



AN ANALYSIS OF HOW WOMEN’S STRUGGLE PORTRAYED FROM THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE MOVIE “LITTLE WOMEN (2019)”

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Abstract: This study aims to identify the struggle of women against the figure of Jo March in the movie Little Women (2019) with a feminist approach. The discovery of women’s struggles in this movie, as well as the struggles of Jo March, the main character, in pursuing her dream, are discussed in this research. The researcher used qualitative research in this research. There are two sources of data used to analyze the related issues, namely primary and secondary data sources. Primary data sources from the movie Little Women (2019) and other sources such as international journals, websites, previous research, and other articles. From the researchers’ analysis, there are two conclusions. First, there are problems faced by the main character related to gender stereotypes, such as that women should marry well. The second is the struggle of the main character to pursue her dream in the future, like when the main character cuts her hair to sell, even though hair is a woman's crown at that time.

Keywords: *women’s struggle, feminism, gender stereotypes*

INTRODUCTION

In society, women always occupy a different position from men, namely a very unequal position compared to men. This is commonly referred to as gender inequality, where usually the position of women is very different compared to men. In Pakistan, gender inequality can be seen in society by how parents place more importance on boys than girls. Most underdeveloped people have controversial thoughts about women (Rabia et al.,

2019). Their study shows that the presence of women in Pakistani society is unlike that of men. Gender inequality is experienced by society when parents prioritize their sons over their daughters. According to research data collected by survey method in the Rabia et al.'s study, 63% of people think that women are not treated fairly, 71% feel discrimination in education, and 57% say that parents are more concerned with their sons than girls in Pakistan. The data shows that women in

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Pakistan are discriminated against more than men, thus making women's position insecure in society.

Gender inequality in Indonesia also occurs in the general public, especially women, as in Sohn's article (2015) women earn about 30% less than men, both in the wage worker category and the entrepreneurial category, which is taken from data from the Indonesia Family Life Survey in 2007. This position means Indonesia still has the problem of gender inequality. Gender inequality in the entrepreneurial category does not close the gender gap. Gender inequality does not only occur in Pakistan or Indonesia; many countries around the world have the same inequality problem. Inequality between women and men has not only occurred in the past, but also in the current situation. Yarrow & Afkar (2020) state that "Nationally, even though girls are performing better than boys in school, women work less, earn less, and are promoted less. Women are still under-represented in school and governmental leadership positions." As seen in Yarrow and Afkar's article, we can learn that women in Indonesia are promoted less often and seek fewer opportunities for promotion. Women achieve lower scores in bidding processes for promotions and are less able to participate in training for higher echelon positions due to time constraints and responsibilities at home.

Ali & Anwar (2011) also state that "Gender discrimination in the workforce was measured such that females were discriminated against more than males in private organizations." As seen by Ali and Anwar's research, the findings show that females are discriminated against more than males in the private sector than in the public sector. The research paper explores the issue of gender discrimination in the workforce and its impact on employee satisfaction and motivation, commitment and enthusiasm, and stress level. Women have always been treated unfairly and frequently discriminated against in the surrounding environment, particularly by men, since beginning of time. Women are frequently misunderstood in a variety of ways, such

as being labeled with housewives and being seen incapable to do things that are not in their nature as housewives.

According to Zangrando (1975) "In the mid- 1960s, feminists demanded information about the social, political and economic status, roles and treatment of women in the United States, past and present." As seen by her statement, women have been frequently discriminated against, including regarding gender roles, from the past to the present, and it is possible that something similar has occurred in countries other than the United States.

Justice and gender equality in Indonesia were pioneered by RA Kartini since 1908. As a form of opposition to injustice against women at the time, RA Kartini began the fight for equal rights for men and women, particularly in the realm of education. The Indonesian Women's Congress, which was eventually designated as Mother's Day, followed up on RA Kartini's battling spirit on the next journey on December 22, 1928. Louis Couperus (1996) state that "...Raden Adjeng Kartini might not have accomplished for the well-being of her country and her people; above all, for the Javanese woman and the Javanese child. She was the first Regent's daughter to break the fixed tradition in regard to marriage; it was customary to give the bride to a strange bridegroom, whom she had never seen, perhaps never even heard of, until her wedding day. Kartini chose her own husband, a man whom she loved..." In his overview, he states that women must have the courage to express their opinions and act like Kartini, who was successful in liberating herself from the oppression of narrow traditions, and that women can also gain freedom in thinking, expressing their opinions, and obtaining the future they desire.

Women have always been a part of society, in addition males, in the past and even now. Views that have been in the community for a long time and are held by the community, it is usually taken as a common incident. This may have an impact on women's roles in society. Women are only meant to



marry and are not allowed to pursue their dreams, or if they are, it is extremely difficult. As a result, many literary works contain the theme of stories about women's lives, including the obstacles that women face frequently. Since the beginning of existence, women's lives have been difficult and they must battle hard to implement their dreams, as portrayed in the movie *Little Women* (2019), which the researcher will analyze in this study.

This study uses some previous studies that have similarities to the object of analysis, Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, to support the researcher in analyzing the movie. First research by Ayu Priska Puspita Erene (2017) about "The Daughters' Personality Development Influenced by the Mother's Self-Esteem as seen in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*", in this research, the characters have different personality traits or characteristics from each other. This helps the researcher understand more about Josephine March's characteristics in the story, and then it is a lot easier for the researcher to talk about the struggles she's had.

The second one is a research from Miftahul Jannah (2018) "The Struggle for "Family Existence" An Analysis of *Little Women: A Novel* by Louisa May Alcott" this research uses the novel *Little Women* as a main object for the research. She discusses family existence as it is contained in the novel. Because *Little Women* is one of the novels that describes the family's five women, with the American Civil War as a background. This research helps me to understand more about the story and the conflict experienced by the main character as a woman in that situation at that time.

Third, research from Belladina Kusuma Indriani (2019) entitled "Independent Woman Portrayed in Jo March in *Little Women* Movie (2019): A Feminist Approach" this research use same novel with previous research, explain about the effect of civil war in the novel with sociological approach. This research argues that there are four kinds of independence portrayed in Jo March, namely

independence in society, education, economy, and workplace; feminism values in Jo March's character are breaking the patriarchy system, woman emancipation, and breaking woman stereotypes.

Fourth, Melinda Septiana's (2020) research is "Liberal Feminism Depicted by Jo March as the main character in Greta Gerwig's movie script "Little Women." In this research, the main character is depicted as liberal feminism by confronting women's stereotypes. From this research, the researcher can learn more about the stereotypes of women and help realize what the main characters are facing at that time.

And the last is research from Aprillia Annisa Sholikhati (2021) entitled "An Analysis of the Main Character in *The Little Women* Novel by Louisa May Alcott; A Feminist Approach" this research takes on the theme of women's struggle in both novels, this research discusses the women's struggle using feminism movement focuses and also the issue of feminism from the narrative that is described and also the dialogue used by each character in the novel.

From the previous study, the researcher gets a clearer understanding of the movie *Little Women*. The researcher uses the same subject, "Little Women" in several research so that the researcher can see *Little Women* in various aspects that have been covered before, and some research use feminism as a theory that will be applied to the study with the discussion of women's struggle. Some of the recent research on *Little Women* just talked about feminism and the effects of the war on families in general, as well as the main characters, although from various perspectives. The difference between this research and the previous study is that the researcher uses the movie *Little Women* (2019) as the main topic for discussing and applying feminism to find women's struggles in the movie, and then tries to focus on the problem of Josephine March, the main character in the story, as she struggles for her dreams in the face of women's limitations at the time. The objectives of this study

are (1) to see kinds of problems the main character face related to gender stereotypes and (2) to know the main character struggle to pursue her dreams in the future.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Feminism Approach

David (2015) argue that “The feminist project to transform women’s lives in the direction of gender and social equality became not only a political but also an educational and pedagogical one. Feminism has transformed women’s lives and the processes of knowledge-making, but it has yet to have a wider impact upon gender and sexual relations.” In his overview, the purpose of feminism is to change women's lives for the better in ways such as gender equality between women and men. Meanwhile, the feminism of the 21st century is one that includes all women, their daily struggles, claims, and transformations from their different contexts, on the basis of equal, dialogic relationships Puigvert et al., (2002). They underline that something that embraces all women, such as women's struggles in everyday life, is feminism in the 21st century.

According to Caprino (2017) feminism at its core is about equality of men and women, not “sameness.” So many people offer up the argument that women are not the “same” as men so there can’t be equality. In other words, because their bodies are different (many say “weaker” and smaller), and because men and women have different physical capabilities, these physical differences mean equality is not possible. In his statement, feminism is equality for women and men, not called equality between the two, but equality between women and men, even though they are physically different. Blackmore (2003) affirms that feminism has framed for many academics their relations with the ‘public’ based on obligations beyond the university and towards a collective project to improve the lot of women. In his overview, feminism has become a goal to improve the lives of women.

Friedman et al., (1987) argue that “For some people, particularly men, feminists are women with hairy legs; for others they are aggressive, strident women; for yet others, they are women who are afraid to men and who seek the protection of women's company as a shield against a harsh, violent masculinist world.” As they state in their statement, feminists are weak women who are afraid of men and rely on other women for safety. Another opinion from Popov (2018) that “Feminism is identified by the desire to acknowledge the women’s rights and equality, as well the different attitude towards the perception of women.” She outlines that feminism can be interpreted as a desire to recognize the rights and equality of women as well as men.

The researcher concludes that feminist theory, or feminism, is support of equality for women and men. Feminism is a collection of social movements, political movements, and ideas defining, achieving, and maintaining gender equality in the political, economic, personal, and social sectors.

Gender Stereotypes

According to Brower (2017), “Gender stereotypes are expectations, both positive and negative, about how a certain gender should behave and think.” He affirms that gender stereotypes are a good or bad opinion held by both men and women about something. Another opinion from Aliyyah (2018), “Gender stereotyping is one of the negative values that may be embedded in such works. “...gender stereotypes have been very notorious for its various negative impacts on human life.” Based on her assessment, the majority of gender stereotypes are unfavorable rather than positive.

However, Dinella & Martin (2001) mentions that “Gender stereotypes are the beliefs that people have about the characteristics of males and females. The content of stereotypes varies over cultures and over time. These expectations are often related to the roles that the sexes fulfill in the culture.” It can be concluded that gender stereotypes have an impact on women's roles. Women's roles have become



increasingly tied with stereotypes that exist in our surroundings over time.

The researcher concludes that gender stereotypes are expressed opinions about how a specific gender should act and think, both positive and unpleasant. Gender stereotypes, it might be claimed, have an impact on women's roles. Over time, women's roles have grown increasingly linked with stereotypes that present in our environment.

The Struggle

Struggle is the process of making intense or aggressive attempts in the face of problems or opposition in order to solve an issue, it can also be said that struggle is the process of proceeding with difficulty or with significant effort in order to make a livelihood. A struggle arises always when something that has life desires to attain a purpose against resistance (Lasker, 1907, p. 13). Another opinion from Wootton (2013) that the struggle for women to be free is existential in a way that almost no other can be. And it takes place in a broken context, constantly in need of reinventing itself. She outlines that the struggle for woman is something that must be done by themselves in order to be liberated from whatever oppresses them and to find their own identity.

The struggle for social justice is still very much alive – but they have entered into new domains and with very different scripts (Delanty, 2021). Stories are also tools of struggle, assertions about who is entitled to what, whose desires legitimate and whose do not (Kennedy, 2018). Marsam (cited in Noviyanti et al., 2021) argues that struggle is based on the word "fight," which refers to a fight for someone else's life or a country's independence. The fight can be viewed as a woman's efforts to defend the rights and dignity of women who are treated unfairly as a result of the patriarchal culture's injustice, which has become fairly common in society.

The struggle in this study is a form of effort made by a woman in dealing with women's issues in order

to protect the rights and dignity of women who are victimized as a result of ambiguous injustice in a patriarchal society that mistreats women. The meaning of struggle, as a key to success, is hard work and effort to achieve anything worthwhile. The struggle takes the form of realizing her talents and potential in order to fight for her existence in particular and to be humane. This is in connection with Jo March's efforts as the main character in this *Little Women* movie, for women's rights and dignity, which included: a) The struggle for social life, b) The struggle for economic requirements, c) The struggle for law, d) The struggle for education.

Kinds of Struggle

According to Suryani Luh Ketut (2014) there are three types of struggle (cited in Nursita, 2020) :

1. Struggle to accept facts of life

Life should be viewed objectively, because it is related to the individual and their experience. "Life" does not imply something blurry, but rather something very real and concrete, just as life's tasks are very real and concrete. They shape a person's destiny, which is unique to each individual. There is no person and no destiny that can be compared to another person or another destiny (Frankl, 2006). It means that we need to look at human life as objectively as possible. Especially if it relates to someone's personal experience.

2. Struggle to achieve a dream

Sarinah (cited in Purniawati, 2018) mentioned that "The view of life" is the concept held by an individual or community group that interprets a specific problem. Every human being has different problems, and each person has their own way of dealing with them. In this case, they have an implied basic concept that serves as a reference to guide them in solving every problem. The view of life can be seen in the way humans solve problems, because the view of life is the foundation that guides and guides human life physically and spiritually.

3. Struggle in the form of affection

In his book "Love Art" Erich Fromm (2013) stated that love is an art form. Love, like life, has the same meaning. Dancing, painting, singing, and other arts are examples of various arts; therefore, in order to master these arts, we must also learn to love. According to his statement, a theory of love must begin with a theory of human. Because humans are not animals, the desire to love cannot be an instinctual drive. Humans have emotions and ratios that represent how they feel and how they express those feelings.

Love is like thirst; it always ends being quenched. Emotions are fickle and change completely (Belli et al., 2010). Love is variable and changes continuously. It is never the same. We cannot find a single definition of love shared by everyone. Performance is continuous and constant. Each individual has a version of love, which changes continuously over time as well as the person who is in love changes too.

Hierarchy of Needs (Basic Needs)

According to Maslow (1974), many factors encourage a person to struggle, and in Maslow's theory of needs, it has been explained that people struggle to make ends meet. Maslow also states that people are motivated to meet certain needs, and some needs take priority over others. Our most basic need is for physical survival, and it is this that will push our behavior. When that level is reached, the next level up motivates us, and so on. The five stages of the original hierarchy of needs model are as follows: 1) Physiological needs, 2) Safety needs, 3) Love and belongingness needs, 4) Esteem needs, 5) Self-actualization needs.

1) Physiological needs

These are biological needs for human survival, such as air, food, and drink, as well as shelter, clothing, warmth, sex, and sleep.

2) Safety needs

These are protection from the elements, security, order, law, stability, as well as freedom from fear.

3) Love and belongingness needs

After physiological and safety needs are reached, the third level of human needs is social, which includes feelings of belonging. Friendship, intimacy, trust, and acceptance, as well as receiving and giving affection and love, are examples.

4) Esteem needs

The need for respect or reputation is most important for children and adolescents, and it comes before true self-esteem or dignity.

5) Self-actualization needs

Realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth, and peak experiences are examples of these.

Main Character

According to Danahy & Janovsky (2015) "Character can be defined as any person, animal, or figure represented in a literary work. Main character is required in every story." Based on their statement, main character is something like a person or animal that is shown or told in every story. Meanwhile, Famela (2011) state that "Main character is a character appear in a story, while supporting characters appear only occasionally in the story." She mentioned that the one who appears in a story is called the main character.

Rizahra & Supeno (2019) also stated that "The main character is the protagonist, and she/he has the right goal in the right way. We can also see that an antagonist is a character who has a goal that opposes the protagonist's goal and will try to stop the protagonist from getting what he or she wants." They outline that the main character is usually a character who has the right goal and is usually called protagonist, while if the character does things that are contrary to the main character, they are called antagonists.

Rizahra & Supeno (cited in Card, 2001: 98) explain the characters, like people, make good or bad first impression." It means that character is what the



audience's thinking, or imaging, or concluding, or knowing the characters are good or bad in the first time. Rizahra & Supeno (cited in Volger, 2007: 3) stated that, "The character is torn by warring allegiances to love and duty. Rizahra & Supeno (2019) also stated that "A character is one of important points in literature. A character has an identity to show the audience by their appearance, conversation, action, etc that is made by the author to represents the message through by the character. Character is representative of someone that has identity and culture it selves. So every identity shows how the character is. It is like how someone's attitude, and how someone live a life."

METHOD

This research is using qualitative research. Qualitative research methodologies are now well-established important modes of inquiry for the social sciences and applied fields, such as education, regional planning, health sciences, social work, community development, and management (Marshall & Rosman, 2016). Because the researcher wishes to evaluate the women's struggle in the movie *Little Women* (2019), this study is a qualitative study in the basics of literary criticism. The researcher employs a qualitative research methodology by employing the content analysis method. The data collection is from the movie and analyse it in relation to the topic that the researcher will explain in this study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher will refer to the movie's background to analyze gender stereotypes of the main character in *Little Women*. The story takes place in late-nineteenth-century America. At that time, American women saw their behavior regulated by a social system in that era.

Based on the data analysis discovered in the *Little Women* movie in this section, the researcher discusses the issues that the main character has as a result of gender stereotypes, as well as how she struggles to achieve her goals in this movie.

1. Kinds of problems the main character face related to gender stereotypes

a. Marriage is standard for women

According to Bendriss (2008), "Marriage allows a family's social status to increase while also upholding family honor. Marriage is most commonly arranged between two families or between a woman's family and an older man's family." She stated that women are often forced to marry to raise the social status of their families.

Another statement from Arroisi & Quraisyi (2015), "Marriage is something that is natural and cannot be denied to women. The rejection of marriage reflects a rejection of women's nature." Based on their opinion, women don't have freedom in their lives because they are forced to marry in order to avoid being perceived as violating women's nature and to be accepted by society.

Bravo, et.al. (2014) also stated that "Women are pushed to marry men twice their age and rich to save themselves and their families from terrible poverty. Women accept agreements because their virginity and reputation are culturally connected to the honor of the family overall." As seen by their research, the findings show that women are generally forced to accept their marriage by their families' choices, despite the fact that this frequently violates their rights, this is because of their families' perception that they have authority over a woman in their family's marriage. This is essentially the same as selling women.

It is a standard for women that marriage is a stereotype to limit women's capacity. We can't avoid this fact because it's real. Married women can't develop their own abilities, pursue professional careers, or make decisions about their lives and life plans. Those things are damaging for women. In this movie, Jo March has that stereotype. When she is in the publication office, Mr. Dashwood, the publication head, tells her that if the main character of her story is a girl, she must be married or die. It can be seen from movie scene at

minutes (00:03:53 – 00:03:58) at the beginning of this movie. She felt curious about the meaning of his words. Why should women get married or die? She realized it was a stereotype that happened at that time and she had to fight to accept that fact.

The second thing that Jo March faced was this stereotype when she was in Aunt March's house. That can be seen in movie scene at minutes (00:35:25 – 00:35:34), which depicts Aunt March telling Jo March that women should marry well. Jo March stated that she would make her own way in the world and did not require Aunt March's help, but her aunt underestimated her and stated that women could not do those things and that the only thing Jo could do is marry well. Mary well is indicating that Jo March must marry a successful man in order to save her family from poverty and improve their status.

As shown in the movie scene at minutes (01:22:50 – 01:23:18) also, Aunt March said the same thing to Jo's sister, Amy March, that she had to marry a rich man in order to save her family. In that scene, it is Amy, the younger sister, who is forced to marry a wealthy man because Jo cannot be expected and in short, women were required to be married rather than think about other things at the time.

b. Women have less influence than men

Women were meant to be weak, dependent, and frightened whereas men were supposed to be strong, intelligent, and forceful (Brannon, 2021). Based on his statement that women are weak and dependent human beings, it explains that women have less influence than men.

However, Rabia et al., (2019) mentions that “Some people believe that women have a lower status than males, both physically and intellectually, and that their lives are completely regulated by men.” It can be concluded that men have more power and greater and wider influence than women, who are required to just stay at home.

In addition to marriage, which is required for women, women in this Little Women movie also have little influence compared to men. Movie scene at minutes (00:39:32 – 00:39:36) shows the proof that women should study at home rather than at school, as said by Mr. Brooke, and that the school for women is so poor, as said by Meg March. It proves that at the time, women did not have access to proper education.

However, women must also talk calmly, elegantly, and avoid whistling and shouting like men. Meg tells Jo March about what women should and shouldn't do, it can be seen from movie scene at minutes (00:12:56 – 00:13:01). But, despite the various limitations that women experience, Jo March breaks the stereotypes by behaving differently from other women of the day. In the movie scene at minutes (00:14:16 – 00:14:21), Jo March spontaneously screamed “CAPITAL” because she heard Laurie's words, which she thought was very cool to be able to go to Europe, but soon she realized that women shouldn't behave like that, because she remembered what her sister Meg said. She felt sad because of that. Jo March also expresses to Laurie, her new neighbor at the party, that she wants to go to war with her father but is unable to do so because she is a woman.

Jo March also shares her unhappiness with her gender, it can be seen from movie scene at minutes (00:14:38 – 00:14:51). Jo March also broke the stereotypes by coming to the party wearing a burning dress. Where women should come to the party in the most beautiful and elegant dresses, which is where Jo March does something beyond that. Her sister, Meg, told her to sit down and keep quiet so that Jo March doesn't get caught wearing a burning dress, but instead tells Laurie the secret. From movie scene at minutes (00:14:52 – 00:15:08) that can be seen what Jo March does is not what women usually do. In that scene, it is clear that she is very different from women in general at that time.

The movie scene at minutes (00:26:42 – 00:26:48) also shows that women have less influence than



men. Men are already at war and women can't do much. Women have to sacrifice a little and do it with pleasure. It means that at that time, women only had a small influence compared to men, because men could join the war effort while women only had limited activities at home. Women were not allowed to complain at the time and were expected to accept the situation cheerfully. Once again, Jo March breaks the stereotype by saying that she wants to go to war with her father, which is a very contrast to the attitude of women in general. This can be seen from movie scene at minutes (00:31:59 – 00:32:07), when Marmee gives a surprise, which was a letter from their father, and then Jo March says she wants to go with her father.

2. The struggle to pursue dreams in the future

a. The main character's struggle in daily life

Newport (2000) state that “Women in America are most concerned about money, their families, their health, and time management and stress difficulties, according to March survey conducted by Gallup for women.com. Equality, equal opportunity, and discrimination are the top three issues for 4% of women, whereas the percentage of money is 26%, the percentage of family is 22%, the percentage of health is 15%, the percentage of time and stress is 14%, and the percentage of job and career is 8%. and education: 7%.” According to his survey, discrimination and family, in addition to financial difficulties, is a problem that women face, especially American women.

Every human being, both men and women, must face challenges in life, especially Jo March, the main female character. She struggled for her life in the 19th century, and she went through a lot in her daily life. In living her life, Jo March likes to do things more like a boy than a woman at that time, as in the movie scene at minutes (00:26:49 – 00:26:58), she jokes by throwing a pillow at Meg's face, her sister.

Amy said it was very boyish, but Jo liked it and said that was the reason she did it. The movie scene at minutes (00:35:03 – 00:35:19) also shows that Jo March struggles when she continues reading the book she didn't like because Aunt March nagged her. In that scene, it can be seen that Jo March prefers to read books other than *Belsham*, a book that must be read by her. This can be seen when she is enjoying another book while her aunt is asleep, and then she is suddenly called by her aunt. Jo March's struggle is also seen when Aunt March asked Jo if she wanted to accompany her to Europe and told Jo to read correctly as a condition for going to Europe. Jo just smiled wryly at her aunt's words, as seen in movie scene at minutes (00:36:43 – 00:37:00).

Besides the above mentioned, Jo March was also asked to teach her sister, Amy, in addition to Beth. However, it proves that Jo can be an excellent teacher to her siblings, we can see the proof in movie scene at minutes (00:39:27 – 00:39:31). In that scene, Marmee asks Jo to teach Amy, and her sister Meg thinks that Jo is a good teacher, but Jo is a little annoyed because she thinks she already taught Beth and wonders why she has to teach Amy too.

The struggle that Jo experienced continued when Jo was asked by Marmee to forgive her sister, Amy's, actions, which had made Jo very hurt, by burning Jo's writings. Jo, who was being comforted by Meg and Beth, was just sad and crying and didn't say a word. Jo is depressed because her writing is no longer available, this can be seen in the movie scene at minutes (00:48:42 – 00:48:58).

Not long after the incident, when Jo was ice skating with Laurie outside her house, Amy wanted to go with her, but Jo just kept quiet and left Amy, still angry because of her attitude. But Amy still chased and followed Jo ice skating from behind. Unfortunately, she was left behind and instead fell into the cold ice. Jo looks very sorry for what she did in movie scene at minutes (00:52:05–00:52:25)

and asks Marmee what was wrong with her, but she always blames herself.

The movie scene at minutes (01:12:17 – 01:12:28) shows that Jo also struggles in her daily life when she sells her hair for 25 dollars and gives the money to Marmee, her mother. Jo chose to sell her hair in those days when hair was an honor for women and hair was a woman's crown. Instead of going to Aunt March to ask for money, she preferred to make her own way by selling her hair because she wouldn't be able to deal with what Aunt March would say if she went to ask for money. She did this to pay for the train fare so her mother could go to see her father.

Not long after Jo cut her hair, she cried silently at night while everyone was asleep. Then, Amy found out Jo was crying and asked if it was because her father was sick, but Jo burst into tears on Amy's shoulder and said that she was sad because she had lost her hair. Jo tried to be strong by cutting her hair for money, but in the end, she felt fragile too. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (01:13:13 – 01:13:32) when Jo is crying in Amy's arms.

A few moments later, Jo's struggle begins again when her sister, Beth, is suffering from scarlet fever. She, along with her housekeeper Hannah and her sister Meg, decided to take care of Beth and sent Amy to Aunt March because Amy had never had scarlet fever. This was done so that Amy would not catch Beth's disease. The movie scene at minutes (01:19:41 – 01:20:06) shows Jo's struggle to face her daily life when Jo, with Hannah and Meg, will take care of Beth while Amy goes with Aunt March.

The movie scene at minutes (01:32:25 – 01:33:10) also shows Jo's struggles in her daily life when she is at Meg's wedding. She says that she hates it if Meg leaves her, because when Meg gets married, Meg will definitely have a life of her own and definitely her life with Meg will be different. Jo hates the fact that Meg's marriage is a sign of the end of her childhood with Meg. Jo even had the chance to persuade Meg to call off her wedding and pursue her dream of being an actress. She did it

because she didn't want to let Meg get married soon. But in the end, Jo gave up on it and just leaned on Meg's thigh.

b. The main character's struggle to find happiness

When unpleasant emotions are acceptable and goal-conducive, happiness is linked to them. The key to happiness, then, could be a combination of feeling good and feeling right (Tamir et al., 2017). According to their research, persons or humans are happy when they have the emotion they desire, whether pleasant or unpleasant. Humans can also be happy if they have enough feelings and are grateful for everything they have.

Stevens (2010) also state that "Happiness has numerous colors, ranging from calm and peace to joy and ecstasy. All negative emotions are included in unhappiness, including despair, boredom, and melancholy, as well as anxiety, guilt, and anger." Based on his statement, happiness is a feeling characterized by calm and peace that is felt by anyone who is positive, while negative ones such as anxiety, guilt, and anger include feelings of unhappiness.

In addition to the daily struggles experienced by Jo in pursuing her dreams in the future, Jo also struggles to find happiness in the process of pursuing dreams in the future. It can be seen in movie scene at minutes (00:05:43 – 00:06:00), which shows Jo having to provide financially for her family. When Mr. Friedrich says that Jo always works, Jo replies that she really should hard work until Amy, her sister, marries a rich man. She did this so that her family could achieve happiness.

Jo's struggle to achieve happiness in pursuing her dream was also passed when Mr. Friedrich was honest and said he didn't like the work Jo wrote. This made Jo annoyed and angry, because Mr. Friedrich said that Jo is a gifted person in the field of writing. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (00:22:08 – 00:23:15), when Mr. Friedrich asks Jo if no one has ever been honest with her, and Jo replies that she has been rejected many times.



Previously, she also said that she didn't want to worry her mother and couldn't let herself starve.

The movie scene at minutes (00:43:53 – 00:44:12) also shows Jo's struggle for Beth, her sister, who is sick again after Beth had previously suffered from scarlet fever. She went straight from New York to her home in Massachusetts. She was willing to give all her money to live in New York for Beth's doctor's fees. She said she didn't need the money and would use it to take Beth out to sea so she could fight her illness.

While Jo and Beth are at the beach, Beth asks Jo to write a story for her. Beth said that Jo was a writer, Jo should write and do what Beth said, because she felt very sick at that time. But Jo replies that she doesn't want to write because no one is interested in the story. This can be seen when Jo and Beth are on the beach and having small talk and this can be seen in at minutes (01:09:16 – 01:10:04).

After Jo and Beth go to the beach, Beth's condition worsens. Jo kept trying to keep Beth strong. Jo told Beth to fight her illness, in a hoarse voice Jo whispered encouraging Beth to stay strong. This is seen when Jo and Beth sleep together and Beth doesn't respond. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (01:27:25 – 01:27:45). But unfortunately, this time Beth could not defend against her illness. Beth finally died. Jo is deeply saddened by Beth's death. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (01:31:13). The depressed expression on Jo's face when she was at Beth's grave. Even in death, Jo stays, unable to leave Beth's side in her graveyard. Jo cries alone. She has no idea how the world continues to spin without her Beth.

Jo does what makes her happy, by doing a performance with her sisters that the neighborhood children watch. Apart from performing, Jo is also writing scripts for the performances they will be in. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (00:27:26 – 00:33:01). It was clear when Jo said that she had revised the climax and instructed Amy to

put on the costume right away, as well as when Beth arrived in the first portion of their performance.

Jo struggles in the process of achieving her dream when Jo's writings are burned by her sister, Amy. Jo couldn't find her writing anywhere when she tried to write down her idea. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (00:47:25 – 00:48:08), when she asks her sisters, and Amy admits that she had burned her writing. It can be seen when Amy screams loudly at Jo that she burned Jo's book or Jo's writings.

The movie scene at minutes (01:35:13 – 01:35:41) depicts Jo's struggle happening again when she has to face the fact that Aunt March would accompany Amy to Europe, whereas she assumed that when Amy said Aunt March would take someone to Europe, she had chosen Jo. She did what Aunt March told her to, like reading a boring book for hours, in order to come with Aunt March to Europe. However, Jo misunderstood that she was going to Europe. Jo only gets a feeling of disappointment, but she still has to try to be strong in front of Amy and be happy for Amy.

On the day of Meg's wedding, Laurie proposes to Jo. But Jo says that she can't marry her because she loves her freedom as an unmarried woman, and she doesn't want to give up that freedom by getting married. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (01:39:01 – 01:39:25) when Jo refuses Laurie's proposal. Jo said that they are very different in terms of personality and also different in status. Jo didn't feel right with Laurie because she didn't feel like most of the elegant and beautiful women of that era. From this, it can be seen that Jo tried to dismiss what women were supposed to do at that time, which was to get married. She prefers to pursue her dream and feels free rather than get married.

After Beth's death, Jo expresses all her confused and lonely feelings to Marmee, her mother. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (01:42:24 – 01:42:50). She felt that maybe when Laurie proposed to her, she would accept. She thought that

if Laurie proposed to her again, she would think about it and maybe accept her proposal. However, her mother asked Jo if she loved Laurie, but Jo was quiet. Then she continues that she just wants to be loved, even though she may not be able to love. But her mother said that to be loved and to love were two different things. If you want to be loved, Jo must also love someone. Instantly, Jo bursts into tears and reveals that women have minds and souls and hearts. Women have ambition and talent, as well as beauty. Jo was fed up with people's thinking that love was everything to a woman, and Jo said she was very lonely.

When Laurie told Jo that he and Amy had become husband and wife, Jo was shocked. Even though Jo wanted to tell Laurie that she wanted to accept his proposal if he proposed to her again, that won't happen because Laurie is already married to Amy. Jo felt very heartbroken knowing this. When Amy asked Jo if Laurie had told her about the wedding, Jo nodded. Amy asks if Jo is mad that they got married without telling her. Jo says no, because life is too short to be angry at one's sisters. Jo tries to accept reality, even though she really wants to attack Amy, but she holds it back because she thinks back and tries to be what Beth wants her to be. This can be seen in movie scene at minutes (01:48:10 – 01:48:33).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result of the research, the researcher has identified the kinds of Jo March's struggle as the main character facing gender stereotypes and pursuing her dream in the *Little Women* movie. Based on the analysis and discussion of the main character's struggle in this movie, the most obvious problem is that women are required to marry, and the main character's struggle as a woman in daily life.

The reality of marriage is a stereotype that limits women's potential. Married women are unable to grow personally, seek professions in their fields, or make life decisions. Jo March fits that stereotype in

this movie. She is informed by Mr. Dashwood, the publication manager, in the publication office that if her story's protagonist is a girl, that character must get married or pass away. And when Aunt March advised Jo March to marry well in order to push her family out of poverty and raise their social and economic status. She had to face it after realizing that it was a stereotype that existed at the time.

The struggle that Jo experienced is seen when she cries silently at night while everyone is asleep after she cuts her hair. Jo made the decision to sell her hair when women were honored for their hair and it represented as a woman's crown. She preferred to earn her own money by selling her hair rather than asking Aunt March for money. She took this action to cover the cost of the train fare so that her mother could visit her father.

In the end, Jo March, as the female lead in this movie, was able to achieve her dream as a writer after facing various obstacles, such as stereotypes for women who are required to marry rich people and facing obstacles in her daily life, such as when she sells her hair for money and gives it to her mother. These two things are some of the things that Jo March struggled with until finally she became a writer and her book was published.

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