

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is kind of written art as expression or utterance of someone's feeling or imagination. The definition of literature is kind of written based art in various structure such as prose, poem, drama, etc. Its context is based on the phenomenon or imagination (Dubey, 2013). Literature can be represented in several forms such as poem, drama, movie, or prose. In another word, literature is an art connected to language which has supporting aspects. In its content, literature can be real story or author's imagination which represents phenomenon in life.

Movie, is kind of literature used not only text or dialogue, but also uses spatial dimension consists of movie stock, lighting, camera angle, camera movement, point of view, editing and montage; temporal dimension consists of slow and fast motion, plot time, length of movie, flashback, and foreshadowing; and acoustic dimension consists of dialogue, music and sound effects. Another aspect of movie is theme which highlighting its content. Theme used can be underlie literature approach such as psychological, sociological, feminism, existentialism, biographical, and so on. Movie literature taking theoretical perspective that audiences witnessing its early successful promotion concludes that the movie has good quality so the movie has artistic and creative values (Sangkil Moon, Paul K. Bergey, 2010).

In this research, *Little Women* movie as object is analyzed in feminist approach. *Little Women* is kind of adapted from a novel which has same title written by Louisa May Alcott. This movie was released in 2019 and directed by Greta Gerwig. Greta is also taking part as movie script writer for this movie.

This movie taken setting in 19th century is kind of drama-romantic told about March Sisters and their dreams in mixed plot. March sisters are sibling from a mother who is called Marmee and a father worked as volunteer army during America Civil War at that time. Those March sisters are Margareth March as the oldest or usually called Meg, Josephine March or Jo, Elizabeth March or Beth, and the last child is Amy March.

March family has an assistant in the house named Hannah and another family member who is not live with them, Aunt March.

March sisters have different passion and talent. Meg is an alluring woman who is good at acting and dancing, Meg wants marrying to a rich man so she did not have to work all day. Jo, a tomboy and stubborn woman who loves writing and everything about literature. Beth is the kindest and has pure heart. She is good at playing piano. The last is Amy, a woman who loves painting and wants to be a well-known artist in Paris.

March family lives in countryside in Massachusetts and be neighbour to Laurence family. March sisters be friend with Mr. Laurence's grandson named Laurie, a lonely boy. In their friendship, Laurie has feeling to Jo, yet Jo turn him down because Jo thinks that it would be difficult if they will be partner. Another reason is Jo wants to be an independence woman without any relation.

The story of this movie begins in Volcano Press, a publisher office in New York City when Jo met Mr. Dashwood to propose her writing for publication. Mr. Dashwood felt not satisfied about her writing so he revised several parts in her writing thought in the end he still paid her writing. Jo immediately returned to her boarding house. Accidentally, Jo met Friedrich Bhaer, her boarding house neighbour. Friedrich has same spirit about literature with Jo and he wanted to read Jo's writing and made his honest opinion about it. However, when Jo accepted his offer, Jo felt disappointed because Friedrich though her writing was not good enough. Jo was angry and didn't want to meet Friedrich anymore.

Jo decided to go home back in Massachusetts to meet Beth who was sick. Jo felt disappointed because Amy was not there. Beth prohibited Amy because she would not disturb Amy's journey with Aunt March in Paris. Jo took care of Beth patiently until Beth passed away. Since Friedrich's criticism to her writing, Jo stopped to write until Beth asked her to continue her writing before Beth passed away. Amy went back to Massachusetts several time after Beth's funeral with Laurie from Paris. Laurie intended to meet Jo and said that he had engaged to Amy in Paris. Deep down in Jo's heart, she felt broken and regret of tuning him down too fast seven years ago, but everything had happened.

After Beth's asking for continuing her writing, Jo start to write again. Not about love story anymore, but about her family. At the same time, Jo was given Aunt March's big house as legacy. Jo with Meg and Amy visited and looked into the house. Jo intended to make a school for girls since at that time was very rarely school for girls. Going back to her house, Jo returned to the attic, place where she always be until Marmee called her to get off. Unpredictable, Friedrich was there. Jo felt surprised but happy inside and forgetting about Friedrich criticism to her writing. Friedrich was welcomed by March family. Friedrich told that he was in the journey to California since there was nothing keeping him to stay. In his deep down, Friedrich wanted Jo to keep him stay. Friedrich said thank you for being welcomed by March family and continuing his journey to California. Jo felt something strange in her heart until she realized that she fell in love with Friedrich. Jo decided to chase him in railway station. Jo said to Friedrich that she didn't want him to go. Jo hugged Friedrich and they were happy together.

March sisters' story is close to kindness and relate to feminism values. It can be seen and learn from their characters, thoughts, and behavior on how they face their uneasy life. Therefore, their story was also colored with happiness through role of Laurie. By explanation and summary above, it can be concluded that Jo March has dominant and strong character. For this research, the researcher wants to analyze Jo's independent character and feminism value within.

Little Women is a movie directed by Greta Gerwig in 2019 and it is adapted from Louisa May Alcott novel with the same title. This movie first released in America at Christmas season December 25th 2019. Sourced from Rotten Tomatoes, until April 1st 2021, *Little Women* got rate 95% from 419 reviews (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/little_women_2019). Another source, from IMDb, *Little Women* is rated 7.8/10 from 149.557 reviews until April 1st 2021 (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3281548/?ref=fn_al_tt_1). Reviewers are impressed to the storyline and the actor who are capable in playing the characters. Moreover, the story of March Sisters has a lot of moral value not only in life struggle, but also love and family life.

Due to this incredible movie adaptation, *Little Women* got 76 wins and 216 nomination in various award. One of the is six nomination in Academy Award, USA, such as Best Motion Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Costume Design, Best Original Music, Best Actress (Saoirse Ronan as Jo March), and Best Supporting Actress (Florence Pugh as Amy March). Fortunately, *Little Women* won for category Best Costume Design which had designed by Jacqueline Durran (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3281548/awards?ref_=tt_awd). It is such an appreciation since this movie competed with other best movie.

This movie highlights about independence in every of life through the characters. The characters have strong personality about persistence and independence as human being. The most dominant character for determining independence is portrayed in Jo March. A strong girl who fights for her dream and loves liberty for her own. Independence or liberty is kind of strength that somebody has to do something without any forced from others.

Independence is an absolute thing belonging every individual since her/his born. The term of independence can be interpreted a freedom to do, choose, and decide particular things for individual's life as willingness. According to (Kon, 1989) independence is an ability for doing important decision with responsibilities towards his/her action as consequent.

Another term of independence is that somebody does not get force, demands, and coercion for her/his action. Independence does not depends on sex identity, because everybody has it as human right. Both men and women have same and equal liberty for deciding his/her life as theirs. Then, being independent person makes somebody can feel his/her existence's value as human being.

Little Women movie (2019) is a good movie to watch. The researcher interests in analyzing this movie for several reasons. The first reason is this movie teaches about the struggle of March sisters to reach their dreams with their persistence and strong characterization.

The second, this movie has strong meaning about family existence. The togetherness of family is always the best thing no matter how difficult its condition. March family shows that family will give unconditional love.

The third reason is from the value of this movie. It was learnt that being women are not always controlled by social rules. It could be independent and find our own ways. Therefore, women still have same chance like men.

Last, not only about the content of the movie, this movie has also good visualization and satisfying component of the movie. Although this movie has mix plot for the timeline, it is represented by different tone of colors to determine the audiences which one is past timeline or present timeline.

According to the description of the movie's explanation above, the researcher intends to make a research entitled INDEPENDENT WOMAN PORTRAYED IN JO MARCH IN *LITTLE WOMEN* MOVIE (2019) using feminist approach.

B. Research Question

1. How is woman independent manifesting in Jo March in *Little Women* movie (2019)?
2. How is feminism value portrayed of Jo March character in *Little Women* movie (2019)?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify Jo March's independent woman manifestation in the *Little Women* movie (2019) using feminist approach.
2. To figure out feminism value of Jo March character in *Little Women* movie (2019)

D. Advantages of the Study

Writing this research, the researcher hopes that it will give some advantages to the reader such as:

1. Theoretical Advantage

This research is expected to give more information and references for other researches relate to this study.

2. Practical Advantage

The result of the research can be used to develop knowledge about feminism approach and experiences of the researcher.