

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is a person's creativity with their ideas, thoughts, and feelings which are taken from human life as a source of inspiration. Literary work is not born from a cultural vacuum. According to (Ratna, 2005), the essence of literary works is an invention or what is more commonly called a machine. Imagination in literature is based on information. The imagination is also imagined by other people. Although in essence literary works are fiction, literary works are constructed on the basis of truth. The forms of literary work include poetry, novels, films, dramas, short stories, etc.

Although literary works are the product of imagination, they are very beneficial for life. Literary works can give readers awareness of the truths of life, even though they are depicted in the form of fiction. Literary work can provide joy and inner satisfaction. Literary work can also be used as an experience to work because anyone can pour their heart and mind into writing that has artistic value. Literature is not only entertainment, but literature is also an inner need that must be fulfilled. Through literature, humans can learn life.

Film studies in literature and language studies have a relationship with one another. Judging from the definition, film is a combination of efforts to convey messages through moving images, the use of camera technology, color and sound. These elements are in the background by a story that contains the message the director wants to convey to the film audience (Susanto, 1986). A film is created when there is a story that contains a message to be shown to the audience or audience. Film conveys

its message through moving images, color and sound. Because the film covers everything so that the audience can easily see what the contents of the film are.

Literature itself comes from the Sanskrit language, “*śas*” means directing, giving directions or instructions, while “*tra*” means tools or means. So, literature is a means of providing clues, while language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by a group of people to cooperate, communicate, and identify themselves. From the above definitions, it can be concluded that film studies with literature and language have a relationship, that is, both convey a message or provide instructions to a group of humans to be able to work together and communicate with each other (Aris Kurniawan, 2021).

In making films is not easy and not as short as what we watch, it takes time and very long process and requires a process of thinking and engineering processes. A thought process in the form of melting ideas, ideas, and stories to be worked on, a set of technical processes in the form of artistic skills to turn ideas into a film that is ready to watch. Melting ideas or ideas can come from anywhere such as novels, short stories, poetry, fairy tales, even from a notebook or diary. One of the films based on this novel is *Little Women*. The film *Little Women (2019)* is an adaptation of the novel of the same title by Louisa May Alcott. This film was previously filmed in 1994 which was then rewritten and directed by Greta Gerwig in 2019. *Little Women* tells the story of the March family's in the setting of United States Civil War, who has four girls with their respective talents. This film tells the story of their journey from teenage girls to adult women.

The film *Little Women* tells the story of four sisters, namely Jo March, Meg, Amy, and Beth March. The story begins with Jo continuing her writing career. She had to leave her family and live in a rented house in New York. Jo kept trying to send

her manuscript to publishers. However, she was repeatedly rejected because Jo did not write down the happy ending in her story, where the female character marries the male character. According to Jo, women do not always have to end up with men because women can also continue their lives even though they are alone.

Greta managed to tell how the children of the March family struggled to get better life financially. Like Amy who moved to another country to get a noble girl, or struggled to rely on her ability to get better life like Jo. Upside down Meg's dancing life, as well as Beth's struggle to survive her illness.

Many good things are shown on this film. Like the March family who provide assistance to their neighbors who are short of food even though they themselves are short of food. Also, the Laurence family gave the March children ample opportunity to continue their dream, as well as the patience of Marmee, the mother of the March family to face the ridicule of those around her. She continues to comfort her children who are facing their own problems. This film presents warmth in a family, how fellow sisters support and strengthen each other.

The Little Women film received the Oscar 2020 award for the best costume design category. The costumes worn by Little Women players themselves have classic themes around the 1860s after the United States Civil War (*Oscars 2020: Los Angeles Times*, n.d.)

In addition to the best costume category, Little Women itself was included in the top nominations for other Oscars 2020, namely, Best Picture, Best Actress, Supporting Actress, Original Score, and Adapted Screenplay. Directed by Greta Gerwig and produced by Sony Pictures Entertainment, this film is an adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic 1869 novel (*Little Women - Awards - IMDb*, n.d.)

From the background above, the researcher interest to analyze the movie because the first is the harmony of the family that is reflected in the film. The second, film takes a classic background during the Second World War. In this era, American society still applies classis styles to everyday life such as tufted dressed decorated with knick-knacks, horse drawn carriages, and etc. The third, this film uses everyday language, so the audience can easily to understand the story. The fourth, the characters in this film have an unyielding and persistent character in achieving their dreams. The fifth, the film *Little Women* is a film based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott published in 1868 which is the best novel of its time.

Based illustration above, the researchers interest to analyzed this film with the title: *An Analysis Family's Existence Reflected in The Movie "Little Women" (2019): A Semiotic Approach*

B. Problem Statement

In this study, the researchers suggest a single statement. The major of the problem about family's existence reflected in this film. It explains the harmony of the family that is depicted in this film, during the Christmas celebration all the families gather to celebrate it. Marmee, who plays the role of a mother, teaches her children to help her poor neighbor. Then this noble deed spreads to her children. Based on the background of the study, the researcher was going to focus on the family's existence to solve the problem in this film with the problem of this study as follow: *How is the family's existence reflected in the movie Little Women 2019?*

C. Objectives of the Study

The problem statements in this study are:

1. To identify a family's existence reflected on the movie *Little Women 2019* directed by Greta Gerwig.
2. To analyze the movie *Little Women* using semiotic theory by Ronald Barthes.

D. Limitation of The Study

To collect data from this movie, the researcher's uses several stages of collecting data consist of:

1. The plot of the story in this movie
2. Characters behavior
3. Movie script

E. Significances of The Study

1) Theoretical Significances

This study contributes to the body of knowledge and giving information the readers, especially literary on the movie.

2) Practical Significances

The study enriches the present writer's understanding of analyzed the novel especially based on Semiotic Approach.