

**LIBERAL FEMINISM PERSPECTIVE THROUGH JO MARCH
CHARACTERIZATION IN *LITTLE WOMEN* (2019) FILM**

FINAL PROJECT

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

to Obtain the *Sarjana Sastra* Degree in

English Literature



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STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

Hereby, I honestly declare that the undergraduate thesis I wrote does not contain the work or part of the work of other people, except those which were mentioned in the quotation and references, as a scientific paper should. If my statement is not valid in the future, I absolutely agree to accept academic sanctions in the form of revocation of my paper and my degree obtained from that paper.

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Tarisyia Mugia Lestari



MOTTO:

"When no one believed, I kept going. This thesis is the result of my belief in myself."

"This struggle may not be perfect, but I am proud because I have gone through it all in my own way."

DEDICATION:

I dedicate this final project to myself, for my perseverance and persistence despite the many obstacles I've faced. I also dedicate this final project to my family and the people who have always supported me throughout every step of the way.



ABSTRACT

Mugia Lestari, Tarisya. 30802100044. The Struggle of Jo March Through the Liberal Feminism Perspective in *Little Women* (2019) film. Final Project of English Literature Study Program. Faculty of Languages, Literature, and Culture. Sultan Agung Islamic University. Advisor: Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum.

This study analyzes the struggle of women against liberal feminism experienced by the main character, Jo March, in the film *Little Women* (2019). The purpose of this study is to identify the characterization of the main character, Jo March, and discuss the liberal feminism she experiences. This analysis uses Naomi Wolf's liberal feminist theory, which explains power feminism.

The method used in this study was descriptive qualitative, analyzing by primary and secondary data. Primary data were taken from dialogue, monologues, and narratives in the film. Secondary data were taken from journals, articles, e-books, and websites related to the research topic. Several steps in data collection included watching the film, reading the script, identifying data, classifying data, and reducing data.

There are two results in this study. First, several characteristics are reflected in the main character, Jo March, namely intelligence, creativity, ambition, and strong principles. Second, several liberal feminist struggles experienced by the main character, Jo March, in defending her rights in education, economics, law, and social matters.

Keywords: characterization, feminism liberal, little women (2019)

INTISARI

Mugia Lestari, Tarisya. 30802100044. Perjuangan Jo March Melalui Perspektif Feminisme Liberal dalam film *Little Women* (2019). Tugas akhir Program Studi Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang. Pembimbing: Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum.

Penelitian ini menganalisis perjuangan perempuan melawan feminisme liberal yang dialami oleh tokoh utama, Jo March, dalam film *Little Women* (2019). Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi penokohan tokoh utama, Jo March, dan membahas feminisme liberal yang dialaminya. Analisis ini menggunakan teori feminis liberal Naomi Wolf yang menjelaskan kekuatan feminisme.

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif, dengan analisis data primer dan sekunder. Data primer diambil dari dialog, monolog, dan narasi dalam film. Data sekunder diambil dari jurnal, artikel, e-book, dan situs web yang terkait dengan topik penelitian. Beberapa langkah dalam pengumpulan data meliputi menonton film, membaca naskah, mengidentifikasi data, mengklasifikasikan data, dan mereduksi data.

Terdapat dua hasil yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini. Pertama, beberapa karakterisasi tergambar dalam diri tokoh utama Jo March yaitu cerdas, kreatif, ambisi, dan memiliki prinsip yang kuat. Kedua, beberapa perjuangan feminis liberal yang dialami oleh tokoh utama, Jo March, dalam mempertahankan hak-haknya pada bidang pendidikan, ekonomi, hukum, dan sosial.

Kata Kunci: penokohan, feminisme liberal, little women (2019)

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8. Everyone who might not be able to mention one by one for all their prayers and support to finish this final project.

This final project is far from perfect. However, the researcher hopes that this research will be useful and helpful to anyone who reads it.

Semarang, August 26th 2025



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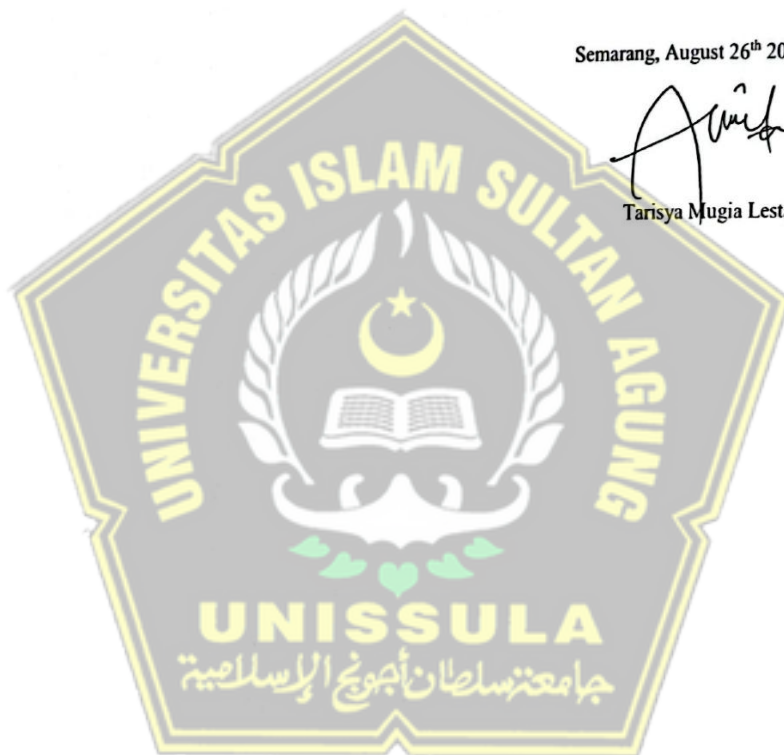
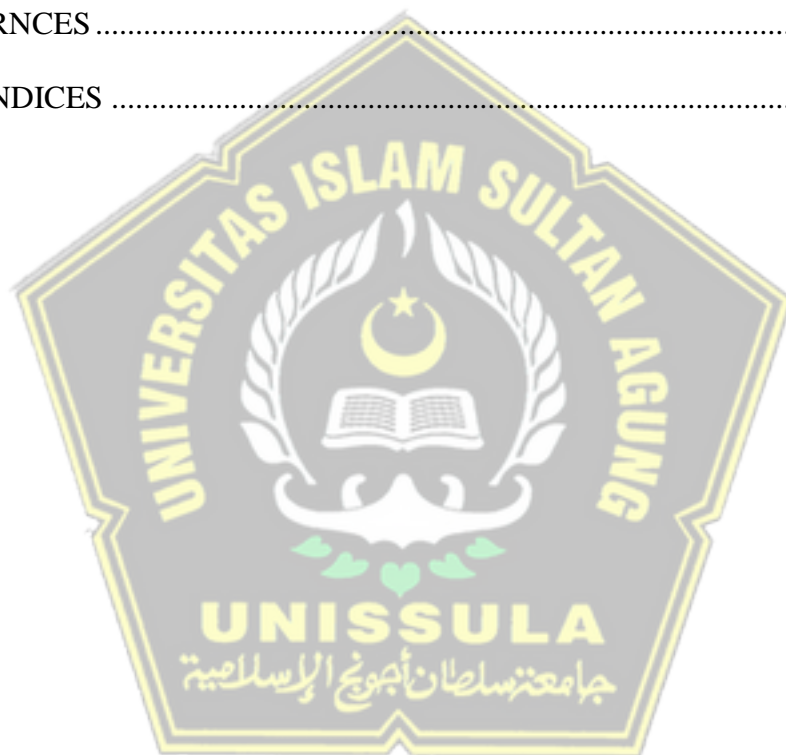


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of this study contains an introduction that consists of six sections. Those are background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectivities of the study, significance of the study, and an outline of the study that will be built into this study will also be provided.

A. Background of the study

Literature is a uniquely human activity, born of man's timeless desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences (Pickering and Hoeper 307). Literature can be produced from all forms of works of arts. Literary works have various types, such as poems, novels, songs, and films. Literary works are also produced by the author's imagination. This isn't merely a record of facts or a compilation of real-life events, even if they did occur. Literature has the power to construct its own world, born from boundless imagination (Wellek and Warren 22). One of the most influential works of literature in the modern era is film, because film can be used as a mirror of society. As such, film reflects the cultural norms of a society, but like many deceptive mirrors, it can also distort those norms. Film has the ability to convey emotions and sentiments that resonate directly with the human experience.

Human experience encompasses the entirety of a person's life, including emotions, relationships, thoughts, actions, and everything that shapes their journey from the subjective perspective they use. However, society has

undergone many changes in many aspects of life, including those that affect the role and position of women. One aspect of life that has an influence is feminism, which has a major impact on the way society acts, thinks, and treats women. Feminism is a movement that advocates equal rights and opportunities for all people, regardless of gender. Feminism believes in social, economic, and political equality between the sexes. Feminism has several branches, including liberal, Marxist, radical, post-modern, eco-feminism, and cultural feminism. This study focuses on liberal feminism from Naomi Wolf's theory, namely the experience of women who have the power to face everyday life and fight for the same rights as men. Liberal feminism emphasizes the power of individuals to change discriminatory practices against women (Ghorfati and Medini 8). Liberal feminism seeks to liberate women from the oppressive one, which refers to the placement of women as inferior to men in all areas such as education, law, and economics. Liberal feminism also focuses on the individual such as self-fulfillment, individual autonomy, and minimizing state intervention in the individual sphere.

The state is needed only to protect individual rights and freedoms. When women do not get the same rights in all areas, liberal feminism emerges to create gender equality, freedom and individual rights for women. Basically, liberal feminism is a view to positioning women by having full freedom and individuality (Hanifah et al 219). So that women have full rights to gender equality and individual freedom. Society can also understand and apply it so that there is no difference between genders in their daily lives.

As in this study which discusses liberal feminism that emphasizes gender equality, equal individual rights, and individual freedom for the current generation, it can be seen from the story of Jo March, a writer of the main character in the film *Little Women* (2019). This film shows Jo March's struggle to support her family by helping her family's economy, which at that time the community and government still applied a lower wage difference for women than men. Then from her characterization, Jo March can be seen from her experience in facing her daily life and strengthening herself to prove and show the community that women can also get full individual rights without any gender differences. Many liberal feminist values can be seen in this film. Therefore, the study are interested in the story in this film to be analyzed using the liberal feminist theory of Naomi Wolf's theory through the characterization of the main character who supports the liberal feminist values in this film.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on background of the study above, there are two problem formulations in this study, as follows:

1. What are Jo March's characterization described in *Little Women* film (2019)?
2. How does Jo March experience liberal feminism in *Little Women* film (2019)?

C. Limitation of the study

The limitation of this study is to identify the characterization of the main character Jo March in the film *Little Women* (2019). This study also analyzes liberal feminism that occurs through Jo March's experience using Naomi Wolf's theory.

D. Objectivities of the study

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the characterization of the main character Jo March in the film *Little Women* (2019).
2. To analyze liberal feminism through the experience of the main character Jo March in the film *Little Women* (2019).

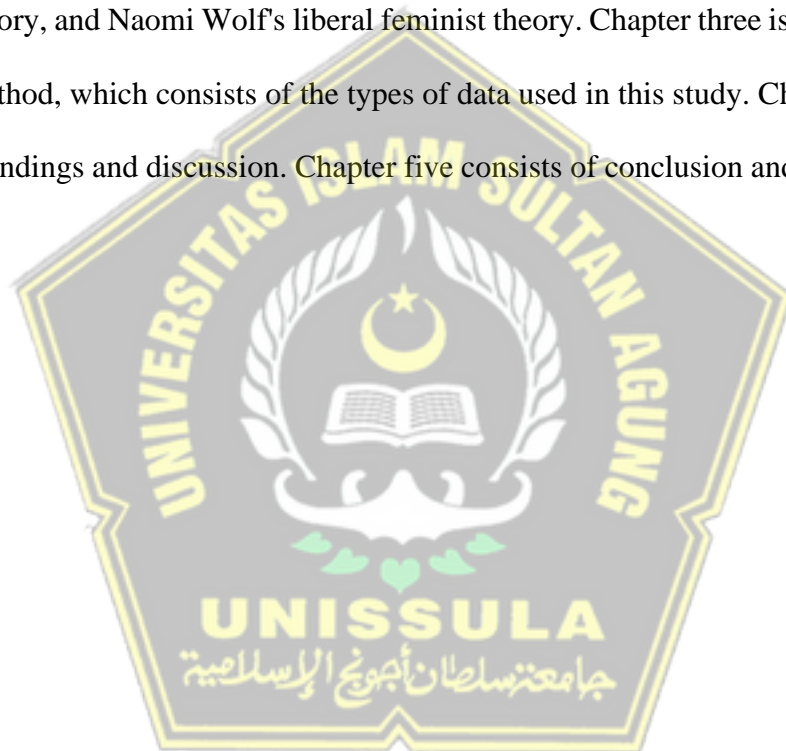
E. Significance of the study

This study is expected to enrich the existing literature by providing a new perspective on liberal feminism through Naomi Wolf's theory, as follows:

1. This study can inspire and help for readers, especially readers who want to know about liberal feminism through Naomi Wolf's theory.
2. This study is also expected to provide benefits and references for students majoring in English Literature at Sultan Agung University who take the same topic about liberal feminism for their research.

F. Outline of the study

Final project consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectivities of the study, significance of the study, and an outline of the study. Chapter two describes review and related literature, this chapter will discuss the synopsis of the film *Little Women (2019)*, characterization theory, and Naomi Wolf's liberal feminist theory. Chapter three is the research method, which consists of the types of data used in this study. Chapter four is a findings and discussion. Chapter five consists of conclusion and suggestion.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter contains a review of related literature, which has two sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is a synopsis of the *Little Women* film (2019), which is the object of this study. The second sub-chapter is related literature. This sub-chapter uses Naomi Wolf's theory of liberal feminism and the characterization of the main character in the *Little Women* film (2019).

A. The Synopsis of *Little Women* film (2019)

Little Women (2019) is an American romantic drama film directed by Greta Gerwig. It is the seventh film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel. *Little Women* (2019) premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on December 7, 2019, by Sony Pictures Releasing. The film won multiple Academy Awards and received critical acclaim from audiences who watched the film. *Little Women* (2019) follows four sisters as they transition into adulthood and struggle to conform to society's strict ideals of womanhood amidst poverty. The story is set in 1860s Massachusetts during the Civil War and is loosely based on Alcott's own childhood.

The story begins with Jo March in 1868. At that time, Jo March was establishing her career as a teacher and novelist in New York. At that time, Jo March met an editor, Mr. Dashwood, and managed to publish a story that had undergone considerable editing and was paid \$20 for her efforts. Jo March lived in a boarding house called "Little Women". Meanwhile, her youngest sister Amy, who was in Paris with Aunt March, attended a party with her

childhood friend Laurie. Amy became angry at Laurie's drunken behavior, prompting her to mock her for spending time with wealthy businessman Fred Vaughn. Jo was hurt and angry when Friedrich, a German professor who was staying at her boarding house, gave her critical feedback on her writing. After learning that her sister Beth's illness had worsened, Jo returned to her home in Concord, Massachusetts.

Seven years earlier, in 1861, in Concord, Massachusetts, Jo and her older sister Meg go to a party where Jo meets Laurie, the granddaughter of their neighbor, Mr. Laurence. On Christmas morning, the girls' mother, Marmee, persuades them to give their breakfast to their poor neighbor, Mrs. Hummel. When the girls return home, they find their table laden with food, provided by Mr. Laurence, and a letter from their father, who is fighting in the Civil War. Later, Jo visits Aunt March to read her a story, and Aunt March promises to take Jo to Europe if Jo does her job right.

One year later, in 1862, at Mr. Laurence's house. While Laurie is having Latin lessons at home, Laurie sees Amy standing outside, having been beaten by her teacher for misbehaving in class, and invites her inside before her family comes to take her home. Amy tries to distract Laurie from Jo and onto herself. It becomes clear to Amy that Jo and Laurie are falling in love when Jo invites Laurie to act in a play she has written. When Meg, Jo, Laurie, and John (Laurie's teacher) go out one night, an angry and jealous Amy burns Jo's writing, upsetting Jo. Amy tries to apologize but is unsuccessful. The next morning, Amy, wanting to make up with Jo, chases her to the lake where Jo

and Laurie are ice skating. The two skate to save Amy when the ice beneath them breaks. That night, Jo expresses guilt over what happened to Amy. Mr. Laurence invites Beth to play the piano at his house because she reminds him of his dead daughter.

In the present day, 1869, Meg expresses her displeasure at being poor to John after buying fabric they cannot afford. Meg regrets her marriage for a moment, but at the same time realizes that she is happy with her husband, John. Later in Paris, Laurie visits Amy to apologize for her behavior at the party. Later, he pressures Amy to marry Fred Vaughn, but marries him instead. Amy is upset about being second to Jo, including Laurie. Amy then rejects Fred's proposal, only to learn that Laurie has left for London. Beth's condition then worsens, and she eventually dies.

Several years ago, at the March home in 1862, Mr. Laurence presents Beth with a piano and learns that she has contracted scarlet fever from the Hummel family. To avoid exposure to the disease, since Amy has never had it before, Amy is sent to live with Aunt March. Marmee returns home early when Beth's condition worsens, but she recovers in time for Christmas, when their father returns home. On Meg's wedding day, Jo tries to convince her to run away, but Meg tells her that she is happily married. Then at Meg's wedding, Aunt March announces her trip to Europe, deciding to take Amy instead of Jo. After Meg's wedding, Laurie confesses his feelings for Jo, but she insists that she does not feel the same way.

In the present day of 1869, Marmee reveals that Amy has returned home with her ailing Aunt March. Jo wonders if she has rejected Laurie too soon and writes him a letter. On the way home. Back home, Laurie meets Jo, and they agree to just be friends. Outside, Jo throws away the letter she wrote to Laurie. So the next day, Jo begins writing a novel based on her and her sister's lives. She sends the first chapters to Mr. Dashwood, who is unimpressed by them. Then, at that time, Friedrich visits the March house before his trip to California to teach. The entire family senses that Jo is in love with Friedrich and begs her not to let him go.

In New York in 1869, Mr. Dashwood's daughters found several chapters of Jo's book and asked how the story would end. He agreed to publish the book but found it hard to accept that the heroine was unmarried. Eventually, Jo changed the ending so that the heroine chased Friedrich and stopped him from leaving for California. In 1870, she negotiated the copyright and royalties with Mr. Dashwood and agreed to the deal. Then in 1871, Jo opened a school in her Aunt March's house, which she left to Jo March. At that time, the novel Jo March had written was finally printed and was given the title Little Women.

B. Related Literature

B.1. Theory of Characterization

In real life, a person's character traits are unique and separate from all other. By experiencing some contexts, situations, and relationships in everyday life, a person will be able to describe his/her character. Character is an object of curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration

and condemnation (Bennet and Royle 60). Character is the result of characterization in literature, which refers to an author revealing information about the character, including their nature, motivation, and personality. “Characterization can be defined as any action by the author or that occurs in a work that is used to describe the character” (Reaske 4). Characterization has several types to analyze characters in literary works.

B.1.1 Characterization through dialogue

Writers can develop characterization through the use of dialogue to reveal a character’s personality, motivations, and relationships through what they say and how they say it. “When the characters speak, they may show their characterization by themselves or what they said gives clues about their characterization to who they speak” (Pickering and Hoeper 28). Writers can use dialogue to show a character’s preferred vocabulary, speech patterns, tone, and even sentence structure, all of which contribute to a more connected understanding of the character. This can be seen in the intonation, expression, and tone of voice of the character when speaking to other characters. “Speaking to others also sheds a great deal of light on character's personality” (Reaske 46). The content of a character’s dialogue can help readers understand the character better through their choice of words and sentence structure that show the character’s traits.

B.1.2 Characterization through action

In addition to dialogue, characterization can be known through the actions of the characters. Characterization through action involves revealing traits through their behavior and reactions in a story. "Perhaps the best reflection of character can be found in a person's actions" (Boggs 44). Rather than directly stating the qualities of a character, the author shows them through what the character does or how the character reacts to events. This method allows the reader to infer the character's traits and make judgments based on the character's actions.

B.1.3 Characterization through language

The technique used by the author to describe or shape the character of a figure in a literary work can be through the use of distinctive language. Refers to how the author uses language to reveal the inner life of the character and develop the character's personality. "The personality of a character is described through the use of language and expression when he or she talks to another character" (Reaske 48). The language used by the character, including word choice, speaking style, and communication patterns, can reveal a lot about the character's background and relationships with other characters.

B.1.4 Characterization by authors

A method in literary works where the author directly provides a description of the character's character. "The author characterizes his characters implicitly by using certain words that show the personal traits clearly" (Pickering and Hopper 28). This is also known as indirect or open characterization, where the author implicitly tells the reader by showing something of meaning, message, information contained in it to know what the character is like.

B.2. Feminism

Feminist literary criticism places feminist theory as the basic foundation of thought. Feminism emerged as a result of gender prejudice. This gender prejudice views women as second-class beings or views women as no more important than men. This kind of thinking is based on the assumption that men are different from women. Men are considered to play a greater role in various activities, and have greater interests than women in several aspects. "Feminism is a movement against patriarchal culture to struggle for gender equality and eradicate gender domination in society" (Selden et al 115). Literary criticism, more specifically feminist literary criticism, places clear emphasis on the description of the characters in novels or literary works to create justice for women with the aim of achieving equality between women and men, and ending patriarchal practices so that women can obtain their rights.

One form and effort in fighting for women's rights can be done by providing knowledge to men and women themselves about the importance of respecting someone's rights in various situations and areas that exist. Feminism refers to a range of movements and belief systems that aim to define, promote, and attain equal rights for women in political, economic, cultural, personal, and social spheres (Suaidi et al 86). Feminism is defined as a women's liberation movement that initially assumed that women were basically unfairly oppressed, so that to end this oppression, women must be given the same rights and opportunities as men in order to maintain their dignity and role as women.

B.3. Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism is a prominent strand of feminist thought that seeks to secure women's rights within legal and political frameworks. Originating in Western societies, this form of feminism highlights the importance of freedom, which it believes can be attained through legal and political reforms. Its principles are grounded in liberalism, a political ideology that prioritizes individual liberty particularly in political and economic spheres. "Committed to major economic re-organization and considerable redistribution of wealth, since one of the modern political goals most closely associated with liberal feminism is equality of opportunity" (Tong 12). Equality of Opportunity is achieved when a person has the opportunity to achieve the same goals without the same obstacles. Liberal feminism wants the state to guarantee women by effectively

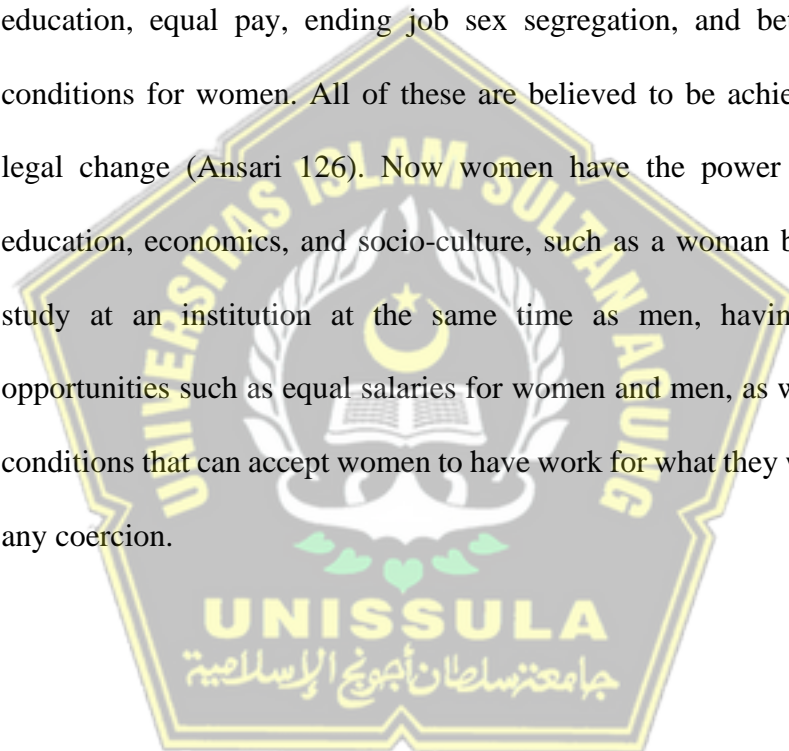
protecting women from violence wherever they are. Liberal feminism is not about women who can do anything that men can do, but it is more about some women who can do anything that they want (Tong 18). In other words, every individual is given the freedom to choose what is best for themselves as long as it does not take away the rights of others. Women cannot stand alone, not because women are unable to do so, but because of oppression from society. Liberal feminists believe that their struggle for equal rights has largely been successful. However, others maintain that significant issues remain unresolved-such as the gender pay gap, unequal access to education and economic opportunities, and other barriers that hinder women's ability to fully develop their potential. Liberal feminism targets the elimination of inequality between women and men in legal, political, social, and educational settings (Worell 430). Liberal feminism emphasizes the individual rights of women and aims to provide access to equal rights and representation through legislation.

The figure of the stream in this study is Naomi Wolf, who carries the "Power Feminism" stream as a solution to the view of women's freedom. Naomi Wolf is part of liberal feminism, but she is more vocal about the need for power for women. In addition, she also invites women to get an education. In this era, women have power in terms of education and work. Society is to achieve sexual equality, or gender justice, then society must provide women with the same political rights and economic opportunities as well as the same education that men enjoy (Tong 16).

Although in the 21st century women are getting an education and are involved in politics, women still do not have rights and freedoms in some circles of society, so women must continue to fight for the same rights as men and the freedom to think, create, and have a career without depending on men. “Basically, liberal feminism is a view to positioning women by having full freedom and individuality” (Hanifah et al 219). Wolf places men and women as whole human beings who have inherent values. Naomi Wolf, in her book *Fire with Fire*, argues that equality is within the reach of women. Wolf claims that after women's activism, men's power has been "eroded" and the "masculine mystique" has faded, because men have lost their authority and will soon lose their power too (10). In this situation, she argues, patriarchy does not prevent women from achieving the basic goal of feminism, namely equality. Rather, the cause is a combination of women's own fear of achieving power and the damage caused by what she calls "victim feminism." Wolf, therefore, calls for women to reject victim feminism and instead embrace "power feminism." As Wolf argues regarding the success of power feminism, she charges that men and women are locked in a civil war over gender, in which women should expect men to resist women's gains (11). Because men will not willingly give up power to women.

The position of women is not the same as men because women tend to be considered weak, prioritizing emotions and feelings, while men use more reason and logic and have strong immune systems. Therefore, men

dominate work outside the home and inside the home as heads of the family. Meanwhile, women's role is to do household work and put aside their potential. Therefore, women are aware of the oppression and inequality pressures they experience. Wolf's idea can certainly change perspectives and become a solution. The primary goal of liberal feminism is gender equality in the public sphere. This includes equal access to education, equal pay, ending job sex segregation, and better working conditions for women. All of these are believed to be achieved through legal change (Ansari 126). Now women have the power in terms of education, economics, and socio-culture, such as a woman being able to study at an institution at the same time as men, having economic opportunities such as equal salaries for women and men, as well as social conditions that can accept women to have work for what they want without any coercion.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter contained the research method used to collect and analyze data in answering the problem formulation. This chapter consisted of some parts: type of research, types of data, data organization, and analyzing the data.

A. Type of Research

This study used a descriptive-qualitative research type as the method, which means that the data collection process was carried out qualitatively while the reporting was carried out descriptively. Besides that, qualitative research used text as the main data source. According to Patron and Cochran, qualitative research aimed to provide an understanding of several aspects of social life with its method of generating data for analysis (3). In other words, data was presented in the form of words, phrases, or sentences, prologue, dialogue, or monologue, quotes, or paraphrases.

It can be concluded that this method will interpreted, analyzed, described, and summarized a condition or situation from various data collected through observations of the problem being studied. As the main data source in the descriptive qualitative method, the author depended on the movie script to analyze it, so this study used the film *Little Women (2019)* by Greta Gerwig as the object of study.

B. Types of Data

Several types of data were used in this study, including primary and secondary data. The main source that was used in this study was primary

data, while the supporting data was secondary data. Secondary data will also be used to strengthen primary data. These two data points were explained further in the description below:

B.1. Primary Data

Primary data was data collected directly from source related to the object of the study. The primary data was taken from the movie script in the form of dialogue, monologue, narration from the film *Little Women (2019)* by Greta Gerwig.

B.2. Secondary Data

Secondary data was data collected directly as a support from the first source. Secondary data was collected through e-books, journals, and articles that were relevant to this research.

C. Data Organization

C.1. Data Collecting Method

In the data collection method, the data collection process was carried out by analyzing some information related to the study. There were several stages in the data collection method that were used, namely:

C.2. Watching the Movie

The first step that was done from this data collection method was to watch the film several times. During this step, the main purpose of watching the film was to gain an overview of character identification, as well as an understanding of the theme, conflict, and storyline.

C.3. Reading the Movie Script

The second step was reading the movie script. This step aimed to support statements to add credibility to the study and provide multiple examples of some points of view on a subject that were included in the appendix related to the movie.

C.4. Identifying the Data

After watching the film and reading the film script repeatedly, the next step was to identify the data. This step was done to pay special attention to the dialogue, monologue, narration, description, and exposition related to the formulation of the problem. It was carried out by marking the data according to the formulation of the problem in the research object.

C.5. Classifying the Data

The next step was classifying the data. Data classification aimed to simplify the data, answer the problem formulation, and help analyze in chapter four. The data identified from the films by marking was classified for inclusion in a table called an appendix. The appendix was a tabular form that contains the movie script, scenes, type of analysis, references, and comments.

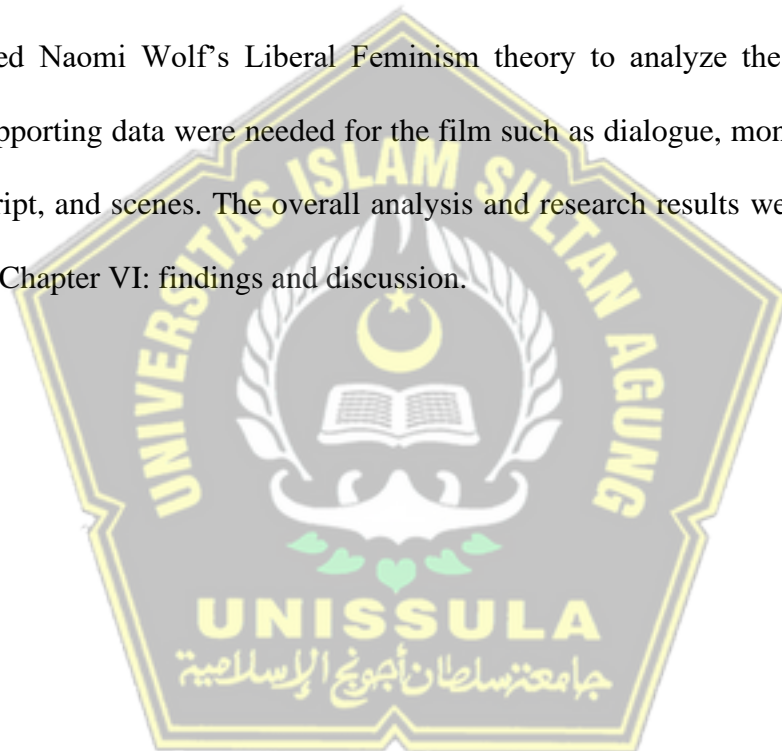
C.6. Reducing the Data

The last step was data reduction, which was the last process of the data collection method. Data reduction aimed to simplify the data

and reduce some less important data or weak data in answering the problem formulation in chapter one.

D. Analyzing the Data

In the final step of this study, the final data was analyzed and the results of the data analysis were reported. In this study, qualitative descriptive analysis was used as a data analysis method. Apart from that, this study also used Naomi Wolf's Liberal Feminism theory to analyze the data. Other supporting data were needed for the film such as dialogue, monologue, film script, and scenes. The overall analysis and research results were presented in Chapter VI: findings and discussion.



CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the finding and discussion related to the two problem formulations mentioned in chapter one. This chapter contains the characterization of the main character Jo March in the *Little Women* (2019) film and liberal feminism experienced by the main character Jo March to defend women's rights to gain equality with men.

A. Characterization of the main character Jo March in the *Little Women* (2019) film

Characterization is the process of depicting the nature or traits of a character in a literary work, film, or other narrative form. Characterization is the process of creating and developing characters in a story, revealing their personalities, traits, and motivations through various literary techniques, which are essentially methods used by writers to bring characters to life, making them feel real and interesting to readers or viewers. There are several types of characterization to analyze characters in literary works, namely characterization through dialogue, action, language, and the author.

A.1. Characterization through dialogue

A literary technique in which the author reveals the traits, personalities, and backgrounds of characters through their conversations. According to Pickering and Hooper, when characters speak, they may demonstrate their characterization themselves, or their words may provide

clues about their characterization to those they are speaking to (28). Jo March's character through dialogue is evident in the following dialogue.

MARMEE: You are not to attend that school anymore.

JO: Good, that man has always been an idiot.

MARMEE: Jo will teach you.

JO: Me?! I already teach Beth.

MEG: **You're a good teacher.**

(Little Women, 00:39:25-00:39:32)

The conversation shows that Jo March is intelligent. In the dialogue, Marmee asks Jo March to tutor her sister, Amy, because after the incident at Amy's school, Marmee forbade Amy from attending her school again. However, Jo March tells her mother that she has already tutored her sister, Beth. On the other hand, her older sister, Meg, agrees with her mother, believing that Jo March can be trusted to tutor her sister. From the dialogue between Jo March and her family, it is clear that Jo March is trusted by her family to tutor her sister because she is intelligent. According to Reaske, "Speaking to others also sheds a great deal of light on a character's personality" (46). In other words, readers can understand characters more deeply based on what they say, how they say it, and how other characters react to their words.

Besides being intelligent, Jo March also has a caring and responsible attitude towards her family. Jo March is very empathetic and

feels strongly connected to those around her, she often prioritizing their needs over her own. This personality can be seen in the following dialogue.

JO: Beth? Where is Beth?

Jo turns to Marmee, who shows the truth in her eyes.

MARMEE: She's upstairs. Oh, my Jo. We all thought she was better but the fever had weekend her heart.

Jo produces an envelope full of money.

JO: **Take this and find her the best doctor you can.**

MARMEE: No, you need this money to live in New York.

JO: I'm not going back. I'm using the rest to take her to the sea and get her strong.

She hugs all the women again.

(Little Women, 00:44:00-00:44:15)

This conversation explains that Jo March has concern and responsibility for her family. In the dialogue, Jo March gives money to her mother for her sister, Beth, to get the best doctor. Jo March also chooses not to return to New York, because she wants to help her sister recover quickly and wants to make her sister stronger. Jo March is always the first person whenever there is a problem involving her family, and protects her siblings. Jo March is also willing to sacrifice her happiness for her family, which she always prioritizes.

A.2. Characterization through action

Besides dialogue, another way to reveal a person's character is through their actions. According to Boggs, the best reflection of character can be found in a person's actions (44). Characterization through action makes a character feel more real and alive, because the reader can see the character interacting with the world around them. Jo March's character is revealed through the actions, behavior, and deeds carried out by the character. This can be seen in the following dialogue.

Meg, Beth, Jo and Amy are all dressed as men, with hats and spectacles and pipes. Meg reading from the homemade newspaper in her lovely sonorous voice.

MEG: **A new play, written by Miss Jo March**, will appear at the Barnville Theater, in the course of the next few weeks, which will surpass anything ever seen before on the American stage.

JO: Starting the greatest actress from here to the Mississippi River, Miss Meg March.

MEG: Weekly report Meg – Good. Jo – Bad. Beth – Very Good.

Amy – Middling.

BETH: Excellent.

AMY: Well done, sirs.

(Little Women, 00:41:05-00:41:35)

This dialogue explains that Jo March's character is revealed through her actions with her sister. In the dialogue, Jo March is a creative character. She uses her writing skills to create a play that she and her sister will perform in the next few weeks. Jo has a natural talent for writing and dreams of becoming a famous author. She spends hours writing stories and plays, as well as expressing her ideas in written form.

A.3. Characterization through language

The process of describing or displaying the nature, character, or personality of a character in a literary work or oral communication using language. This involves the choice of specific words, language style, and speech acts to create a clear picture of the character. This refers to how the author uses language to reveal the inner life of the character and develop his personality. "A character's personality is described through the use of language and expressions when he speaks to other characters" (Reaske 48). Jo March's character is revealed through the use of language used when she speaks to other characters. This character can be seen in the following dialogue.

JO: Thank you, Aunt March, for your employment and many kindnesses, **but I intend to make my own way in the world.**

AUNT MARCH: No one makes their own way, not really, least of all a woman. You'll need to marry well.

JO: You are not married Aunt March.

AUNT MARCH: Because I was rich and made sure to keep my money.

JO: So the only way to be an unmarried woman is to be rich.

AUNT MARCH: Yes.

JO: But there are precious few ways for women to make money.

(Little Women, 00:35:22-00:35:50)

Jo March's personality is reflected through her speaking style. Her way of speaking shows that Jo March has principles and self-confidence, so she doesn't follow or agree with what Aunt March says. Because, according to Jo March, she can find her own way to achieve success and there are honorable ways for women to make money, not just by marrying a rich man. Jo March is not easily influenced by others and has confidence in herself, which allows her to make decisions in accordance with her principles.

A.4. Characterization by authors

A technique in literary works where the author directly or indirectly describes a character's character is the final way to reveal a person's character. "The author describes his character implicitly by using certain words that clearly indicate personal traits" (Pickering and Hopper 28). The author can explicitly explain the character's nature or provide clues about the character's character. Jo March in the film *Little Women* has an

ambitious nature, especially in pursuing her dream of becoming a writer.

This can be seen in the following monologue.

Jo makes her way up to the attic, and sits in her old writing chair, looking at the story. She takes a fresh sheet of paper and starts writing.

She writes all night, and into the next day, piling up page after page. She spreads them out in the attic, like a quilt, building outwards. Candles are lit and re-lit, the sun rises and sets.

Marmee brings her some food and then leaves her alone.

Jo nods off for a second then keeps writing. She revises, she scratches out, she changes orders. She falls asleep on her blanket of papers.

She's re-connected with her childhood, and out of the depths of despair has found hope and inspiration.

Jo finishes and carefully ties up the first few chapters of this experiment and writes a letter to Mr. Dashwood.

(Little Women, 01:52:02-01:54:19)

In the monologue, Jo March is ambitious to obtain or complete a project. This becomes clear as she spends the entire night and the following day writing, revising, crossing things out, and making changes-an exhausting process that leaves her somewhat frustrated in her attempt to create a quality piece of work. However, thanks to Jo March's strong

ambition, she finally finds hope and inspiration for her writing. Eventually, Jo March completes her work and carefully drafts several chapters to ensure there are no errors. After completing everything, Jo March writes a letter to Mr. Dashwood to send her the novel she has just written.

In several ways mentioned in the data above, the author introduces and reveals Jo March's character through dialogue and monologue. In this data, Jo March's personality is revealed as intelligent, creative, caring, responsible, and ambitious in pursuing her dream of becoming a writer.

B. Liberal Feminism in the *Little Women* (2019) Film Depicted on the Main Character

The previous explanation of Jo March's characterization provides some evidence of how to reveal her personality: she is intelligent, creative, confident, caring, responsible, ambitious, and has strong principles. These five characteristics can be related to feminism. The second explanation of the problem formulation concerns liberal feminism, which is linked to Jo March's character, using Naomi Wolf's theory.

Naomi Wolf's theory promotes "power feminism" as a solution to the prevailing view of women's freedom. She emphasizes women's natural strength and rejects the view that women are weak and always victimized. Wolf argues that women's struggles should not only focus on eliminating discrimination and subordination, but also on discovering and realizing their own intrinsic power. In this era, women must have power in education and employment. Power feminism emphasizes women's self-empowerment, namely the ability to take

control of their own lives and make choices that align with their values. Liberal feminism doesn't aim for women to replicate everything men do, but instead supports the idea that women should have the freedom to pursue whatever they choose (Tong 18).

Liberal feminists base their thinking on the liberal concept that emphasizes that women and men are created equal and have the same rights and should also have the same opportunities. There are two main goals in liberal feminism: first, freedom, individuality, and independence, and second, equal rights and opportunities in various aspects of life such as economics, politics, law, social, and education. Liberal feminism targets the elimination of inequality between women and men in the legal, social, educational, and political realms (Worrell 430). Liberals believe that rights should be given priority over goodness. In other words, every individual is given the freedom to choose what is best for themselves as long as it does not take away the rights of others.

B.1. Equal Rights and Opportunity in Economy

Every individual has the same right to participate in economic activities, earn a decent living, and have equal opportunities to develop their economic potential without discrimination. According to Tong, committed to the reorganization of the large economy and the redistribution of considerable wealth, because one of the modern political goals most closely associated with liberal feminism is equality of opportunity, which will undoubtedly require and lead to both (12). This

Liberal Feminism is found in the daily life of Jo March who goes to work and earns money to help her family's finances. This can be seen in the following dialogue.

JO: My student need me.

FRIEDRICH: Always working.

JO: **Money is the end and aim of my mercenary existence.**

FRIEDRICH: No one gets ink stains like yours just out of a desire for money.

JO: Well my sister Amy is in Paris, and until she marries someone obscenely wealthy, **it's up to me to keep the family afloat.** Goodbye.

(Little Women, 00:05:45-00:06:02)

This conversation depicts the struggles of women in the economic sector to obtain employment opportunities like men. In the dialogue, Jo March earns a living by tutoring students there, relying on her intelligence to earn money. According to Jo March, money is the purpose of her work because she must earn a living and support her family financially. It can be seen that Jo March's intelligent personality is very beneficial for her, facilitating job opportunities and helping her financially unstable situation.

B.2. Freedom and Individuality

Freedom and individuality are two closely related concepts, often going hand in hand in the context of social and political life. Freedom, in this context, refers to the right of every individual to act, think, and speak

without unnecessary restrictions, while individuality highlights the uniqueness and differences of each person. Both are essential for the development of individuals and a healthy and dynamic society. "Essentially, liberal feminism is a view that positions women as having full freedom and individuality" (Hanifah et al 219). Individuality allows people to be themselves, pursue what they love, and contribute uniquely to society. The freedom to be oneself and pursue personal goals is often associated with happiness and life satisfaction. Similarly, Jo March's personality has the confidence to choose and determine her own path in life. As in the following dialogue.

LAURIE: Anything more?

JO: Nothing more, except that, I don't believe I will ever marry.

I'm happy as I am, and love my liberty too well to be in any hurry to give it up.

LAURIE: You will care for somebody, and you'll love him tremendously, and live and die for him. I know you will, it's your way, and you will and I'll watch.

(Little Women, 01:38:52-01:39:23)

The dialogue above shows that freedom is the right of every human being. When they have freedom, they can do whatever they want. As felt by Jo March, with her confidence, she told Laurie that she did not want to get married and preferred freedom for herself. Because according to Jo March, she would not be happy if she was married and did not have the

freedom she felt now. Jo March also wants to marry a man she truly loves and she wants to get married when she is ready to continue her life to a more serious level with someone who is truly suitable and can accept her sincerely.

B.3. Equal Rights and Opportunity in Education

Education is a crucial foundation of human civilization. It plays a crucial role in instilling ideas, concepts, theories, values, and norms in individuals. According to Tong, if the society is to achieve sexual equality, or gender justice, then society must provide women with the same political rights and economic opportunities as well as the same education that men enjoy (16). It could be said that, in addition to the environment, individuals are instilled with norms and values through education. Equality between men and women means having the same opportunities and rights. As with education, everyone has the right to receive a proper and equal education, regardless of gender. This is evident in the life of Jo March, who was unable to receive an education equal to that of men during that century. This can be seen in the following dialogue.

AMY: And what will you do?

JO: I'd like to open a school, we never had a proper school, and now there are women's colleges opening there should be a school. For daisy.

AMY: And what will Demi do?

JO: I'll open a school for boys and girls, both.

(Little Women, 01:55:06-01:55:20)

From this dialogue, Jo March decided to turn Aunt March's inherited house into a school. Jo March, who had principles and responsibilities towards her family to get a good and proper education, Jo March founded a school for her niece and the surrounding community. Because at that time, Jo March could not get a good education and could not get an equal school for boys. Therefore, this school was intended for all genders, both women and men. This created equal rights between women and men in all fields, including education. From Jo March's personality, she also showed concern for the education of her sisters and for the girls in her environment, which can reflect her views on the importance of education for women.

B.4. Equal Rights and Opportunity in Legal Field

Everyone has equal rights and obligations before the law, regardless of background or social status. This means that all citizens are entitled to equal treatment before the law, both in terms of basic rights and in the legal process. This principle ensures that every individual is treated equally by law, without discrimination based on race, religion, gender, social status, or other factors. The primary goal of liberal feminism is gender equality in the public sphere. This includes equal access to education, equal pay, the elimination of gender segregation in employment, and better working conditions for women. All of this is believed to be achievable through legal change (Olivia Guy-Evans, 2024).

Jo March's efforts to achieve equal pay are evident in the following dialogue.

MR. DASHWOOD: I'll only pay for the copyright.

JO: You keep your \$500, and I'll keep the copyright, thank you.

Also, I want ten percent of royalties.

MR. DASHWOOD: Five point five percent and that is very generous.

JO: Nine percent.

MR. DASHWOOD: six percent and that's it.

JO: If I'm going to sell my heroine into marriage for money, I might as well get some of it.

MR. DASHWOOD: Six point six percent.

Jo: Done.

(Little Women, 02:05:37-02:06:13)

Jo March strives for legal equality in employment, as every worker has the right to receive non-discriminatory wages based on gender for equal or equivalent work. Then, she negotiates with Mr. Dashwood so that female writers also receive the same royalties as male writers. Thanks to Jo March's ambitious attitude to achieve equality, Jo March finally gets the royalties and copyrights she deserves as a writer. In Jo March's personality, she strongly fights for women's rights in writing, such as getting and receiving fair compensation for the work she has worked so hard to create.

She does not easily give up on challenges and continues to strive to achieve her goals.

B.5. Equal Rights and Opportunity in Social

Equal rights and opportunities in social life are fundamental human rights. Ensuring equality in various aspects of social life is key to creating a just, inclusive, and sustainable society. Liberal feminism aims to eliminate inequalities between women and men in the legal, political, social, and educational spheres (Worrell 430). Jo March's caring personality has led her to contribute significantly to helping those around her. This can be seen in the following monologue.

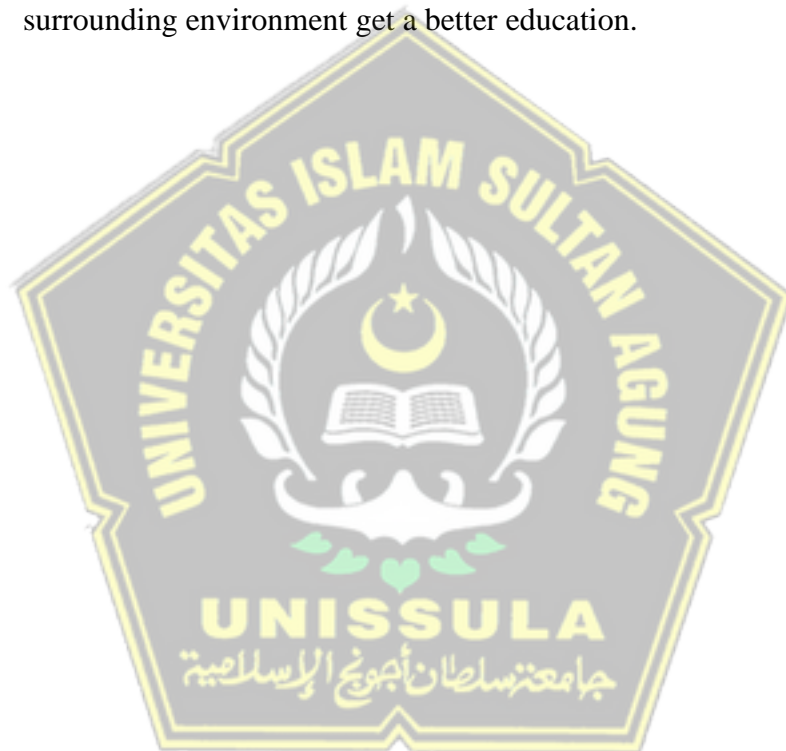
Jo is supervising a great number of rambunctious girls and boys of all races and ages. They are finishing lessons for the day, and everyone runs outside at full speed.

Jo makes her way down the stairs and is handed a homemade cake by one of the children. She kisses him on the head and continues through what she's built. **Every inch of the school is covered with the students' work,** all of the former stuffiness is gone. She's in her heaven.

(Little Women, 02:06:42-02:07:00)

In the monologue, Jo March's concern for the surrounding environment is visible. Jo March succeeded in providing a decent education to the surrounding environment regardless of gender, race, and age. The school she founded had a very good and beneficial impact on the

surrounding environment. So that the children there could easily show their work and abilities without feeling injustice between genders. With her creativity, Jo March also made cakes for the event she held at the new school she founded so that the children there could also feel the happiness felt by Jo March herself. This proves that Jo March can have a good impact on the surrounding environment, by participating in helping the surrounding environment get a better education.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Chapter five is the final chapter in this study. This chapter provides conclusion and recommendation. The conclusions in this study are drawn based on the research in chapter four related to the answers to the research questions, followed by suggestions for further research.

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion in chapter four, this study describes the characterization of the main character, Jo March, in the film *Little Women* (2019). The results of the analysis found that the main character, Jo March, is a figure who is intelligent, caring, responsible, creative, confident, ambitious, and has strong principles. Through dialogue, action, language, and author, we can see these characteristics. Jo March's language style reflects that she is a figure who has self-confidence and strong principles in making decisions that suit her. When she talks to her brother, she also shows that Jo March is an intelligent figure, has a sense of care, and is responsible for her family to protect her younger siblings. Jo March is also a great and creative writer, from the actions shown when Jo March and her brother made a drama performance whose story was created by Jo March herself. The drama performance was made for children in the neighborhood with the aim of making children feel happy with the drama performance.

In addition, this study analyzes liberal feminism experienced by the main character, Jo March, in the film *Little Women* (2019) using Naomi Wolf's

theory. Based on Naomi Wolf's theory, Power Feminism, which is a solution to overcome liberal feminism, it aims that women also have power in terms of education and opinion, and women must continue to demand equal rights, and now is the time for women to be free to will without depending on men. By this solution, women can get equal rights and opportunities in the fields of education, law, economics, and social. Although Jo March could not get a decent education at that time, she was able to make the people there get an education equal to that of men. Jo March, who has a caring nature for the surrounding environment, decided to open a school for the children there to get a decent education. In addition, from her ambitious nature, Jo March can help her family's economy, which is not doing well. Due to her character, Jo March was able to earn wages equal to those of men at that time, because at that time, it was very difficult for women to earn wages equal to those of men, and Jo March tried very hard to defend her rights to achieve equality. Her character greatly helped society and women at that time, so that they were not discriminated against by men and received the rights they deserved.

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusions above, several recommendations can be offered to readers based on this study. First, readers can use Naomi Wolf's liberal feminist theory to analyze other films, as this theory is very helpful for all types of literary works. Second, researchers can also analyze the film *Little Women* (2019) using other theories related to the film. Last, the film *Little Women* (2019) can be used as an object of analysis by analyzing the personality

type of one of the other main characters, namely Amy March, who is often seen in the film.



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