

Characterization Analysis and the Feminism Reflection Of Jo March in the Little Women Movie

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze the characterization and the feminism reflection of Jo March in the Little Women movie. This study employed a feminist perspective and was descriptive qualitative research. Greta Gerwig's script and direction of the Little Women film served as the basis for the information. Jo March is a young middle-class woman with a tall physique, brown hair, and grey eyes, according to the findings of this study. An ambitious, independent, grumpy, smart, clumsy, and caring individual is how Jo March was described. By proving her independence and capacity for comfortable living without being married to a wealthy man, she defies the stereotype. She published her book under her own name and actively took part in the then-current battle for women's rights in the public sphere.

Keywords: *Character, Characterization, Feminism, Gender Equality.*

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis karakterisasi dan refleksi feminisme Jo March dalam film Little Women. Studi ini menggunakan perspektif feminis dan adalah penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Skenario dan penyutradaraan Greta Gerwig difilm Little Women berfungsi sebagai dasar untuk informasi. Jo March adalah wanita kelas menengah muda dengan tubuh tinggi, rambut coklat, dan mata abu-abu, menurut temuan penelitian ini. Seorang individu yang ambisius, independen, pemarah, pintar, ceroboh, dan peduli adalah bagaimana Jo March digambarkan. Dengan membuktikan kemerdekaan dan kemampuan untuk hidup dengan nyaman tanpa menikah dengan pria kaya, dia menantang stereotip. Dia menerbitkan bukunya dengan nama sendiri dan secara aktif berpartisipasi dalam pertempuran saat itu untuk hak-hak perempuan di bidang publik.

Kata kunci: *Karakter, Penokohan, Feminis, Kesetaraan Gender.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature conveys human thought about events, viewpoints, and emotions that mirror truth or facts via the use of words. Literature is a written communication, whether it takes the form of dramatic fiction or poetry, according to Dr. Totawad Nagnath Ramrao. It consistently conveys human feelings and makes use of storytelling tropes (Ramrao, 2016). This shows that literary works of poetry, prose, drama, fiction, and nonfiction that are formed of organized and written words may contain human expressions. A movie or film is a visual type of writing that combined plays and technology. The movie relieved the audience of the

necessity to continued reading and envisioning the works of written literature that they had already read.

A strong literary work requires numerous key components, which a movie provides in plenty. Scene, Plot, Character, Point of View, and Conflict are some of the movie's characteristics, according to Pratista (2008:29). A character is essential to how the movie's storyline develops. A character is a participant, actor, or character in a storyline of a motion picture; often a person, however it is conceivable that their real identity is drawn from a fictitious work (Depita, 2021). According to that definition, a character is a person who causes the movie's events to occur and then turns them into a narrative. Characterization is the process of creating a character in a piece of literature. This definition of characterization is that it is the correct representation of characters that actively contribute to the story through their actions. Characterizations are a method or strategy for displaying data. There are numerous methods to show the character, according to Jones (1968:84). Analytical descriptions of the personalities are provided by the author. The primary characters' physical appearance, social status, social relationships, and personalities are all used to create the important characters.

Feminism is one of the topics that is constantly brought up in the film. Feminism is a philosophy that emphasizes a female perspective on interpersonal relationships and the human condition (Aliyah et al., 2018). Feminism discusses several additional issues in addition to simply promoting gender equality in this topic. Movements for reform on topics including women's suffrage, equal pay, domestic violence, reproductive rights, and paid maternity leave are referred to as feminism.

In this study, the movie "Little Women" was examined. Greta Gerwig is the director of the "Little Women" movie, which stars "Jo March" as the lead. The screenwriter of the "Little Women" movie exhibits some characterisation analysis. Based on how the main character behaves in the film, writer Greta Gerwig describes her as intelligent and independent. Jo March character in this movie exhibit some feminism. Jo's character exhibit her independence in that era. Women back then had to adhere to a number of standarts, including being pleasant and speaking sparingly. She behaves like a guy, unlike Jo March, and she has never afraid to speak her mind.

Based on the explanation above the researcher intended to analyze and conduct the study project entitled "An Analysis Of Characterization Of The Main Character In The Movie Entitled Little Woman By Greta Gerwig (A Feminist Study)"

METHODS

The study was carried out in the Slamet Riyadi University Library, located at Jl. Sumpah Pemuda No. 18 in Joglo, Surakarta on June – July 2023.

The main character in Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" is characterized and feminism is reflected in the film using the descriptive qualitative approach. According to Creswell and Poth (2017) Qualitative research is the process of gathering and examining non-numerical data, such as linguistic data. Both oral and written information is produced during a research study employing the qualitative approach methodology (Moloeng, 2013). This indicates that a qualitative approach is one that generates data in spoken and written form, which cannot be done by statistical methods or other quantitative techniques. The data collection and analysis were carried out through several stages. The first was close watching the movie and categorizing the characterization by considering the main

character's physical appearance, social status, social relationship, and the personality named Jo March. After identifying Jo March's characterization, the data will be analyzed by using Liberal Feminism.

Descriptive qualitative research is totally data-driven because the data over course of the study (Farhandy, 2020). The analysis used two sources of data, the movie and the script of the movie entitled "Little Women". The researcher process analysis the data by using Miles & Huberman (1994:10) there are three methods of data analysis employed in qualitative research data reduction, data presentation, and drawing all need a study of the data source.

To confirm the validity, the researcher employed data triangulation and theory triangulation. The theory triangulation utilizes two or more theory to be combined. Then the researcher reviewed the script and examined the data. This study was completed by analyzing all the dialogues, script and the movie itself.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher described the answers of the problem in this section. The problem of this study included Jo March's characterization and how she reflected feminism in the Little Women movie.

The characterization of Jo March

The result of the characterization of Jo March related to the theory of Jones (1986) that displaying into several methods. There were physical appearance, social status, social relationship, and the primary character's personality. In this film all of the characterization can be seen in the main character of Jo March.

1. Physical appearance of Jo March

- a. Sixteen-year-old woman with tall body, brown hair and grey eyes.

Jo March characterized as a girl who has grey eyes and brown hair. Her eyes and hair were beautiful, especially when the sun shines into her. As the picture showed below:



Picture 1 Jo's Facial Features

Jo March were a young woman with tall body. Jo walked along with her sisters, wearing a red coat in the cold. Her tall body can be shown in the picture below:



Picture 2 Jo Was the Tallest in The Family

In this little women movie, Jo is a young girl. She is 16 years old when the story in this movie take place. The evidence of her old can be seen in the description that can be found from script below:

Jo, 16, miserable, glumly watches the dancers. She pulls at a string on her dress. She catches Meg's eyes, 17, laughing with her dance partner, and pleads with her to leave. Meg aggressively shakes her head, and Jo sighs, resigned.

2. Social status of Jo March
a. Middle class woman

Women in the 19th century were divided into lower, middle, and upper classes. According to Lerner (1986:24) For males, class was and continues to be determined by their relationship to the means of production: those who possessed the means of production could dominate those who did not. Class is mediated for women by their sexual attachments to a male, who subsequently provides them with material resources.

Middle-class women in America received a better education in the 19th century. Although accessible to middle-class women, the curriculum of female seminaries and colleges was restricted to religious instruction and fundamental "book learning" that would enable a mother to later educate her children. (Cruea, 2005).

Jo is middle class woman who work as a storyteller at Aunt March's house. Jo works to read a book to Aunt March to help her family financially while her father in the war. As showed in the dialogue below:

Aunt march : Josephine.
Jo : Yes, here.

Aunt march : Is there a reason you stopped reading Belsham? (Aunt March wake up from her dozes, reprimands Jo who stops reading Belsham's book for her.)

Jo. : **I'm sorry, I'll continue.** (Jo apologizes to Aunt March, then gets on with her job)

3. Social Relationship of Jo March

a. Friendly

Friedrich who was a professor in the boarding house where Jo March work greeted Jo. Jo as a friendly person answered Friedrich's greeting with a face full of smiles. As the dialogue below:

Friedrich : Good afternoon, Miss March

Jo : **Good afternoon, Professor** (answer the Friedrich greet with face full of smiles)

Jo got an invitation to dance from foreign young man whose Jo did not understand his language at first. Jo as a friendly person accepted it and started dancing together. It can be seen in the script below:

Jo : I'm sorry, I only speak English

Young Man: **Come dance!** (the young man offers his hand for the dance)

He pulls her into the dance, and she does her best to follow along. It's whirling and loud and wild. Before long, she finds herself paired with Friedrich and all self-consciousness leaves her. She is part of the night and the room and the music and she throws herself into movement, and we are taken back to...

4. Personality of Jo March

a. Ambitious

Laurie turned to face Jo across the field, **writing alone in the attic and absorbed with her work**. Jo March wanted to be an author. She had literary skill and a strong desire to see her goal realized, as shown in the script below:

...but most especially Jo. As Laurie retreats back to his big, lonely house, he looks across the field to Jo, writing alone in the attic, absorbed with her work.

Jo March wanted to be an author. She had literary skill and a strong desire to see her goal realized. Jo's late-night writings are examples of how ambitious she was, as shown in the script below:

Jo works with her writing costume on: an antique military jacket. Her writing is like an attack, moving into enemy territory and occupying space. Her hand starts to cramp, she shakes it, stretches it, and then switches hands.

b. Independent

Jo March made decision to move to New York City in order to support her family financially and pursue her dream of becoming a writer. She used her writing abilities and talent to support her family and make money because she is aware of her family's social situation. She acted in a way that demonstrated her goodness and selflessness, and it was also a statement of her independence as a woman.

Jo made difficult decisions by herself. Jo march decided to sold her hair to made money as can be seen in the table 5. She heard her father had been injured in the war. She hoped Marmee could go there to visit her father using her money. Jo march was an independent character because of her decisions. As the dialogue below:

Marmee : Where did you get the money?
Jo : **I only sold what was my own.** (Jo independently sold her own hair without asking permission from her family to make money).
Beth : Jo, your hair!
Amy, Hannah : Your one beauty. you look like a boy.
Jo : **It doesn't affect the fate of the nation, so don't wail.**
(Jo reassured her family that she made the right decision)

c. Grumpy

Jo felt disappointed and angry with Friedrich. She paced and watched Friedrich reading her writings. After he finished reading, he put down the work, and looked at her. Friedrich said honesty, he did not like jo's story. As the dialogue below:

Friedrich : oh I think you're talented, which is why I'm being so blunt.
Jo : **I can't afford to starve on praise.** (Jo, deeply offended, starts to gather up her work.)
Friedrich : Are you upset?
Jo : **Of course I'm upset! You just told me you didn't like my work!** (Jo gets emotional and gets angry with Friedrich just because Friedrich tells the truth).

Jo came back from theater. She ran into meg's room and checked her novel. She realized her novel was note there. With her anger, Jo asked Amy if she took her novel. Amy admitted that as their sisters and Marmee attempted to break up the battle during these final lines, Jo grew angry and they engaged in full-fledged fighting. As the dialogue below:

Jo : Has anyone taken my novel?
Jo : Amy... you've got it.
Amy : No I haven't.
Jo : **That's a lie!** (Jo gets emotional and confidently accuses Amy of taking her novel)
Amy : It isn't! I haven't got it - I don't know where it is and I don't care.
Amy : **I BURNT IT UP! I BURNT UP YOUR BOOK! I TOLD YOU I'D MAKE YOU PAY AND I DID!**
Jo : **You wicked girl! You wicked, wicked girl! I can never write it again! I'll never forgive you as long as I live!** (Jo with her grumpy, vented her anger by cursing and fighting with Amy).

d. Smart

Beth was the last daughter in the March family. She became the only Jo's sister who did not attend school. Jo March as her elder sister, took care of all of Beth's school work because Beth was ill when she was a child. Jo March was a smart person and was the most intelligent member of her family. As the dialogue below:

Beth : "I'm just glad that mother doesn't make me go to school with all those girl..."
Jo : "**Beth, after your shopping, I need you to work your way through**" (Jo remind Beth that after her shopping, she will check all the Beth's work)
"The new sums and spelling and I'll check it all when I get home" (Beth's math and spelling assignments usually corrected by Jo)

Jo was a smart character. Friedrich asked about Jo to the maid in the Jo's boarding house in New York. Friedrich enquired about Jo's return to Mrs. Kirke. Mrs. Kirke admitted that Jo was the best teacher they'd ever had after admitting she didn't know. Friedrich also agreed. As the dialogue below:

Friedrich : She's gone? Why?
Mrs. Kirke: I don't know. She just left.
Friedrich : But she didn't say if she was coming back?
Mrs. Kirke: We didn't have a heart to heart, Professor. (to a maid)
What are you doing? Why are you just sitting there? Go dust something. **And what about the girls? She was the best teacher they ever had.** (Jo are smart and became the best private teacher in her boarding house)
Friedrich: **I know** (Friedrich agreed because he knew that Jo was a smart teacher)

e. Clumsy

Jo walked through the house, into the drawing room, and directly to the fire. To be warm, she stood with her back to it. She didn't mean to, but the back of her dress burned. In a panic, one of the other women in the group assisted her, and the dress was removed. As the dialogue below:

Jo : (she straightens up) Good afternoon, Professor.
Friedrich : **You're on fire.** (Friedrich find Jo's dresses burnt. Jo suddenly did not notice that the back of her dress has caught on fire.)
Jo : Thank you.
Friedrich : (suddenly animated) **You're on fire!** (Friedrich warns Jo who still doesn't realize her back dress are on fire)

Jo handled a pair of hot tongs while acting awkward while Meg's hair was coated in papers. Amy smelled burnt like feathers. Beth watched Jo handle the tongs slightly worried. When Jo took off the tongs, a burned hair clump appeared. As the dialogue below:

Amy : **What a queer smell - it's like... burnt feathers.** (Amy noticed something wrong in that room, but Jo ignore it)
Jo : There, now you'll see a perfect little ringlet.
Jo : **Meg, I'm so sorry!** (Jo apologizes to Meg for her carelessness)

f. Caring

Jo march went home with a feeling worried. She gave her own money for marmee, and asked marmee to found the best doctor for Beth. She made the decision to go and took Beth to the water to strengthen her. As the dialogue below:

Jo : **Beth where is Beth?** (Jo confirmed Beth's whereabouts)
Marmee : She's upstairs. Oh my jo. We all thought she was better but the fever had weakened.
Jo : **Take this and find her the best doctor you can.** (Jo give her money as a form of her cared for Beth health)
Marmee : No, you need this money to live in New York
Jo : **I'm not going back. I'm using the rest to take her to the sea and get the strong.** (Jo decides not to return to New York and stays to take care of Beth)

Jo sat on the bed and watched over Beth who sleep. Jo worried and took care her. Beth woke up from her sleep. Jo hugged Beth, then said she never left her and asked her if she needs anything. As the dialogue below:

Beth : jo.
Jo : **I never should've left. Do you need anything? Here takes some water.** (Jo assures Beth that she will not leave her. Not forgetting either, Jo offers to help Beth and give her a glass of water).
Beth : It's so good to see your face.
Jo : **I want you dancing by the time Amy gets back.** (Jo supports Beth as she recovers, so she can see Beth dancing again)

Feminism as Reflected to Jo March Character

Liberal feminism is centered on liberal ideas that stress that both sexes should have access to opportunity and that they were created equally. Liberal feminism eliminates inequality between men and women in the legal, political, social, workplace, and educational arenas. It means that women and men should be treated equally. According to Tong (2009:2) Liberal feminists believe that women should have the same opportunities as men in the public sphere. Based on those perspectives, it is possible to conclude that liberal feminism had a single important purpose. This kind of feminism were reflected by of Jo's character below:

In the first scene, Meg was having difficulty putting on a pair of slippers when she got ready to go to the party. Meg wanted to look nice, so she wore some gorgeous shoes to stand out more at the party. Jo asked meg to wear her usual shoes because the ones she had before did not suit her feet well. Jo is uninterested in fashion. She only wore clothes that were comfy and safe for her body. As the dialogue below:

Meg's hair is covered in papers, and Jo manipulates a pair of hot tongs. Meg struggles to get on a pair of slippers.

Jo : **Just used your regular shoes.** (Jo asked meg to wear a comfortable shoe, just like her usual shoes because the ones she had before did not suit her feet well)

Jo was a caring and independent daughter. Her compassionate nature led her to act without considering the repercussions. She independently sold her own hair and gave the money to Marmee to go visit her father who was injured in war. She sold her hair where in that era woman hair served as a kind of crown to help her father. As the dialogue below:

Marmee : Where did you get the money

Jo : **I only sold what was my own** (Jo independently sold her own hair without asking permission from her family to make money to help her father).

Beth : Jo, your hair!

Amy, Hannah : Your one beauty. you look like a boy

Jo : **It doesn't affect the fate of the nation, so don't wail.** (Jo did not care about her appearance, she thought helped her family was the most important things)

Jo did not follow the social system which Aunt March told her in her scene when Jo read the Belsham's books. She thought she could live well, made money, and realized her ambition of becoming a writer without having to marry a wealthy guy. as the dialogue below:

Aunt march : No one makes their own way, not really, least of all a woman. You'll need to marry well.

Jo : **So the only way to be an unmarried woman is to be rich?** (Jo asked back because she disagreed with aunt march opinion)

Aunt march : Yes

Jo : **But there are precious few ways for women to make money.** (Jo believed without marrying a rich man, she could live well, make money, and achieved her dream as a writer without being submissive)

There was another dialogue that reflect jo's liberal feminism. Mr. Dashwood gave Jo a five percent royalty instead of the ten percent she had asked for since he thought it was generous. It was mandatory for the publisher to provide female authors the same royalties as male authors. As a female author who sold her work for a profit, Jo should receive higher royalties.. Jo and Mr. Dashwood, who negotiated the royalties for Jo's book, are shown in this scenario. Jo's behavior in the scene was a clear indication of her desire to receive author royalties. Jo tried to match the income of female writers with that of male writers. As the dialogue below:

Jo : **I want ten percent of royalties.** (Jo stated she wanted higher royalties)

Mr. Dashwood : Five point five percent and that is very generous.

Jo : Nine percent.

Mr. Dashwood : Six percent -- and that's it.
Jo : **If I'm going to sell my heroine into marriage for money, I might as well get some of it.** (Jo continued to fight equal pay between female writers and the average male writers got)
Mr. Dashwood : Six point six percent.
Jo : Done.

DISCUSSIONS

In this part it was discussed the findings and how to answer the research objectives which were the characterization of the main character named Jo March in the movie entitled "Little Women" by Greta Gerwig and the feminism reflection of the main character in the movie.

The Characterization of Jo March

Characterizations or dispositions are methods or ways to display figures (Ifianti, 2020). In this research the researcher analyzed the characterization of the Jo March. The characterization was used four aspects to analyzed the character according to Jones (1968:84). The result were:

1. The physical appearance of Jo March

Their physical characteristics included things like pale skin, gorgeous or attractive, long, black or brown hair, and so forth. Their physical characteristics were also tied to their performance and age.. Based on the above result of the study that the researcher found, Jo March is a young woman with tall body. She became the tallest in her family. She had a grey eyes and brown hair. Her hair slightly wavy and became so beautiful when the sun shines into her.

2. The social status of Jo March

The main character's social status provided information about their past, including their educational background and their existence in the middle and upper classes. It also defined how they lived, whether they were wealthy or impoverished, with dignity.. Based on the result findings, Jo March character was classified as middle-class woman in that era. Middle-class women in America received a better education in the 19th century. The middle class at the period had jobs as educators, private tutors, writers, etc. Here, Jo March middle class evidence were her jobs as a writer and storyteller in the upper-class woman's house. Jo also worked as a private teacher/tutor in New York. Another evidence of her middle-class were her appearance when she attended a New year upper-class party, where she showed an awkward attitude as a woman there.

3. The social relationship of Jo Mach

The social relationship between the primary characters and those around them (minor or supporting characters) was investigated.. Based on the findings, Jo March was a friendly person. she accepted an invitation to dance together by foreign young man. She also became a friends with Laurie by accident when she slips behind curtain. Jo also the first person who ask to handshake to introduce herself. She happily accepted Lurie to dance together in her first meet.

4. The personality of Jo March

Characteristics of the main character revealed personality traits including knowing how to make a romantic situation, being able to spot ideal circumstances for a role, and whether or not they are responsible, orderly, or disciplined.. Based on the result findings, the researcher found that Jo March was an ambitious, independent, grumpy, smart, clumsy and caring person. Her ambitious can be seen on her hard worked in writing. The independent character could be seen from the way she made decision to move to New York city alone and her decision to sell his hair just to make money.

Jo grumpy character found in how often she got angry to other people especially to Amy her younger sister. Jo was a smart person and became the smartest in the family. Her smart character made in how others people statement. People a round's Jo state that Jo march was a smart person and a good teacher. The last characterization through personality aspect were Jo is a clumsy person. She often accidentally burnt things around her, especially her back dress.

Feminism as Reflected to Jo March

In this "Little Movie", Jo March character were reflected some feminism. Liberal feminism became the one of many kind of feminism that the researcher discussed. According to Tong (2009:2) Liberal feminists believe that women should have the same opportunities as men to achieve in the public sphere.

In this movie, Jo showed her movements as a woman in the 19th century. She did not care about the patriarchal regulations that existed in that era, were woman should be marrying rich man. Because of the obligation of the men, a traditional thought believed that women should not work hard (Tambotto, 2023). Jo believed without married a rich man, she could have made her own money.

Women's life in this era is far from education, politics, and economics (Sakinah, 2022). Individual women did not receive the same consideration as individual men at the time. Unlike a man, who is judged based on his real interests and talents, a woman's interests and abilities are thought to be limited in some ways due to her gender. So, in this film, Jo also requested an equal royalty for her written story since she believed that men and women should have equal opportunity in all aspects of life

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the study done by researchers based on Jones (1968) theory, it can be concluded that in the Little Women movie written and directed by Greta Gerwig, the main character Jo March were characterized as a young woman who has tall body with brown hair and grey eyes. Set in the 19th century, Jo March was classified as a friendly middle-class woman. She was ambitious for her dream to be a famous writer. She also independent woman who worked hard to make money for her family and dared to make her own decisions. Jo was shown to be a caring woman who was willing to make sacrifices for her family. She also became the smartest in her family, and became a good teacher. Besides of her good character, Jo March was a clumsy and grumpy person who easily get emotional with anyone.

In the film "Little Women," Jo March, who plays the title role, exhibits feminism. From several kinds of feminism based on tong (2009) theory that have been described in previous

chapter, Jo's character reflected liberal feminism. Jo fought against the preconceived notion that women in her age could only live well by marrying wealthy men. Jo March defied the stereotype by demonstrating her independence, ambition, and smart character. She also demonstrated that she could live a comfortable life without marrying a wealthy man. She participates in the public domain to show that she is a valuable lady. She relocated to New York and published her novel under her own name as a woman writer. She did it without being constrained by the sexist and patriarchal barriers that women faced in the 19th century, allowing her to demonstrate her smart and drive. Jo March's persona showed how women may possibly compete with males in both the public and private realms..

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