

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter discusses some aspects that deal with the topic of the research, background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, research of methodology, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key.

1.1 Background of study

Literary work is the result of human imagination that is both beautiful and a wonderful impression on the soul of the reader. The imagination is the power of thought to imagine or create images based on fact or events a person experiences. Genre can be divided into three, namely: novel, poetry and drama. From three types of literary genre, this research just focuses on the study of novel. According to, Sklare (1995; 275) A novel is a fictional narrative prose and considerable length, in which character and actions are portrayed in a complex plot. In addition, Jones (1968 ; 6) Novel is a long story written in prose, but because it is long, so novel is different from a short story.

Novel contains of the series of the stories life and shows the most character. Novel contains two elements, intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic elements contain of groove, theme, plot, moral and others, and extrinsic elements contain education, religion, economics, philosophy, psychology and others. The research will only focus on the characterization in literature, especially in the novel.

Little Women novel was written by Louisa May Alcott. *Little Women* represents real picture of most American's life at the time. This research is focused on the female masculinity of the major character. Central to the plot is the beautiful gentlewoman

Josephine. She rejects female values and convention. Jo was life with 3 sisters and mother in Massachusetts. Her father went to war at the time. One day his mother received a letter from his father at war, the mother was asked to come to his father, while the family's financial situation was very bad. Her mother asks Jo to send a reply to his father. Jo cut her long hair to earn money so her mother could go to see her father.

When the word masculinity is mentioned, in the schemata across some characteristics of men such as handsome, macho, strong, and so on. Men are generally described as active, competent, rational, independent, and adventurous (sex roles in literature by Pringle and Stericker, 1980, 49). Whereas, when the word femininity is mentioned in the schemata across some characteristic of women such as beautiful, gentle, weak, and so on. Women are described as passive, less competent, irrational, dependent, and unadventurous (Pringle and Stericker, 1980, 49)

Characteristics of the exiting properties on masculine gender roles that expressed by sahrah(1996) , which is as follows : the first component is leading capability, the nature of masculinity, rationality. Active (Leadership skill), strong willed, consistent, ability to lead, optimistic, courageous and fair. The nature of masculinity(protective), independent, mature and confidence. Rationality component consist of properties like looking for new experience, rational and calm when facing a crisis.

Meanwhile Raven and Rubin(1983) mentions more detail the characteristics of the masculine gender role; the aggressive, independent, dominant, objective, unemotional, active, competitive, ambitious, rational, curious, about the various event and unsocial objects and also impulsive. Also characteristic masculine gender role is less able to express warmth and feeling relax, and less responsive to things that are associated with emotions or feeling. In addition, masculinity characteristics which consist of dominant, independent, rational, assertive, analytical, brave, active, and insensitive.

In fact, feminine is not always identical to women and masculine is not always identical to man. In *Female Masculinity* Halberstam states that :

It is to recognize that masculinity does not belong to men, has not been produced only by men, and does not properly express male heterosexuality..... What we call masculinity has also been produced by masculine women, gender deviants, and often lesbians. (Rachel Adams, Review Judith Halberstam, 1998;4)

Based on the theory, it is concluded that masculine characteristic is not only owned by the men but it is also by women, although in society claims that men must be masculine and women must be feminine. Essentially masculinity and femininity are constructed in society not based on sexes.

According to Littlejohn (1999;239), “gender is a range of physical, mental, and behavioral characteristics distinguishing between masculinity and femininity”. Every individual must have two qualities, masculine or feminine. Every individual can choose which attitude is more dominant of those individual of those individuals that will shape the identity. It is not always women that have to show feminine attitudes. Women also need masculine attitudes in life. If she is just feminine, she will be passive and will not have spirit of leadership or independency.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Based on the explanation of the background of the study above, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. How is Jo’s female masculinity depicted in Louisa May Alcott’s in *Little Women*?
2. How does Jo’s female masculinity shape her writing career in *Little Women*?

1.3 Purpose of the study

In relation to focus analysis mentioned before, the objectives of the study are :

1. To describe how Jo's female masculinity in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*.

1.4 Significance of the study

The result of this research will hopefully give better understanding of the novel .

1.5 Scope and limitation

The thesis is focused only on the major character, Jo March, as the representation of female masculinity concept in *Little Women* which is written by Louisa May Alcott.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify and to avoid misunderstanding of the terms used in this study, there are some definitions of the terms used.

1.6.1. Masculinity

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