

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This research focuses on analysing a literary work that explains the feminism values from characterization of the main character in a novel. The writer analyzed characterization in the novel *Little Women*. As a general introduction, this chapter describes background of research, statement of problem, purpose of research, significance of research, clarification of key terms, and organization of paper.

1.1 Background of The Research

Women have always played a role in literature, especially literature for young people. Literature mirrors society and societal values. It also enforces these values. Problem with this that, even with the profound effect that the feminist movement of the 1970s on American culture, society is still primarily male dominated and much remains for women and gain cultural equality. In American society, women are not valued as literary characters or writers. Osterhays (1987:1) summarizes that most well known and well respected writers throughout history have been men, resulting in “images of women in literature that are products of creative process that has a limited perspective”. Literature therefore, has the potential to recreate and redefine the role of women.

With this said one wonders if young people’s literature portrays women accurately and if it reflects social historians new theories on how women have impacted history. Related to the momentum of France revolution in 1789; the ideas about committing injustice in the society begin to surface (Lukacs 1965:41). The ideas include the critics to omit the distinction of class, race,

gender, etc. Approach the 19th century, feminism turns into the movement, which gets a lot of attention from white women in Europe. Feminists criticize women's chore in the domestic sphere as irrational, emotional, and tyrannical so women can take part in the public sphere. The criticism of the tyranny are sporadically arisen. Regardless of these changes, throughout the nineteenth century, the majority of married women remained at home.

According to Toril Moi in her essay with title "The Feminist Reader". "Feminist is Political Position, Female is term of Biology and branch of Character which constructed by culture." "The Concern with conditioning and socialization, underpins, a crucial set of distinction, that between the terms "Feminist, Female and Feminine" as Toril Moi explain, the first is a political, the second a matter of biology and the third a set of culturally defined characteristic." There are the previous research of analysis about Feminism. The following is the sample of the research in relation to the problem. The research is "*An analysis on Liberal Feminism of the main character in the film of Miss Potter(2009)*" "This research explains about the feminism found in the main character. The part of Feminism explained by this research is about the character in women culture and education. That's why I choose this research to become my previous study. Then the theory in this research will be applied in object "*Little Women*" Novel.

Louisa May Alcott is the author who wants to show about survive women in the middle of destitution from their character. Jo as the main character who did not get education like another girls tried to survive in her own such as borrowing book from her boss to read it every single free time, writing short story then she sent it to some media, helping her mom because her dad was sent to Army. According to Glover, at all (2000), "Feminism refers to political, cultural and economic movements aimed at establishing the great rights and legal protections for women. Feminism include some of the sociological theories and philosophies concerned with issues of

gender difference. It is also a movement that campaigns for women's right and interest. Jo March defines feminism as the belief in the importance of gender equality, invalidating idea of gender hierarchy as a social constructed concept feminism.

According to Culler (1997:20), "there are three literary genres namely prose, poems, and plays (drama). Prose is free composition which ignores the amount of syllables of lines of sentences. " In case the researcher takes prose in the form of novel as the object of the research because novel is kind of literary work presenting many kinds of view and value. In a story the character is important part of literary work. Especially in fiction, characters are main ideas for the readers to imagine how about the literary works were created by the authors. In a novel there are many kinds of characters depending on who are the authors was created depend on purpose writing literary works itself.

Characters is one of the elements of fiction, it is a crucial part of making a story compelling. In order to interest and move readers, characters need to seem real. "Characters in a good novel is interesting ,intriguing,consistent, convicting, complex and realistic. Novel is a long short story which has many characters, plot, setting, and more complex than short story which include of the main character like flat character and round character (Reader and Woods in Mustopa (2012:3). . A character have to follow a role of character that have written by writers. A character in the story should demonstrate total accordance with what has been specified in a story in order to make the role of the resulting line with what is expected of a writer, and also a reader or spectator can look like the real scene. And good characterization make a reader strong sense of characters personality.

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In a novel there are many kinds of characters depending on who are the authors was created depend on purpose writing literary works itself. The researcher is interested to analyze about novel by Louisa May Alcott wich titled “*A little Women*” . This novel has story about the experience life of March daughter Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy who try to get their future in the middle of proverty. The main character in this novel is Jo March. However, Jo March has a different character between 3 March daughters . Jo is tomboy and doing something that man does.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation, the researcher found that *two Little women novel* represent women survive in Jo’s Character. Hence the problems can be formulated into following questions:

1. How the women characters characterized in Alcott’s *Little Women* ?
2. How is women survival described in Alcott’s *Little Woman* ?

1.3 Purposes of Research

Based on the research questions above, there are two objectives in this research, as follows:

1. To explain the characterization of women in Alcott’s *Little Women*
2. To Describe the values of Women Survive in Alcott’s *Little Women*

1.4 Significance of Research

This research has an academic and practical significances, there are:

1. Academically, this research is intended for literature students or general to be used as analysis material and references, and to add the research about Little Women's novel and Women survive in women character that has been done by the previous researchers.
2. Practically, this research is intended for anyone who is interested in literature. Researcher expected that this research can give new knowledge for the readers in understanding Jo's Novel Little Women

The researcher expects this research to be useful in developing feminist discourse especially about women issues, either in linguistic field or literary field. This research is very significant for the writer in special and for the students who studied english literature, as the part of it field can deeply develop about this research in the same problem, and to give the number of references in library about symbiolism observation in litterray works.

1.5. Clarification Of Key Term

In order to minimize misinterpretation on the key terms used in this research, the researcher clarified some key points:

1. Novel: novel is prose story telling with a great amount of detail on every page, and usually reveals human values (peck and Coyle, 102).
2. Character: character means the actor of the story and also as the characterization of the story. The characters are describes the in terest, desire, emotion, and moral principles that owned that figures (Nurgiyantoro, 165).
3. Characterization: characterization is the process of conveying information about character in fiction or conversation (Reader and Woods, 56).

4. Feminism as literary criticism: Feminist critics are motivated to raise questions about literature and literary criticism that are basic to women's struggle.

