

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE
LITTLE WOMEN NOVEL BY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT;
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree
in Department of English Education**

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PUBLICATION ARTICLE

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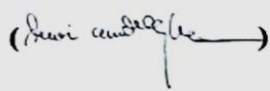
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui feminisme dalam novel *Little Women*. Serta menganalisis sikap dan dialog antar tokoh dalam novel dengan teori feminisme. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan sumber data diambil dari novel *Little Women*. Ada tiga jenis feminisme, yaitu; Liberal, Marxis, dan Radikal. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan teknik mencatat untuk mendapatkan data yang diinginkan. Dengan membaca isi novel, peneliti akan dapat mengetahui keberadaan isu-isu feminis yang terkandung dalam novel tersebut. Dilihat dari dialog antar karakter dan yang paling menonjol adalah karakter Jo.

Kata Kunci: : little women; feminisme; analisis; karakter; tipe

Abstract

This study aims to determine the feminism in the novel *Little Women*. And analyze the attitude and dialogue between the characters in the novel with feminism theory. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method and the data source is taken from the novel *Little Women*. There are three types of feminism, namely; Liberals, Marxists, and Radicals. In this study, researchers used note-taking techniques to obtain the desired data. By reading the contents of the novel, researchers will be able to find out the existence of feminist issues contained in the novel. Seen from the dialogue between the characters and the most prominent is Jo's character.

Keywords: little women; feminism; analysis; characters; types

1. INTRODUCTION

At present, gender equality has been fought a lot for this second. Even in Indonesia itself, the growth of feminist activism in the digital space gives the impression that this movement is singular. Even when there is a global campaign "Women's March" helped encourage Indonesian feminist fighters to build alliances and attract support to the public. Which could gather a number of 4,000 participants in Jakarta at the end of April 2019. This was used to urge the Indonesian Parliament to pass the PKS Bill. Even so, there are still some people who misinterpret this feminism movement as something that will damage the 'social system of society'. In fact, feminism is a recognition of the imbalance of power between women and men, which is placed in a lower role (Hannam, 2007). According to Martin (1916), the essence of feminism is highlighting freedom, independence and emancipation or equality between women and men in all aspects, such as; in social, political and economic.

Feminism emerged as a resistance movement against patriarchal society. Bhasin explains that male power; power relations with what men dominate women, and to say the system that dominates

women is still controlled through various ways. Patriarchy forms men as superordinates in the framework of relations with women who are made as subordinates.

An essay written by Mary Wollstonecraft as a pioneer of the liberal feminism movement contains the French bourgeois revolution and the rights of women as human beings whose rights must be fulfilled as the spirit of the French Revolution demands individualism from the absolute monarchy of France. As Naomi Wolf did as one of the feminist figures she is journalist, "*Strength Feminism*" is a solution. Now women have the power in terms of education and income, and women must continue to demand equal rights and now is the time for women to have free will without depending on men. According to Mackie (2003), argues that a form of social policy for women is needed to achieve independence without having to sacrifice their reproductive role and some are engaged in campaigns about women's suffrage. This situation then gave rise to the next flow, namely Marxist feminism. This feminism focuses on issues of production and reproduction, that there is an unfair gender division of labor, and women are considered as mothers who carry out social reproduction which is not seen as work while men work in offices and have the right to be educated more than women. Then there is radical Feminism which is motivated by dissatisfaction with Marxist feminist analysis because according to them, women's oppression occurs because of women's bodies. And they want to abolish the patriarchal system that existed in society at that time.

"*Little women*", is one of the classic stories that tell about gender equality in its time. A struggle to live a free life like a man. Because women of their time have many such rules, they must be like a *lady* who is sweet and doesn't talk much. In this novel, the writer makes Jo's character show her freedom. Seen from the stature, her behavior is like a man and also there is no desire for her to get married. And lastly when she cut her hair for his mother's addition to a trip to Washington. Make her appearance like a man. Even though she ended up crying at night when she slept. Through the character Jo, giving similarities to the writer, because even until the end of her life, Alcott never married. Because she continues to uphold her principles, women should have the right to their own way of life, including marriage or not. The story of the four sisters is the main attraction of this novel so the researcher wishes to examine this work. Besides that, the characters in this novel are very interesting. Those who have never been lazy or those who always work together to do something even when they are trying to realize their dreams. And their respective principles are interesting. With the explanation above, the researcher is interesting to examine feminism in the *Little Women* novel.

Literature review has a function to describe the research and analysis that has been done by researchers. Previous analysis relating feminism to female figures in a literary work. In this case, several

published research results have been described, including a thesis researched by Pristina Ajeng Paundria (2014). The results of this study are researchers analyzing the meaning of family and happiness in the novel by using a feminism approach. By looking for data about the meaning of a family and then explain with what is happening in the novel also what happiness happens in the novel. Then there is Eka Desmawati (Gunadarma University, 2018). She researcher using qualitative research methods and data retrieval from the novel. The purpose of her own research is to examine the women's movement to reach the equality of right with men in many aspects, such as; political, social, economy and culture. In accordance with the conditions in the novel. Novita Yolanda Santi, Awliya Rahmi from Imam Bonjol State Islamic University (2019). This researchers uses documentation technique method which is then analyzed using feminism approach. The results of this study indicate that feminist values in the novel include; Equality, Difference, Choice, Care, Time, and Experience. Then their analyzes Jo's character, which is about Jo's struggle in defending her rights as a woman for the sake of equality in the nature of women.

Aswarini Sentana (Gunadarma University, 2019). In this study, researchers used qualitative methods. This research aims to find out how the novel can describes Jo's character based on her attitude towards femininity and how Jo's attitude is related to Adler's theory of "Masculine Protest" because Jo's character is like a boy. Septa Aryanika IAIN Raden Intan Lampung (2016) with the title, "*An Analysis of Perempuan Berkalung Turban Novel: Feminist Perspective*". The purpose of this study is to describe feminism and feminism groups in the novel by using descriptive qualitative research methods. By having research results; 1) feminism in the novel is described as a woman who struggles to gain human existence and freedom, and 2) the content of this novel is liberal and radical feminism. Dr. Hafsah Barrak Albarrak from Dammam University King Faisal Road, Dammam, Saudi Arabia (2017) with the title "*Feminism in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and Emma*". This research discusses the feminism contained in two novels by Jane Austen that both discuss the issue of feminism. According to him, feminism acquired a negative connotation with fanaticism and misandry. Where women are discriminated and oppressed and bring change to female victims and sacrifices. And finally, according to him, it is really impossible to see the writer from a different perspective. Eka Wilany University of Riau Islands (2017) with the title, "*Feminism Analysis in the Novel Woman at Point Zero*". Research that uses descriptive qualitative research method means that feminism is a equality and justice, fight for sexist exploitation and oppression. Explain also how difficult the condition of a woman who wants to struggle her right, that not only as a woman but as human too.

Suaidi, Rusfandi and Trisno are Rahayu Wilujeng from Kanjuruhan University Malang (2016). By using a qualitative description research method to analyze the figure who is solving his life's

problems because he is interested in researching this novel about a family. And also understand about feminism contained in the novel and research focused on feminism. Eka Serli Sudarni from Alauddin State Islamic University (2017), with the title "*Struggle Of Women In The Novel Sing Me To Sleep By Angela Morrison (The Analysis Of Feminism)*". This research uses descriptive qualitative method and is focused on Virginia Woolf's theory. And the researcher concludes if the novel shows ten of kinds struggle of women. Thesya Widya, Asnani from the North Sumatra Islamic University, Medan (2020) with the title, "*Radical Feminism in Eka Kurniawan's Novel Beauty is A Wound*". This study uses descriptive qualitative to analyze research. And it has results if the woman in the novel reflects an oppression, suffering, and injustice.

From the research above, there are several similarities with this research, including; both researched characters in novels related to feminism and also some were from the same novel. The differences are that some of them identify the meaning of feminism as seen from the characters and some of them are identified in different novels.

Feminism is belief in the social, economic and political equality of the sexes. In the largely organization in West, feminism is manifested worldwide and represented by various institutions committed to the activities of women's rights and interests. Awareness about feminism first appeared in 1792 in England, through a book called, "*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*" that was written by Mary Wollstonecraft, a philosopher from England. The book was published after the French revolution. Initially he did not use the term feminism in his work because, the term feminism only appeared in 1808. Which term was used by Charles Fourier, a philosopher from France who at that time he used to describe utopian socialism. At that time society believed that women were inferior to men.

Nonetheless, feminist thinking; gender equality has been widely accepted and supported by the community from women and men. This acceptance can be seen through community acceptance of women in the fields that have been discussed which were initially filled by men, through writing and the media. Some of them even helped to mobilize this support from some elements as awareness of gender equality in the community.

2. METHOD

In the research analysis of the novel "*Little Women*", the researchers used a qualitative descriptive method. The descriptive method is a method used to analyze or describe research results, but is not used to make more general conclusions (Sugiono, 2005). This research activity can be in the form of; data collection, data analysis, data interpretation and conclusions on the data. This method has a

purpose, namely to explain the problem to be studied. In this chapter, researchers also use this type of research with the concept analysis method. The analysis is an investigation of a problem or event whether it is in the form of deeds, essays and so on to get the right facts (Peter Salim, 1990). Meanwhile, according to Woodruff, analysis is a meaningful idea or idea. In the two explanations above, it can be concluded that the concept analysis method is a study that focuses on existing concepts, so that they can be understood, described, explained in their implementation in the field. The data collection technique used in this study was a data study using note-taking techniques. The note-taking technique mean that the researcher is a key instrument who conducts careful, focused, and thorough observation the novel text being researched by the researcher to obtaining the desired data. The data that has been recorded is then included with the data source to double-check the data sou rce when analyzing the data. The steps of data collection are by answering questions from the problem formulation and then describing them with existing theories and relevant data. And finally make a conclusion.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

“Little Women” is a novel that tells about feminism. From reading the novel, the researcher collected data that contained elements of feminism from the novel. The data collected after reading the novel there are 3 types of feminism, namely; liberal, marxist and radical feminism.

3.1 Findings

3.1.1 The Types Of Feminism In The Novel.

From the data obtained, the researcher concludes that in the novel there is an issue of feminism. And researchers found three types of feminism, namely liberal feminism, marxist feminism, and radical feminism. All three are obtained from the way the author describes the character and the sentences spoken by the character or her attitude towards the problems faced and the actions are taken. Feminism is a women’s movement for equal rights between men and women. According to Mansour Fakih (2001), Feminism is a unified social movement based on various acts of violence against women, such as oppression and exploitation. In addition, it is also accompanied by efforts to overcome cases of oppression and exploitation of women. Liberal feminism; view to putting those women have freedom. Marxist Feminism; class differences such as jobs that look at gender and usually men are superior. Radical Feminism; make women’s bodies the object of oppression by men.

Liberal Feminism

The basis of Liberal Feminism is a good life, where citizens have dignity and personal freedom as decision-makers and can develop themselves. This kind of feminism can be seen on the front page when four sisters; Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth enjoy their gloomy Christmas.

Then they talk about the results of the hard work they had today.

*“Mother didn’t say anything about our money, and she won’t wish us to give up everything. **Let’s each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I’m sure we work hard enough to earn it,**” cried Jo, examining the heels of her shoes in a gentlemanly manner. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.6)*

In the dialogue, the sentence contains elements of liberal feminism, which means they work hard to meet their own needs without male intervention in it. And it can also be said that women should have freedom and be able to meet their own needs. Like the theory put forward by John Locke as a British philosopher who said that humans have natural rights, namely the right to life, freedom and property rights. And just like what the four sisters did, they work so diligently and the results of their work can be used for their respective needs for their natural rights. Because they work to live their lives without a father who is on the battlefield. So they inevitably have to work for their lives. And the results of their work they can freely use to buy whatever they want.

*Mr. Brooke looked up and said quickly, “**Young ladies in America love independence as much as their ancestors did and are admired and respected for supporting themselves.**” (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.210)*

Mr. Brooke returned to the conversation between Miss Kate and Meg about work and what women do, as they chatted on the grass where they had a little picnic. Because according to him, there is something that needs to be straightened out in their conversation about the things women do in their home country. At that time Miss Kate and Meg were talking about learning and school.

Liberal feminists are fighting for equal rights in making their choices as human beings. Because women can fight for their rights as human beings. They have the freedom to choose, such as choosing to marry or not. Like the goal of feminism theory itself, namely equality of opportunity. And in this case the equality of opportunity in question is the opportunity to refuse or accept. Because at that time, women were still considered weak creatures and had to obey men who became rulers. So there is a lot of violence even within the family, and in this case they are still thinking about whether to marry or not for the sake of their future survival.

According to the data that the researcher get, they can be categorized as liberal feminists, because according to Mary Wollestone as the main character of liberal feminists, men and women have the same reasoning, so for the sake of equality of treatment and rights between men and women must be the same. The direction of the goal of liberal feminism itself is to want women to be free from oppressive gender roles, to achieve equal rights. And in this case it has been reflected in the dialogue between the characters in the novel.

Marxist Feminism

*“It's naughty to fret, **but I do think washing dishes and keeping things tidy is the worst work in the world.** It makes me cross, and my hands get so stiff, I can't practice well at all.” And Beth looked at her rough hands with a sigh that any one could hear that time.” (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.7)*

When the four sisters got together and complained to each other about the work they did that day. And Beth says washing dishes is the worst job in the world. However, the work will be done whether or not, because it is one of the tasks of women. Namely as a keeper or who always tidy up and do household chores that were commonly done by women at that time. And Beth did that and thought it was bad because it made her hands stiff and rough. But there was nothing she could do but do it for the sake of her survival.

*“Really, girls, you are both to be blamed,” said Meg, beginning to lecture in her elder-sisterly fashion. **“You are old enough to leave off boyish tricks, and to behave better, Josephine. It didn't matter so much when you were a little girl, but now you are so tall, and turn up your hair, you should remember that you are a young lady.”** (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.8)*

Still in the same condition, for those who are still struggling with their jobs, Meg warns Jo to start doing something that usually only men do. And she also reminded her how the duties and manners as a woman were like the rules that existed in her time. If a woman has to look elegant and polite, she doesn't act much. Because if women act like men, it will damage the image of women who are famous for being gentle and polite. Not like a boy who even if acting won't be lectured.

“I'm not! And if turning up my hair makes me one, I'll wear it in two tails

till I'm twenty," cried Jo, pulling off her net and shaking down a chestnut mane. "I hate to think I've got to grow up, and be Miss March, and wear long gowns, and look as prim as a China Aster! It's bad enough to be a girl, anyway, when I like boy's games and work and manners! I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy. And it's worse than ever now, for I'm dying to go and fight with Papa. And I can only stay home and knit, like a poky old woman!" (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.8)

Jo was listening to Meg's words about Jo's unchanging attitude when they were knitting in the living room. And Jo herself was emotional with herself being born a woman. Jo's attitude is that she wants to be born as a man who is free from rules and is free to work anything can even fight like what her father and other men do, such as joining the war or doing anything. Not like a girl who sews at home and only at home without doing things that she finds fun. Because in this case it can be seen that women are synonymous with being housekeepers and men working. However, she is still a lady who has to obey all the rules and do things she doesn't like.

"I'm the eldest," Meg began, but Jo cut in firmly, "I'm the head of the family now that Papa's gone, and I'll provide slippers, because he told me to take special care of Mom while she's away." (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.11)

Jo, who interrupts Meg's conversation when the four of them are sitting by the fireplace to warm themselves, contains Marxist Feminism because it shows the concept of the type of work women do in a social setting. Where Jo, considering herself to be her father's surrogate while away on duty for the country by working hard, helps her mother earn money and take care of her siblings and mother. She worked hard and continued to take care of her mother and three brothers because it was a mandate from her father before going to war. And what Jo did was what a man should do. And what Jo is doing is one of resistance to the socio-economic system, because that is not her responsibility as a lady.

In this case, the researcher categorizes this as a Marxist Feminist, because Karl Heinrich Marx or more popularly known as Karl Marx as a philosopher from Germany and is the originator of Marxist feminism, formulator of the approach to conflict in people's social life. For Marxists, women belong to the oppressed group. The weaker physical

condition of women should not be used as an excuse to put women in a lower position. Physical differences that are received from birth are then strengthened by the hegemony of cultural structures, customs, traditions, education, and so on. And in this novel, is described through dialogues between characters that tell about their working conditions. Finally, Jo became the substitute for his father as the person in charge of her family. Is one of the resistance to this feminism.

Radical Feminism

Radical Feminism is feminism that holds that oppression of women is caused by a patriarchal system. In the case of this novel, the writer finds that this feminism happened when Amy was in school and made a mistake so that she was punished by her teacher in front of her friends. Then she told her mother about the punishment she had received. Because she felt uncomfortable with the punishment her teacher did to her because it felt condescending to her.

“I don’t agree with corporal punishment, especially for girls. I don’t like the way Mr Davis teaches and don’t think the girls you hang out with are doing anything good, so I’ll ask your dad for advice before I send you anywhere else. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p. 108)

The words spoken by Mrs. March can be classified as Radical Feminism which is shown by protesting against the oppression of women. Where the female body is the main object of oppression against men. Mrs. March’s, as Amy mother, protested to protect her daughter from discomfort. And they have the right to refuse any punishment that involves women’s physique.

From the dialogues and attitudes obtained from reading this novel, it reflects that feminism can be reflected in their struggle to survive and do what makes them feel comfortable. At the same time, as a form of their protest so that they are no longer the object of violence by men that has happened between them. And they have the right to be free.

3.1.2 The Reason Why Jo’s Character Who Wants To Have Freedom Like A Man

A feminist figure, Broverman said that humans, both male and female, were created to have different biological characteristics. But existentially, every human being has the same value and dignity. Like Josephine or Jo, one of the characters who show her feminist

side by showing her hard work and freedom for her rights in life. Then she was supported by her three sisters who also did the same, fighting for their rights as women for their survival at that time. Philosophers such as Spinoza, Hucs and Malebranche argue that humans do things out of necessity.

*Jo immediately sat up, put her hands in her pockets, **and began to whistle.***

*“Don’t, Jo. It’s so **boyish!**”*

“That’s why I do it.”

*“I detest rude, **unladylike girls!**”*

*“**I hate affected, niminy-piminy girls!**” (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.8)*

Jo’s attitude of wanting to be free was like a man who wasn’t bound by rules she didn’t like. At that time Jo was sitting and whistling like a man. And Amy scolded her because she thought it was disrespectful to be a lady. And Jo herself doesn’t like being regulated just because she was born a woman. That’s why Jo wanted to be born and grow up to be a man who didn’t have as many unpleasant rules as she assumed. So she always acts like a boy because she likes it.

*“Poor Jo! It’s to bad, but it can’t be helped. So you must try to be contented with **making your name boyish, and playing brother to us girls,**” said Beth, stroking the rough head with a hand that all the dish washing and dusting in the world could not make ungentle in its touch. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.9)*

Beth felt sorry for Jo who wanted to be born a boy. But she said that Jo’s name itself sounded like a men and Jo also played like a men for her three sisters. Because as a younger sister she didn’t want her sister to be sad, so she comforted her sister and hope that she wouldn’t be sad. This also makes Jo like a men.

*“Oh, Jo, you are not going to wear that awful hat? It’s too absurd! **You shall not make a guy of yourself,**” remonstrated Meg as Jo tied down with a red ribbon the broad-brimmed, old-fashioned leghorn Laurie had sent for a joke.*

*“I just will, though, for it’s capital, si shady, light, and big. **It will make fun, and I don’t mind being a guy if I’m comfortable.**” With that Jo*

marched straight away and the rest followed, a bright little band of sisters, all looking their best in summer suits, with happy face under the jaunty hatbrims. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.195)

When she receives a letter from her friend Laurie, Jo, who is going out for a trip, wears a very unfeminine hat. Meg scolded her but Jo persisted because she was comfortable wearing it. And she also does not feel anything if she is said to look like a man. Meg just kept quiet and let the girl go with a very unfeminine appearance. Then the girl just walked out in front of her sister who was staring at her from inside the house.

From the data obtained by the researcher, some of the dialogues above show Jo's interest in wanting to be like a free man without any rules, even for dressing. Also, she has responsibilities for her mother and three sisters which are the responsibility of a man. And Jo until the end of the story can overcome all the problems that exist until her father comes home from the battlefield and they gather together so that their Christmas day looks happy.

3.1.3 The Issue Of Feminism In The Novel

The feminist movement supports women to play an active role in various fields of life, such as economic, social, cultural, without any restrictions or oppression. Feminism is the recognition that there is an imbalance of power between women and men, where women are deliberately placed in a lower role than men (Hannam, 2007). Feminism can also be interpreted as a women's emancipation movement that speaks about the position of women and rejects the difference in degrees between women and men. Wollstonecraft is best known as a writer, philosopher, and liberal feminist figure in the late 18th century. As a feminist, Wollstonecraft fights for women's rights to have equal rights with men in politics, education, and employment. So that women are not only confined in the house doing work that is motherhood and just a tool or instrument for the pleasure, happiness, and perfection of men. In addition, the way the author presents the issue of feminism in the novel is by presenting it through dialogue between characters and the actions of the characters in the novel. And in the novel, Louisa May Alcott, as the author, writes and describes that feminism is indeed contained in her novel, although it is not too obvious.

*“Well, dearies, **how have you got on today? There was so much to do, getting the boxes ready to go tomorrow, that I didn't come home to dinner.** Has anyone called, Beth? How is your cold, Meg? Jo, you look*

tired to death. Come and kiss me, baby.” (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.14)

Question’s Mrs. March who had just come home from work so busy that she couldn’t come home for dinner. Then she asked about the condition of her children like a mother in general. Here, it can be said as an issue of feminism in the novel because it does a good thing that can be categorized as a liberal feminist. And also she worked for her family when her husband was on the battlefield. In terms of work, it looks so hard and she does it voluntarily for the sake of her family’s survival.

*“**Goodness only knows.** Some poor creeter came a-beggin’, and your ma went straight off to see what was needed. **There never was such a woman for giving away vittles and drink, clothes and firin’**,” replied Hannah, who had lived with the family since Meg was born, and was considered by them all more as a friend than a servant. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.23)*

*“Merry Christmas, Marmee! Many of them! Thank you for our books. We read some, and mean to every day,” they all cried in chorus. “Merry Christmas, little daughters! I’m glad you began at once, and hope you will keep on. But I want to say one word before we sit down. Not far away from here lies a poor woman with a little newborn baby. Six children are huddled into one bed to keep from freezing, for they have no fire. There is nothing to eat over there, and the oldest boy came to tell me they were suffering hunger and cold. **My girls, will you give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?**”*

*“**May I go and help carry the things to the poor little children?**” asked Beth eagerly.*

*“**I shall take the cream and the muffings,**” added Amy, heroically giving up the article she most liked. Meg was already covering the buckwheats, and piling the bread into one big plate. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.25)*

Mrs. March teaches kindness to people in need without harming others to her children. This is done so that their children grow up to be good children. And her daughter is passionately interested in helping people in need by giving her food. This is an issue of feminism that is categorized as liberal feminism. Where someone prioritizes someone for a good.

*As Jo received her good-night kiss, Mrs. March whispered gently, "My dear, don't let the sun go down upon your anger. **Forgive each other, help each other, and begin again tomorrow.**" (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.117)*

When Jo and Amy are arguing because of Amy's mistake who burned Jo's diary. Jo didn't want to forgive her sister, which made Amy feel very guilty and Jo herself felt sad that the book was her treasure. Then humbly Mrs. March tries to advise her daughter to forgive each other. This case can be categorized as an issue of feminism because it teaches a morality which is commonly called rationality. So that there will be no more gaps in the family.

*"In spite of the curly crop, I don't see the 'son Jo' whom I left a year ago," said Mr. March. "I see a **young lady** who pins her collar straight, laces her boots neatly, and neither whistles, talks slang, nor lies on the rug as she used to do. Her face is rather thin and pale just now, with watching and anxiety, but I like to look at it, for it has grown gentler, and her voice is lower. She doesn't bounce, but moves quietly, and takes care of a certain little person in a motherly way which delights me. I rather miss my wild girl, but if I get a strong, helpful, tenderhearted woman in her place, I shall feel quite satisfied. I don't know whether the shearing sobered our black sheep, but I do know that in all Washington I couldn't find anything beautiful enough to be bought with the five-and-twenty dollars my good girl sent me." (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.345-346)*

Mr. March said if there was any change from Jo after he stayed. And from the sentence 'son Jo' can be categorized as an issue of feminism if someone considers a woman like a man. Just like what Mr. March did to his daughter. Because his daughter, Jo, is indeed a man. Therefore, he gave the responsibility to Jo for her mother and three sisters to always look after and protect her while he was away.

*"**I shall marry whom I please**, Aunt March, and you can leave your money to anyone you like," she said, nodding her head with a resolute air. (Alcott L.M, 2018, p.357)*

As already discussed, the right to choose between marriage or not. And Meg answered the question from Aunt March that cornered Mr. Brooke because he was a poor man. According to Aunt March, as the eldest child, she should be able to help her family by marrying a rich person. But getting married alone is a choice to answer yes or no according to comfort and desire. Even though at that time arranged marriages were still rampant, Meg refused for her convenience and her parents supported her decision. This can be an issue of liberal feminism where women have the right to freedom. Free to choose.

According to the researcher, the novel "*Little Women*" at least depicts feminism which can be seen from the dialogues and actions of each character. The way they make their own life choices without the demands of rules that view women as weak creatures. And they show that they can work hard when their father is not with them and still move on with their lives. Even protect each other even though they are all women. And the morality they learned from their mother from helping people in need. Until they do to choose who to marry. And from here, some issues of feminism can be seen which are reflected in the way the author describes it through the four sisters who are the main roles in this novel.

3.2 Discussion

The researcher will discuss some findings related to feminism theory. "*Little Women*" is a novel that the researcher will discuss mainly discuss the four main characters that show the existence of feminism actions. According to Adib Sofia (2009), the reasons behind the attitude of women to reject men's power are none other than education, understanding of the law, and the people around them. Feminist theories, as a tool for women to fight for their rights, are closely related to class and racial conflicts, especially gender conflicts. Feminism rejects injustice as a result of patriarchal society, rejects history and philosophy as male-centered disciplines, subjects as ego-centric (using thoughts), while women as hetero-centric (others). According to feminist groups, the influence of men in language is very strong, the arbitrary nature of language is used to the fullest by patriarchal culture.

In relation to literature, relevant fields of study include: female literary traditions, female authors, female readers, characteristics of women's language, female characters, popular and female novels, and so on. Feminists, especially issues regarding women are generally associated with emancipation, the movement of women to demand equal rights with men, both in the political and economic fields, as well as socio-cultural movements in general.

According to the researcher, the novel which is set during the civil war period, has several

values taught by Mrs. March told his children about the importance of trying and never giving up to achieve their goals. And what is more important is to have mental strength, and regardless of what the world gives them, they are equal to men and because they have the same rights in achieving their goals. And the types of feminism depicted in the little women novel are liberal, marxist and radical feminism.

Liberal feminism was first born in the 18th century formulated by Mary Wollstonecraft in her writings "*A Vindication of the Right of Women*" (1759-1799) and the 19th century by John Stuart Mill in his book "*Subjection of Women*" and Harriet Taylor Mills in his book "*Enfranchisement*". Then in the 20th century Betty Friedan in "*The Feminist Mystique and The Second Stage*". Liberal feminism is fighting for equal rights between women and men. As depicted in the novel *Little Women*, four sisters named; Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy want freedom. Such as freedom about work so that they can be equal to men and can fulfill their own needs, unlike women who at that time were always depicted as always at home, doing housework such as sewing or washing dishes. Because at that time women were not allowed to work, or if they worked, it was a tough job like Mrs. March, the mother of four sisters, who works so hard that she doesn't even have time to have dinner with her children. Because indeed at that time women seemed to be given many rules and their freedom to choose was minimal. Like to get married or not.

Like Jo's choice when she was talking to her mother if she would choose not to marry rather than marry and become an unhappy wife in her life. Also like Meg her decides who she wants to marry because she has the right to choose. Whereas at that time there were indeed many arranged marriages that ended in domestic violence and also only rich people would marry. And also the freedom to education for women. Remembering Meg and Miss Kate's conversation about education. At that time only men were required to be educated so that many women were left behind in many things, especially those related to education. And they want their freedom to be educated so they can be like the women in Mr. Brooke's country is free to work and be educated just like the men do. According to Eka Desmawati (2018) with the title "*Analysis Of Feminism In The Novel Of Little Women By Louisa May Alcott*", the conception of women is determined by work. At that time work could only be done by men and women was identical to housework. Therefore, four sisters and their mother work to make ends meet while their father is not with them.

Whereas Marxist feminism is class differences such as jobs that view gender and usually men are superior. Women are usually considered weak creatures and become humans who are easily oppressed. And they have a few rules of being a lady that's for sure Friedrich Engels' theory was developed to form the basis of this school. The status of women fell due to socio-economic inequality.

And men always dominate social relations in society. Meanwhile, women are reduced to part of the property. The profit-oriented production system resulted in the formation of classes in society (bourgeoisie and proletariat). If capitalism collapses then the structure of society can be repaired and the oppression of women removed. And Jo is one of those characters who always defy such rules. She always acts as the boys do.

In the research of Novita Yolanda Santi, Awliya Rahmi (2019) entitled "*Feminism Values In Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*", also discusses the problem of Jo who struggles to defend her rights as a woman. Which also discusses Jo who became a substitute for her father who was on the battlefield. It was a men's job and responsibility, but Jo could do it until her father returned from the battlefield. And there is an opinion from an expert named Karl Heinrich Marx or more popularly known as Karl Marx as a philosopher from Germany and is the originator of Marxist feminism, the formulator of the approach to conflict in the social life of society. And it does happen in their social life which is constrained by the rules that have been given. Such as physical differences that are received from birth and then strengthened by the hegemony of cultural structures, customs, traditions, education, and so on.

Radical Feminism sees firmly the relationship or power relations between men and women, the source of the problem is the ideology of patriarchy. There is a view that oppression of women occurs as a result of the patriarchal system. And radical feminism is a feminism that makes women's bodies the object of oppression by men. The oppression by men and the manifestation of sexual violence is one of the basic causes of women's oppression (Desmawati, 2018). As experienced by Amy who was punished by Mr. Davis is a very disciplined teacher and keeps his every word. He punished Amy by hitting her hands right in front of her friends and she had to stand up during class hours, because she brought limes to share with her friends. And Mrs. March did not approve of Mr. Davis because she did not like corporal punishment to girls like her daughter. In her book, Kate Millet (1970), entitled "*Sexual Politics*", discusses individuals who have masculine and feminine characteristics. This relates to what happened to Amy who made her hands an object worthy of punishment.

The three feminisms discussed above are interrelated, where they both fight for their lives and rights as human beings. Even though they are different genders they still want to get the same rights even though they can not all be the same. At least women are not always weak creatures who can not do anything and always depend on men. And men have always been unrivaled powerful beings and always on top like a king. Because in reality women can be the head of the household, for example in today's times they are single parents. Where a woman becomes mother and father at the same time. Even though they can't meet the needs of their children to receive a father's love, women can do it. And this is related

to the novel where women in their day were still rife with domestic violence, so they had the right to choose. Just as Mrs. March when her husband is not by her side, she is responsible for her family.

According to Aswarini Sentana (2019) wrote in his journal article entitled "*Jo's March Attitudes Toward Femininity As Reflected In Alcott's Little Women: A Feminist Approach*", which describes Jo March who is not feminine and the extent to which she deviates from the behavior of women in her day. As has been discussed if Jo wants her to be a man because there are not many rules and is free to do whatever she wants without any rules.

Meanwhile, according to Heny Rahayu (2018) wrote in his thesis entitled "*An Analysis of Woman Struggle in Louisa May Alcott's Novel Little Women*", if the author of the novel uses feminism theory. Judging from the struggles of the characters in the novel, especially the character Jo, who stands out the most. Their struggle is described as the struggle of women to find happiness in life, daily life and also in fighting for their dreams. And at the end of the novel, although the end of the story is still hanging, it can be determined if they can slowly reach their respective dreams.

From the two previous studies, it was written that Jo's character was the most prominent and displayed many struggles for her people. She even cut her hair when her mother went to town because her father was sick. Even though it was a very taboo thing in her day where women had long hair which was synonymous with elegant women. What's more, Jo's body posture is tall and slightly brown compared to her three sisters, as well as her nickname that seems masculine. Actually she wants to be like men because men don't have many rules and are free to do anything and even have authority in everything. It can add to the issue of feminism and Jo's character who wants to be like a man. However, Jo is still a woman, and it's just her wish to be able to live as freely as she wants too.

Meanwhile, the issue of feminism can be seen from the actions of the characters and the attitudes of the characters in each scene. As in the article entitled "*Women's Emancipation in the Domestic Area in the Novel Little Woman by Louisa May Alcott*", Bella Saputri Indrapuri, Eggy Fajar Andalas (2019) which includes a mother's struggle to support her children, as Mrs. March who works all day for his children. Meanwhile her husband was on the civil war, leaving her with her four daughters. Then in the educational aspect as happened between Miss Kate and Meg's conversation. In the social aspect, such as when Mrs. March invites her children to do good by sharing their food with people in need.

Meanwhile, according to Aswarini Sentana (2019), Jo's very unfeminine attitude like a lady

in her time was one of the things that showed her protest against regulations that were hindered by gender. These things can show the issue of feminism contained in the novel *Little Women*. According to Maggi Humin, feminism is thought in liberating the situation of women who experience injustice because of gender.

Nina Baym believes that Women's fiction has its roots in the novels of manners with 'mixed heroes' and in British moralist fiction (Baym, 29). Women's fiction is an umbrella term for women-centered books focusing on women's life experiences that are marketed to female readers, and include many mainstream novels or Books on Women's Rights. And this opinion is related to the novel *Little Women* because in the book there are several struggles that involve interlocking women's rights.

While the theory of feminism began when the emergence of ideas and thoughts about the debate on women's rights in the socio-cultural field. Men construct the definition of women in the socio-cultural realm with the meaning as the role of housewives, having a gentle attitude, and being obedient to men, which women then begin to suppress (Hannam, 2007). The development of the feminist movement is increasingly visible, which is marked by the emergence of various social organizations related to feminism in the 60s to 70s to fight for women's rights, which include civil and political rights, such as the right to proper education and the right to vote (Walters, 2007).

According to the researcher, the novel "*Little Women*" does at least describe the actions of feminism starting from the conversations and attitudes and behavior of each character and the most prominent is Jo's character. So the issue of feminism can be seen from the way the author describes and explains every attitude, action, and behavior of the character. And also the portrayal of strong characters from writers like Jo, who tends to be stubborn but has a writing talent. Beth, who always felt unwell and fragile, but had a sweet demeanor. Amy, is a child with talent and beauty and has a spoiled nature typical of the youngest child. And Meg represents the nature of a woman who wants to be loved, wants to get better marks than all women, but is less sure about her appearance.

4. CONCLUSION

Little Women is a novel that tells about the feminist movement. Where women not only stay at home but also work for their lives. In this novel, it is stated that there are three types of feminism. First, liberal feminism, which wants women to be free from oppressive gender roles, to achieve equal rights to vote or equal rights. Second, Marxist feminism, Karl Marx as a philosopher from Germany and is the originator of Marxist feminism, the formulator of a conflict in social life, where women are an oppressed

group because of their physical condition which is considered weak and inferior to men. And third, radical feminism is feminism that holds that oppression of women is caused by a patriarchal system.

The issue feminism in the *Little Women* novel, describes the issue of feminism from the narrative that is described and also the dialogue used by each character. Jo reflects the feminine attitude in the novel such as her male style, tall stature and slightly darker skin than her three sisters, plus she cut her hair which was very taboo in those days. And she is one of the most against women's rules, she often does what men do like whistles or is responsible for taking care of her three sisters and mother which is the advice of her father.

According to the researcher, the novel "*Little Women*" does at least describe the actions of feminism starting from the conversations and attitudes and behavior of each character and the most prominent is Jo's character.

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