and attacking the Jews in Munich. This incident was a Kristallnacht, where the SA (Sturm Abteilung) carried out a campaign of violence against the Jews in Germany which killed 100 Jews and caused injuries. Additionally, the SA confiscated Jewish assets and property and destroyed their businesses (Breitman, 2017).

The German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, started World War II. Hitler invaded, intending to remove the Jews from Europe. SS soldiers started deporting Jews, killing them, and working them to death in forced labor camps. SS soldiers also took Jewish women, children, and older people to the forest to be killed one by one in the southern region of Lublin. Besides that, the Jews were enslaved by the Nazis. If they refused,

Communists, Jews, and Polish nationalists would be purged or killed. The Nazis also built giant ovens in death camps that were used for the mass gassing of Jews (Anti-Defamation League, 2019).

After the occupation of the Soviet Union by Germany, the massacres and mass shootings of Jews by German soldiers in Poland continued even when military units accompanied by the Einsatzgruppen (special groups) also massacred Jews, Roma, and Communist officials in Ukraine, the Baltic and Russia (Anti-Defamation League, 2019).

The actions of Hitler and the Nazis received criticism from various parties, especially the German members of the resistance group. This group planned to assassinate Hitler because they thought there would be more victims if it were not stopped. Nevertheless, their efforts failed. Hitler announced that he was safe over the radio and that everyone who planned the assassination had been executed and hanged while their wives were sent to prisons or concentration camps (Breitman, 2017).

In 1940, France and UK declared war on Germany. Following the war between the Allies (United States) and Germany, the Soviet Union again became the enemy of the Nazis. Ultimately, Germany surrendered to the Allies on May 7, 1945. This war certainly caused many casualties. Many people mourned, including young children, women, the elderly, soldiers, and prisoners injured and stranded on the streets (Anti-Defamation League, 2019).

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

According to Seabury and Codevilla (1990), propaganda is divided into two types: gray propaganda and black propaganda. This research discovered seven gray pieces of propaganda that spread through German and Nazi newspapers, radio, and posters with information that was not necessarily accurate. In addition, three black propaganda that carried out by the Nazis, whose sources were not known, with messages that spread lies, one-sided information, and were full of falsehoods.

Nazi propaganda received two different responses from German society. As for detail, nine positive responses started from followers of the Nazis and some German societies who supported Hitler's wishes, such as the invasion of Poland, detention, deportation, and killing of Jews, Communists, and all opponents of Germany. Furthermore, they also believed that non-Aryans such as the Gypsies, Slavs, and Jews belong to the lowly race who liked committing criminal and parasitic acts. Not only did it get a positive response, but Nazi propaganda also received seven negative responses from a group of resistance and several German societies. They did not even support conquering Poland and fought against the ideas of Hitler and the Nazis, which according to some Germans, was an act of provocation and racism against the Jews.

The actual socio-political conditions of Germany from 1933-1945 were reflected in the novel *The Woman in the Castle*. Several significant events occurred from 1933-1945 in the Nazi government, starting from Hitler's appointment as chancellor to World War II, followed by the Holocaust. After getting the title of Fuhrer, Hitler and the Nazis aggressively campaigned for anti-Semitism. Hence, discrimination occurred both by the government and the German people against the Jews. The Nazis continued to carry out propaganda to get the people's support, but some took the fight and acted as the opposition. Since *The Woman in the Castle* novel deals with a historical novel, this novel is very suitable to be examined using historical criticism. The researcher expected this study could be used as a reference in researching other literary works that implement historical

criticism.

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