Women’s Struggle between Familial Duty and Personal Growth
Of Jo March Character
in Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women*

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# TABLE OF CONTENT

| PAGE OF TITLE | i |
| PAGE OF APPROVAL | ii |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | v |
| TABLE OF CONTENT | viii |
| ABSTRACT | ix |
| ABSTRAK | x |

## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study 1  
1.2 Field of the Study 4  
1.3 Scope of the Study 5  
1.4 Problem Formulation 5  
1.5 Objective of the Study 5  
1.6 Significance of the Study 6  
1.7 Definition of Terms 6

## CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

9

## CHAPTER III: METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION AND INTERPRETATION

19

## CHAPTER IV: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

22  
4.1 Jo March Passion to Write Based on Helene Cixous Theory 22  
4.2 Jo March Masculine Manner in Women Based on Alfred Adler Theory 28

## CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

38

BIBLIOGRAPHY
ABSTRACT

*Little Women* centers on the conflict between two emphases in a young woman’s life which places on her to confront a difficult choice, between her principle or her family. The writer focuses on Jo March, a second daughter in March family. She has a passion to write anything. Jo March is boyish, and has a masculine manner which is in contrast with the description of a young woman’s manner at that time. The writer is interested in her strong efforts to uphold her principles. She always figures herself as a man in her family, while their father is charged into Civil War. As she grows, she begins to take more care of her appearance and adopts more ladylike manner. Yet, she does not sacrifice the sense that she is equal to any man. Being independent women is the main idea of this novel. Therefore the writer uses Helene Cixous theory about Ecriture Feminism and Alfred Adler with his Psychoanalytic theory about Masculine Protest. *Little Women* is mostly about Jo and her struggle to be good and to improve herself in the world, and such a struggle is believed to represent Louisa’s own struggle with the same issue. Helene Cixous in this case shows the important meaning between sex and gender, where sex is based on biological concept but gender is of psychological concept referring to sexual identity. In addition, Alfred Adler with his theory shows Jo’s masculinity is unique, and it is supported by her strong mindset and talent.

*Keywords:* independent, writing, masculinity.
Abstrak


Kata kunci: merdeka, menulis, maskulin.