

**THE CONCEPT OF FATHERING IN LOUISA MAY
ALCOTT'S *LITTLE WOMEN***

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK
IBRAHIM MALANG
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THESIS

Presented to
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)

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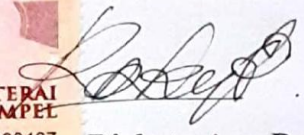
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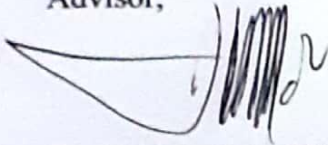
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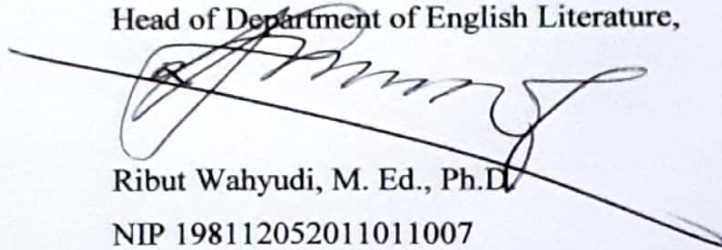
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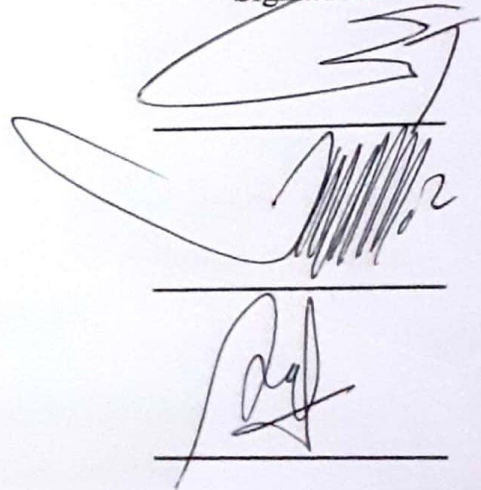
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MOTTO

世界は残酷ですが、とても美しいです

The world is cruel but also very beautiful.

(Mikasa Ackerman from Attack On Titan)

—

Bumantara memijak kanun pada singgahnya, aku menengadah padanya dengan asa bahwa konstelasi puan ini tak terkisah awawarna pada cemani yang diciptakan mayapada.

The sky has its own rules, I hope my constellations will never fade by the darkness of the gloomy universe.

(Rizkyta Ayu Pangestuty)

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate my thesis to:
Allah SWT and His prophet, Muhammad SAW
My beloved parents, Adhi Suganda and Sulistatik

and also for My precious big family,
My grandpa (Alm.) Yahmin and my grandma Kasiani
My uncles Khudori and Riyadi
My aunt Jumakiyah
My cousins Erik Ridho Wardhana, Lyla Wahyu K. and Sukma Ridho
Wardhani
My little nephew Daniswara Jagad Panuluh

Who always become my strenght to keep fighting for my way.

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Praise and gratitude to Allah SWT because of His grace and mercy, the writer can complete her thesis entitled *The Concept of Fathering in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*. This thesis is a requirement for receiving a *Sarjana Sastra* (S1) degree from the Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, which has been the writer's dream and hope since she was in college.

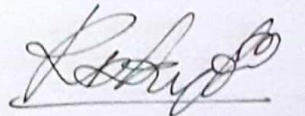
In the process of finishing the thesis, the writer faced many obstacles, but she managed to get through them until the final revision carried out. However, the obstacles during the process become very valuable experience for the writer. The writer also received a lot of support during her work of this thesis. Therefore, the writer would like to thank:

1. The Rector of Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Prof. Dr. M. Zainuddin, MA.
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9. My best friends, Indi Izza Afdania and Junita Ayu Nadia who give me support through their messages about funny things which I need to fill my happiness battery capacity
10. Everyone in the writer's life story who can't be mentioned, thanks for the togetherness, experience, love, and friendship

May this thesis becomes useful for all readers and hopefully it can be a reference for future research.

Malang, 5 October 2022



Rizkyta Ayu Pangestuty

ABSTRAK

Rizkyta Ayu Pangestuty (2022) *The Concept of Fathering in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*. Skripsi, Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Dr. Siti Masitoh, M.Hum.

Kata kunci: Menjadi ayah, keterlibatan ayah, kepribadian

Little Women merupakan salah satu novel Louisa May Alcott yang cukup fenomenal pada abad ke-19. Novel ini menceritakan tentang kehidupan perempuan di Amerika selama Perang Dunia II melalui penggambaran kehidupan sehari-hari gadis-gadis dari keluarga March, yaitu Meg, Jo, Beth, dan Amy. Penulis memilih novel ini sebagai objek penelitian yang menarik untuk dikaji salah satu aspeknya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis konsep ayah dalam *Little Women* karya Louisa May Alcott. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kritik sastra yang menggunakan sumber data berupa novel berbentuk e-book (pdf) berjudul *Little Women* (2015). Pendekatan psikologis yang menitikberatkan pada pendekatan Behavioral diterapkan oleh penulis dalam melakukan penelitian. Penulis menggunakan data berupa kata, baris, frasa, dialog, dan paragraf yang berkaitan dengan topik penelitian untuk mencari dan mendiskusikan data menggunakan teori menjadi ayah oleh Michael E. Lamb dan Eirini Flouri. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah sosok Ayah March dalam mengasuh anak-anak gadisnya sangat mempengaruhi perkembangan gadis-gadis March yang bernama Meg, Jo, Beth, dan Amy. Keempat gadis March tumbuh menjadi wanita yang berperilaku baik dan memiliki karakter yang baik. Mereka juga merupakan wanita dengan kepribadian yang baik karena didikan ayahnya. Penelitian ini juga berguna bagi pembaca untuk mengetahui bahwa keterlibatan ayah dalam hidup anak-anak sangat mempengaruhi perkembangan mereka. Oleh karena itu, penulis menyarankan penelitian yang akan datang untuk membuktikan bagaimana hasil pola asuh yang diterima oleh anak perempuan March dalam kehidupan pernikahannya, terutama dalam hal membesarkan anak-anaknya.

ABSTRACT

Rizkyta Ayu Pangestuty (2022) *The Concept of Fathering in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*. Undergraduate Thesis, Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr. Siti Masitoh, M.Hum.

Key words: Fathering, father's involvement, personality

Little Women is one of Louisa May Alcott's novels which was quite phenomenal in the 19th century. This novel tells about the lives of women in America during World War II through the depiction of the daily lives of the girls from the March family, namely Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. The writer chooses this novel as an interesting research object to study one aspect of it. This study aims to analyze the concept of fathering in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. This research is a literary criticism that uses a data source in the form of an e-book (pdf) novel entitled *Little Women* (2015). The psychological approach which focuses on the Behavioral approach is applied by the writer in terms of conducting the research. The writer uses data in the form of words, lines, phrases, dialogues, and paragraphs related to the research topic to find and use data using Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri's theory of fathering. The result of this research is Mr. March in terms of upbringing his daughters greatly influences the development of March's girls named Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. The four March girls grow up to be women who behaved well and had good character. They are women with good personalities either because of Mr. March's upbringing. This research also useful for readers to find out if the involvement of fathers in children's lives will affects children's development. Therefore, the writer suggests that further research will prove how the results of fathering received by March girls in their married life, especially in terms of raising their children.

مستخلص البحث

رزقيتا أيو بانجستوتي (٢٠٢٢) مفهوم الأبوة في نساء لويزا ماي ألكوت الصغيرات. اجلامعي، اللغة الإنجليزية وآدابها، كلية العلوم الإنسانية. جامعة مولان مالك إبراهيم البحث الإسلامية احلكومية مالنج. امشرف: د. ستي ماسيتوه، املاجستري

المفتاحية الكلمة: الأب ، مشاركة الأب ، الشخصية

نساء صغيرات هي إحدى روايات لويزا ماي ألكوت التي كانت استثنائية في القرن التاسع عشر. تحكي هذه الرواية عن حياة النساء في أمريكا خلال الحرب العالمية الثانية من خلال تصوير الحياة اليومية للفتيات من عائلة مارس ، وهما ميج ، جو ، بيث ، وآمي. اختار الكاتب هذه الرواية كعنصر بحث مثير للاهتمام لدراسة جانب واحد منها. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل مفهوم الأبوة في نساء لويزا ماي ألكوت الصغيرات. هذا البحث عبارة عن نقد أدبي يستخدم مصدر بيانات في شكل رواية (بي دي إف) صغيرة بعنوان نساء صغيرات (٢٠١٥). النهج النفسي الذي يركز على النهج السلوكي يطبقه الكاتب من حيث إجراء البحث. يستخدم الكاتب البيانات في شكل كلمات وخطوط وعبارات وحوارات وفقرات متعلقة بموضوع البحث للعثور على البيانات واستخدامها باستخدام نظرية الأبوة مايكل إي. لامب وإيريني فلوري. نتيجة هذا البحث هو السيد مارش من حيث أن تربية بناته تؤثر بشكل كبير على تنمية فتيات مارس المسمى ميج ، جو ، بيث ، وإيمي. تكبر فتيات الأربع مارس ليصبحن نساء يتصرفن بشكل جيد ويتمتعون بشخصية جيدة. إنهم نساء يتمتعن بشخصيات جيدة إما بسبب تربية السيد مارش. هذا البحث مفيد أيضًا للقراء لمعرفة ما إذا كان مشاركة الآباء في حياة الأطفال سيؤثر على نمو الأطفال. لذلك تقترح الكاتبة أن مزيدا من البحث سيثبت كيف أن نتائج الأبوة التي تلقتها فتيات مارس في حياتهن الزوجية ، خاصة فيما يتعلق بتربية أطفالهن.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section provides the background of the study which explains the rationale for choosing the topic. It is followed by the research question which would be examined and observed by the writer in chapter IV. The significance of the studies and the limitation will be explained after the previous part to convey the benefits of the research and also the boundaries of the research. The last subchapter is the definition of key terms to ease readers' comprehension.

A. Background of the Study

In June 2021, Britney Spears causes an uproar in the Hollywood entertainment with her first public statement about her conservatorship case. In this case, Britney Jane Spears has been under the control of her father for 13 years since 2008. Reporting from CNN.com, the 1981-born singer reveals that she was used by her own family, especially her father. All of her activities and personal life are controlled by her father because of Britney Spears' mental health. This creates a parenting pattern that restrains and tortures Britney Spears until her psychological condition worsens. In 2021, she finally decides to reveal her conservatorship problem to the public and plead for her freedom. According to CNN.com, Spears says, "This conservatorship is doing me way more harm than good." (Melas, 2021). She also demands her father to be responsible in this case through the law. As a result of this incident, Britney Spears has a fear of her father and she also intends to withdraw from her career. Quoted from CBC.ca, Britney Spears only hopes that she will get freedom in her life (Press, 2020).

In the case of Britney Spears' conservatorship, the conflict that occurs is a conflict between father and daughter. This conflict is related to the upbringing of a father figure for his child or known as fathering. In Eirini Flouri's book entitled *Fathering and Child Outcomes*, fathering is usually translated into the status of father presence, and father involvement in psychological literature. The

involvement of fathers in raising children will affect the development of a child, either positively or negatively. The case of Britney Spears is an example of failed or negative fathering. The failure of fathering causes Britney Spears to have a fear and trust issue against her father. On the other hand, the case has similarities with the story of Jo March in the novel *Little Women*. However, Jo March was lucky because he got a good upbringing from his father figure. As a result, Jo March grew up to be a good girl who greatly admired her father.

Little Women is one of the best works by renowned author Louisa May Alcott. The first volume of the novel first published in 1868 from Robert Brothers. This book tells the story about four March Family girls who grew up in poverty during the American Civil War. They lived in Massachusetts, United States. The four girls, each named Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, have unique personalities that characterize each of them. They befriend with Laurie, the granddaughter of a rich man who lives next door.

In the *Little Women* novel, there is a father figure who becomes a role model for the March family, especially for the March girls. Mr. March takes care of the March girls with great affection. He also shows a good father figure so that it affects the development of the March girls. Mr. March ability in terms of upbringing for his children and the way it has a positive impact on them attracted the writer's attention, so it became the chosen topic in the writer's research. The writer considers that this topic is important to be studied so that it becomes a lesson for readers that a family environment which is formed with the proper affection will have a positive impact on the development of children. According to this statement, March girls will become the righteous object in delivering the message of the positive impact of a good fathering. The influence which given by a father figure, such as treatment and affection will affect the personality, behavior, mindset, and the psychology of the child either.

Hitherto, there have been many studies of the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott which only focus on feminism. The writer found that *Little*

Women novel has another uniqueness. This uniqueness is not only limited to the realm of feminism and liberal feminism, where the March girls are symbol of independent women. However, this novel can be seen from a deeper perspective. That is related to burdensome psychological problems, one of which is the fathering which experienced by March girls and it affects their development. Therefore, the writer intends to see and analyze this novel from a different perspective.

In terms of conducting the research, the writer takes some previous studies which have some relevant point to help this research. Some of these theses and journals are related to the object of study in the form of the *Little Women* novel, psychological approach, and the Fathering theory which the writer uses in the research. First, the writer mentions several theses and journals which use the object of research in the form of the same novel, *Little Women*. These studies examine the elements of the novel *Little Women* from various perspectives. Some of the previous studies are *Liberal Feminism Depicted by Jo March as The Main Character In Greta Gerwig's Movie Script Little Women* by Melinda Septiana (2020), a student from Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta; *An Analysis of Woman Struggle in Louisa May Alcott's Novel Little Women* by Heni Rahayu (2018), a student from the University of Sumatera Utara; *An Analysis Image of Women in Little Women Novel by "Louisa May Alcott"* by Afriani Rismauli Simanungkalit, Emil Eka Putra, S.S., M.Hum (2020) from Putra Batam University; and *Analysis of Little Women from the Perspective of Western Humanism* by Songni Zhang (2019) from Xi'an Peihua University.

Second, the writer uses several previous studies in the form of theses and journals which use a psychological approach in the research process. Some of them are *Pants Not Petticoats: Transgressive Female Character in Literature* by a student from the Dominican University of California named Sarah Bott; *Psychological Problems Suffered by Anna and Sara in Jodi Picoult's Novel My Sister's Keeper (A Freudian Psychoanalysis)* by the students from Islamic State University Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Zsa Zsa Padilla (2015); *Jo March's*

Attitude Toward Femininity as Reflected in Alcott's Little Women: A Feminist Approach by Aswarini Sentana (2019) from Gunadarma University; and *The Analysis of Psychological Conflicts in Khaled Hussaini's Novel The Kite Runner* by the students from Mataram University, Toni Ibnul Fatih and Nur Ahmadi (2020).

The last previous studies which used by the writer to assist the process of completing research related to the concept of fathering. These journals are The journal entitled *Father Complex and Parricide in Andrei Bely's Petersburg* by Joel Janicki (2015) and *When Fathering Fails: Violence, Narcissism, and the Father Function in Ancient Tales and Clinical Analysis* by Michael J. Diamond (2018) from Los Angeles Institute and Society for Psychological Studies.

Therefore, this study aims to explain Mr. March's fathering which influences on the development of the March girls in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. The writer will focus on analyzing the research questions using a psychological approach. Then, the writer will focus her analysis using the theory of fathering by Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri.

B. Problems of the Study

There are two problems of study which used by the writer to analyze the aim of this study:

1. How does Mr. March's father figure influence the process of fathering the March girls in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*?
2. What are the impacts of the fathering experienced by March girls to their development in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*?

C. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to contribute theoretically and practically to literary criticism. Theoretically, this research will help the development of the

fathering theory by Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri, which is directly related to the children's development. Through this research, the writer hopes that this applied fathering theory can help the next writers to evaluate and improve the process of developing the fathering theory in the future, especially when it affects children's development. Meanwhile, in terms of practice, this research can be beneficial for readers to understand more about the fathering. After that, readers can apply their understanding to their studies. In conclusion, this research is supposed to be a reference for future writers with the relevant topics to this research.

D. Scope and Limitations

In this research, the writer must include the scope and limitations to avoid the explanation going out of context. The writer will only focus on the case of the fathering experienced by Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy as the characters in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. The fathering which is used in this research refers to the fathering theory coined by Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri. As for the limitations, the author will not explain the extrinsic elements contained in the novel, such as social aspects, political aspects, religious aspects, and economic aspects. These aspects will be studied further by the next writer.

E. Definition of Key Terms

The writer provides the definition of some terms which used in this study frequently. The following terms are:

1. **Fathering:** Fathering can be defined as the status of father presence, and father involvement in psychological literature (Flouri, 2005), it influences to the children directly through their behavior and the attitudes and messages they convey (Lamb, 2010).
2. **Father's involvement:** The involvement of the father is the role of the father in the scope of unidimensional and universal, including companions, caregivers, partners, protectors, models, moral mentors,

teachers, and breadwinners are included in the involvement of a father figure in the lives of children and families (Lamb, 2010).

3. **Personality:** According to Robert B. Ewen, the characteristics of an individual refers to aspects of behavior that are important and relatively stable are called personality.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the theoretical framework used by the writer in terms of conducting the research, covering: Psychological Approach, Personality and Fathering.

A. Psychological Approach

According to Glassman and Hadad in their book *Approaches to Psychology*, psychology is *the scientific study of behavior*. This statement based on the use of systematic observation and analysis using scientific methods. Psychology is an academic theory and also an applied science that has been developed until today. Psychological theory is not only applied to the health aspect but also branched out into other fields of science such as literature.

In the world of literature, psychological approaches are widely used to explore and explain literary works from a psychological perspective. Psychology and literature have a strong relationship. According to Jatman in a book entitled *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra* written by Endaswara (2003), the relationship between psychology and literature is indirect and functional. That is because the two fields of science have the same object of study, namely human life. The difference lies between real objects and fictional objects.

Psychological approach uses to view and acquaint humans further using psychology in a literary work (Semi, 1993). Semi also said that this approach refuses to assume that literary works always discuss about events in human life. There are four kinds of psychological approach in terms of analyzing literary works, namely Biological, Behavioral, Cognitive, and Subjective. In this research, the writer uses a behavioral approach which focuses on learning and behavioral changes that occur as a result of experience (Glassman & Hadad, 2009). This approach helps the writer to analyze and observe Jo March's personality influenced by her environment and family.

B. Personality

Every human being has characteristics that serve to distinguish one person from another. This characteristic is an identity that characterizes a human being in his life. An important characteristic in an individual will last a long time, and then it will continue to have a strong influence until it becomes a behavior (Ewen, 2014). According to Robert B. Ewen in his book entitled *An Introduction to Theories of Personality*, the characteristics of an individual refers to aspects of behavior that are important and relatively stable are called personality.

Human personality is a matter widely debated by experts. Most experts say that personality related to all things which owned by humans such as mental, emotional, social, and physical (Ewen, 2014). Thus, a person's personality is a oneself's representation through various aspects that owned. Aspects of human personality are not only range from external but also relate to internal aspects. Things such as dreams, thoughts, and memories are included in the internal aspects of a person's personality that unobservable directly through obvious actions (Ewen, 2014).

There are many expert opinions regarding the definition of personality based on *The Cambridge Handbook of Personality Psychology*. Some of them proposed by psychologists, such as Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Erik Erikson. According to Sigmund Freud, a person's personality is part of the unconscious which explained through the concepts of the Id, Ego, and Superego. Freud called this theory of personality the psychoanalytic theory. Based on Sigmund Freud's perspective, a person's personality is formed from childhood, particularly when they experience psychosexual stages. However, Carl Jung argued that a person's personality comes from the human race passed down from generation to generation. Jung considered the human personality is a collection of collective unconscious originating from inherited ancestral tendencies to form an archetype. On the other hand, Erik Erikson stated that a person's personality is influenced a

lot by the relationship between children and their parents. The influence built from the fetus to old age, where psychosocial takes place.

Based on some psychologist's opinions above, a person's personality is able to be identified through more than one perspective. The emergence of a person's personality also influenced by many things, both internal and external factors. Zsa Zsa Padilla (2015) in her thesis states that a person's personality first formed by his parents and family. That is because parents are direct examples for the child in his life since childhood. Children will imitate the behavior and habits of their parents, so they tend to have personalities that are similar to their parents.

Padilla's statement refers to the theory of personality traits. This theory is an idea that began with the emergence of the opinion of Gordon Allport in 1963. He stated that an English dictionary has more than 4000 words that describe personality theory. Therefore, this theory was developed by experts until a conclusion found that everyone is different from each other based on the strength and intensity of the basic nature dimension (Worthy, Lavigne, & Romero). In this theory, a person's personality must have three characteristics, namely consistency, stability, and individual differences.

C. Fathering

Michael E. Lamb in his book entitled *The Role of the Father in Child Development* explains that the role of fathers in children's lives continues to change from previous conceptualizations. The father's role is often focused and quite narrowly on breadwinning. That is based on the conceptualization that developed during the industrialization period. Fathers have a role in being responsible for supporting the family economy. It is a necessity that a father must be able to provide for the necessities of life for his family and children. After that, the Great Depression which began in August 1929 was came. In this dark era, social scientists claim that the role of father is changing again. Many poor men who are less able to play the role of poor providers, portray fathers as sex role

models. That is also supported by commenters who express concern about the failure of many men to model masculine behavior for their sons (Lamb, 2010).

According to the popular consensus before industrialization, Lamb also explained that the role of father was not the main proponent of the family economy, but rather became the main role model for his children according to the values of their beliefs. Fathers have the primary role of being responsible for ensuring that their children grow up with appropriate values based on the study of the Bible and other scriptural texts. It shows that the role of the father figure continues to change according to the social conditions at that time.

Over time, the conceptualization of the father's role in the child's life has become extensive. The role of fathers is not only focused on their involvement with their families and in the eyes of their children. Researchers, theorists, and practitioners no longer cling to the simple belief that the ideal father is unidimensional and universal (Lamb, 2010). Lamb explained that they recognize the father figure plays a number of important roles. Things like companions, care providers, partners, protectors, models, moral guides, teachers, even breadwinners whose relative importance varies across historical ages and ages, as does the role of fathers. Therefore, researchers and theorists agree that only by considering fathers' performance of these various roles as well as their relative importance in the socio-ecological context concerned can fathers' impact on child development be evaluated (Lamb, 2010).

The development of the father's role which continues to experience changes is quite rapid compared to the early twentieth century. According to Eirini Flouri in her book entitled *Fathering and Child Outcomes*, that is a result of the rapid pace of family change. That pace of growth brought about two major changes. First, the decline in the traditional form of household with a single breadwinner. Second, the double growth of households which continues to occur from time to time.

Therefore, there are very impactful consequences, especially for children (Flouri, 2005). These changes in the role of fathers that affect child development have long been the subject of research and debate among scientists and theorists. As a result, Flouri said that research on fathering has developed rapidly and scientifically matured because of the broader exploration.

In psychology, fathering is usually translated into the status of father presence, and father involvement in psychological literature (Flouri, 2005). This father's involvement is not limited to the perfect family structure. In fatherless families, the father dimension which usually explore is the economic support of non-resident fathers for their children. US studies show that child support payments, as well as other contributions that do not include money exchange, such as purchases of clothing, gifts, health insurance and dental care, are forms of paternal involvement in fatherless families. The presence of a father figure in a family with or without a father will affect child outcomes (Flouri, 2005).

Flouri also lists several indicators of fathering in his book based on data from The National Center on Fathers and Families (NCOFF) Working Group quoted from *Fathering Indicators for Practice and Evaluation: The Fathering Indicators Framework* by Gadsden, et al. in 2004. They were identified six fathering indicators. These were: father presence (defined as father engagement, availability, and responsibility in relation to the child), caregiving (i.e. providing nurturance and performing routine tasks necessary to maintain the child's emotional well-being, physical health and appearance), children's social competence and academic achievement, co-operative parenting (i.e. establishing a supportive, co-operative and interdependent relationship with the child's other caregiver(s)), father's healthy living (providing a role model through healthy lifestyle and appropriate social behaviors that teach work and personal ethics as well as social norms), and material and financial contributions. Based on these data, Flouri believes that the role and involvement of fathers will extremely impact child outcomes.

Flouri's opinion also has similarities with the Fathering theory presented by Michael E. Lamb. Lamb states that fathers influence their children directly through their behavior and the attitudes and messages they convey. That is a form of fathering. The involvement of fathers in the scope of fathering can have direct and indirect effects on child development. The direct influence which fathers can exert can be through parenting, teaching, play, abuse, and neglect by their fathers. As for indirect influence, it can be given through its influence on other people and social conditions that affect child development (Lamb, 2010).

In some cases, fathering can also fail. This failure is mainly due to the inability of parents to recognize the uniqueness of a child (Diamond, 2018). When the children only focus on being an object by his parents, later they will have the wrong tendencies in their development. In this case, the role of a father figure is required. The father is a symbolic form in the development of children who has the authority to help them get out of the comfort zone given by a mother. The role of this father figure will provide a way for children to try new things and new challenges by their uniqueness in their development. However, when a father figure is unable to recognize subjectivity in his child, this will lead to the emergence of cruelty, violence, narcissism, perversion, depression, addiction, and self-destruction which are more likely to produce results (Diamond, 2018).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In terms of conducting a research which academically acceptable, the writer uses some methods and approaches in this research. In this section, the writer will explain about research design, the data source, the data collection, and the data analysis.

A. Research Design

This research is in the form of literary criticism. Literary criticism refers to the analysis, study, and evaluation of individual works of art or literature. Literary criticism can be used to interpret a literary work. In this case, the criticism which used by the writer explains the writer's interpretation of the selected literary work, the novel entitled *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. The writer interprets the concept of Fathering in *Little Women* novel using Fathering theory by Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri. By conducting this research, the writer hopes that this research will help readers understand more about the analysis of literary works.

B. Data Source

The data source in this research is Louisa May Alcott's novel entitled *Little Women*. The writer uses the novel *Little Women* in the form of an e-book published by Digireads.com Publishing, Neeland Media LLC. The e-book was published in October 2015 with 524 pages which consists of two books. The writer only uses the first book of the *Little Women* bilogy which consists of 23 chapters because the second book actually has a different title, namely *Good Wives*. The data that will be used by the writer is in the form of words, lines, phrases, dialogues, and paragraph.

C. Data Collection

In terms of collecting data, the writer uses several steps. First, the writer will read the novel *Little Women* several times. This repetitive reading is

beneficial to assist the writer in understanding the the novel. The next step is marking important points in the form of words, lines, phrases, dialogues, and paragraphs related to the concept of fathering. After that, the writer repeats the process until she finds all the accurate data with the topic of her research.

D. Data Analysis

The data analysis conducted by the writer begins with reading the novel several times. In this case, the writer attempts to understand the meaning conveyed in the novel *Little Women* through the reading process. Then, the writer collects the data related to the research topic. The previous collected data classifies into the categories. The process continues with data reduction. Data reduction used to narrow the most accurate data to the concept of fathering. The reduced data analyzes by Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri's Fathering theory. In the end of the analysis, the writer makes the conclusion of the research.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer provides the analysis and observation of the fathering experienced by March girls as mentioned before in chapter I. Before analyzing the fathering experienced by March girls in the novel *Little Women*, the writer explains the role of Mr. March as a father figure in the March family first. In addition, the writer also describes the impact of a good fathering and the how it relates to the March girls' development.

A. Mr. March's Upbringing of His Children

According to Griswold (1993), as quoted by Michael E. Lamb (2010) in *The Role of the Father in Child Development*, since the 20th century or to be precise in the late 1970s, the father figure plays an active role in the children's life. That is due to the insistence and criticism of feminists and science against masculinity and femininity. This pressure causes the father figure to have direct involvement in the development of his children. The involvement of fathers in the development of their children has a fairly broad scope. Things like upbringing, teaching, games, abuse, and neglect by their fathers are a big enough influence on a child's growth and development (Lamb, 2010).

According to Lamb (2010), fathers can influence their children directly through their behavior, attitudes, and messages. In the novel *Little Women*, Mr. March can show his role as an exemplary father figure through his behavior and the messages he conveys to the March girls. Although he have to leave his family because of the war, Mr. March is still able to influence the lives and development of his children indirectly.

Mr. March, who still on the battlefield to fight in World War II, sends a letter to his family. As a responsible father Mr. March has not forgotten his obligation to always keep his family informed. The letter receives by his wife and children at Christmas. Even though he is not present in their midst, he tries to

remain a good and caring father figure for them. It is shown by Mrs. March in dialogue when she read Mr. March's letter,

“Give them all of my dear love and a kiss. Tell them I think of them by day, pray for them by night, and find my best comfort in their affection at all times. A year seems very long to wait before I see them, but remind them that while we wait we may all work, so that these hard days need not be wasted. I know they will remember all I said to them, that they will be loving children to you, will do their duty faithfully, fight their bosom enemies bravely, and conquer themselves so beautifully that when I come back to them I may be fonder and prouder than ever of my little women.” (p.10)

According to the letter, it can be seen that Mr. March loves March girls very much. His tenderness and affection are depicted in the first sentence of the letter fragment above. He shows firm but not patronizing concern through a reminder of the time his daughter should not be wasting in the future before his return. The letter sent from the battlefield was able to touch the hearts of Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy at that moment.

Mr. March conveyed his message in beautiful language. He can touch the hearts of his four daughters through sentences that are straightforward but not authoritarian. The sentences written in the letter can show the impression of direct teaching that can be accepted by many people, especially the four March girls. In addition, the lesson is also understandable thus it affects the meaning of Mr. March's writing in the hearts of his daughters.

After receiving the letter, the four March girls are motivated to do their best to make their father proud when he came home. Their enthusiasm can be seen from the dialogues and narration in the novel. Starts from Amy March who has a selfish and also an arrogant character. She doesn't want to lose from the people around her in terms of some aspects of life, both her sisters and friends at school. For example, Amy March brings pickled lime to show her friends that she can buy it. Even though there is a rule in her school which prohibited students to bring the thing. Amy doesn't want to be seen as an underprivileged and passe child. However, after receiving her father's letter she declares that she wants to become a better girl to make her father proud,

"I am a selfish girl! But I'll truly try to be better, so he mayn't be disappointed in me by-and-by." (p.11).

In the dialogue above, Amy shows that her father's hope through the letter can be the support for her to improve her attitude. The emotional reaction continues by Meg March. Meg March who always puts beauty, appearance, and wealth first, realized that she shouldn't be too hyped about it. She shows her enthusiasm about her father's letter through the dialogue below until she can't hold her tears,

"We all will," cried Meg. "I think too much of my looks and hate to work, but won't any more, if I can help it." (p.11).

After Meg, Jo March also responds to her father letter with a heartwarming and exciting reaction. She even has a strong desire to become the girl who her father wanted her to be, just like the dialogue,

"I'll try and be what he loves to call me, 'a little woman' and not be rough and wild, but do my duty here instead of wanting to be somewhere else," (p.11).

Besides, the frail Beth March was unable to express her enthusiasm inasmuch as being too happy. Beth is the most calm and modest girl among her sisters. She only shows her happiness by acting as in the narrative,

Beth said nothing, but wiped away her tears with the blue army sock and began to knit with all her might, losing no time in doing the duty that lay nearest her, while she resolved in her quiet little soul to be all that Father hoped to find her when the year brought round the happy coming home. (p.15)

The strong expression that every March girl uses above shows that the existence and the role of a father figure in Mr. March are still dominant in the March family home even though he is far away from them. The March girls try to live up to their father's wishes to make him proud. In addition, the existence of a father figure in their hearts is their reason to live well.

In terms of involvement, Flouri (2005) in her book entitled *Fathering and Child Outcomes* states the definition of involvement based on the opinion of social scientists. Engagement is usually defined by combining some of the following paternal functions that are common across many cultures, although the

relative importance of each varies by culture. There is also a statement from Gavin, Black, Minor, Abel, Papas, Bentley (2002) that involvement includes several things such as endowment (acknowledging the child as one's own), protection (protecting the child from sources of potential danger and contributing to decisions that affect the child's welfare), provision (ensuring that the child's material needs are met), formation (socialisation activities, such as discipline and teaching), and caregiving (Flouri, 2005).

Mr. March's involvement in the lives of his children can be seen from these aspects. The March family is a harmonious family even though they live without luxury. Throughout the novel *Little Women*, Alcott shows how the March family is living a modest life but they have reasons to be happy. At that time, to be precise in the 19th century, wealth was a measure of happiness. This prompts Aunt March to adopt one of Mr. March's daughters, namely Jo. She wants to adopt Jo March because she considers the March family will not be able to provide for all the needs of their children. So, she wants to help them by adopting Jo March as her child.

Mrs. March and her husband reject the idea politely. They realize that Aunt March has good intentions. However, March's parents can't accept the idea of giving up their children for adoption. They can take care of them and make their daughter happy even without the luxury. It shows in the following narration and dialogue below,

Jo happened to suit Aunt March, who was lame and needed an active person to wait upon her. The childless old lady had offered to adopt one of the girls when the troubles came, and was much offended because her offer was declined. Other friends told the Marches that they had lost all chance of being remembered in the rich old lady's will, but the unworldly Marches only said... "We can't give up our girls for a dozen fortunes. Rich or poor, we will keep together and be happy in one another." (p. 41-42)

According to the dialogue, Mr. March and his wife point out that their daughters are the best treasure they have. The daughters of the March family are also the best gift they have. They recognize their children wholeheartedly. This

first aspect of the father's involvement with the children makes Mr. March has a strong impact on the future development of March girls.

In addition, the decision also gives access to Mr. March and his wife in terms of full protection. The development and daily activities of March girls who grew up in the March family will be monitored. In addition, through this full protection Mr. and Mrs. March are also able to teach their children to make good decisions in their lives. So, it will not put them in danger. It shows that the protection aspect provided by Mr. March is able to show his involvement in the development of his children. It applied well when Meg March and Jo March decided to take jobs to ease the family's economic burden. In the following narrative,

When Mr. March lost his property in trying to help an unfortunate friend, the two oldest girls begged to be allowed to do something toward their own support, at least. Believing that they could not begin too early to cultivate energy, industry, and independence, their parents consented, and both fell to work with the hearty good will which in spite of all obstacles is sure to succeed at last. (p.41)

According to the narrative above, Mr. March gives the two of them permission to work. Mr. March believes this decision will provide a new experience for them. In addition, the two of them can also cultivate independence that will be useful for their future.

Apart from protection, Mr. March also shows that he and his wife always do their best to provide the daily needs of March family. That is included in the aspect of the involvement of the father figure in the lives of his children in terms of provision. Mr. March continues to work hard even though it is hard to leave his family. Mrs. March said that the father worked for the country and their family.

"I gave my best to the country I love, and kept my tears till he was gone. Why should I complain, when we both have merely done our duty and will surely be the happier for it in the end? If I don't seem to need help, it is because I have a better friend, even than Father, to comfort and sustain me. My child, the troubles and temptations of your life are beginning and may be many, but you can overcome and outlive them all if you learn to feel the strength and tenderness of your Heavenly Father as you do that of your earthly one. The more you love and trust Him, the nearer you will feel to Him, and the less you

will depend on human power and wisdom. His love and care never tire or change, can never be taken from you, but may become the source of lifelong peace, happiness, and strength. Believe this heartily, and go to God with all your little cares, and hopes, and sins, and sorrows, as freely and confidently as you come to your mother." (p. 90)

In the dialogue above, Mrs. March shows how strong she must be in living her life. She had to support her husband who worked hard for the country and his family. She cannot show her weakness in front of her children, and neither does Mr. March. She shows that working hard and keeping faith in God will give them the best answer to every problem they face. This is what Mr. March did on the battlefield. They will keep trying to provide for the needs of March's family with a sincere heart.

In addition, Mr. March also provides indirect coaching to his daughters. It can be seen when Mrs. March educates Jo March about how people should behave when faced with their anger. Jo March has difficulty controlling her anger. Therefore, Mrs. March told how Mr. March tells his wife how to control anger. Mrs. March shows how amazing Jo's father is through her sentences,

"Your father, Jo. He never loses patience, never doubts or complains, but always hopes, and works and waits so cheerfully that one is ashamed to do otherwise before him. He helped and comforted me, and showed me that I must try to practice all the virtues I would have my little girls possess, for I was their example. It was easier to try for your sakes than for my own. A startled or surprised look from one of you when I spoke sharply rebuked me more than any words could have done, and the love, respect, and confidence of my children was the sweetest reward I could receive for my efforts to be the woman I would have them copy." (p.89)

The awesome formation aspect shows the good parenting pattern of March's parents either. They both raise their children in a unique ways. They provide life lessons to their children through implied messages in everyday life. For example, when March girls complain about how much they want to relax without working because they think work is tiring. Mrs. March then presents a challenge where the March girls are allowed to experiment for a week to stop working. They are allowed to play anything a whole day.

"You may try your experiment for a week and see how you like it. I think by Saturday night you will find that all play and no work is as bad as all work and no play." (p.125)

After Mrs. March giving a freedom to the March girls for a whole week, she waits for the answer. The result is March girls feel that they only wasting time if their days only filled with playing. They feel bored and don't want to do that again. They prefer to work rather than just laze around or play all day. At this point, they realize why Mr. March works hard even though it's hard and dangerous for him because he has to be on the battlefield. At the end of their experiment, Mrs. March added advice to her children.

"Then let me advise you to take up your little burdens again, for though they seem heavy sometimes, they are good for us, and lighten as we learn to carry them. Work is wholesome, and there is plenty for everyone. It keeps us from ennui and mischief, is good for health and spirits, and gives us a sense of power and independence better than money or fashion." (p.134)

Based on the previous explanation, the involvement of fathers and their influence on the development of children's behavior is shown by Mr. March in the novel *Little Women*. Mr. March can be a father figure as well as a role model for the March family, especially for the March girls. Fathering by Mr. March through the messages and behavior that he shows to her daughters has a positive impact on the development of March's girls, that is also helped by the role of Mrs. March in the family who convey the fathering by Mr. March indirectly. The positive impact of fathering by Mr. March can be seen in the daily life of the March girls in the novel *Little Women*.

B. The Impacts of the Fathering Experienced by March Girls to Their Development

Lamb, in his book, states that two Freudian ideas which had a particular influence in the last 40 years of research on the father-children relationship. Lamb believes that fathers play a unique role in the development of their children and that their influence should be viewed in the context of the social relationships that exist widerly. This opinion shows that the involvement of fathers in child development will also affect the social life experienced by children. The social life

in question is how children act in responding to social problems that occur around them. In addition, Ramchandani, Domoney, Sethna, Psychogiou, Vlachos, Murray (2013) in their journal also argue that the involvement of fathers in child development can encourage the creation of children's behavior from an early age (Lamb, 2010).

March girls are able to show positive behavior. They grow up in a positive environment, so their daily behavior shows positive things too. That has been shown on several occasions. One of them is happened on Christmas morning, when March girls prepare their dishes wholeheartedly for their Christmas but they have to face a social problem.

On the Christmas morning, the March family is going to have their Christmas breakfast. Mrs. March, who had just returned home after receiving a visit from a guest, conveys news to the four March girls. The news is about the condition of a poor woman who has just given birth and her six children who are starving. Mrs. March asks her four daughters if they would be willing to help.

"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?"
(p.17)

Hearing the mother's words, the four March girls fall silent. At that time, they are very hungry and had been waiting almost an hour for the first breakfast of Christmas. However, the March girls don't put their egos first. The four girls gladly offer their food and labor to help the poor mother and her six children. Mrs. March is so happy with the response given by the March girls, so that she tells them about Christmas dinner in the end of the day as a present of their kindness. Their enthusiasm for helping others can be seen in the following conversation,

They were all unusually hungry, having waited nearly an hour, and for a minute no one spoke, only a minute, for Jo exclaimed impetuously, "I'm so glad you came before we began!" "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. (p.17)

The March girls not only show concern for others but also show concern for one another when one of them gets into trouble. One of the events that show how the March girls take care of each other is when Meg March and Jo March attend Mrs. Gardiner's party.

On the night of the party, Jo and Meg attend a party hosted by the Gardiners. Since Jo March is not very good at dancing, she decides to let her sister enjoy the party while she finds a seat to avoid any unwanted things. However, in the middle of the party Meg suddenly comes to Jo with a sprained leg. They both decide to leave first from the party and wait for the pick-up train to arrive. Until a few moments later, Hannah who is the servant of the March family comes and starts nagging.

Amid this precarious situation, Jo March can't stay still while watching her sister cry from pain. Finally, she takes the initiative to find a rented carriage so that Meg March can get immediate treatment for her injuries. This is shown in a narrative,

Hannah scolded, Meg cried, and Jo was at her wits' end, till she decided to take things into her own hands. Slipping out, she ran down and, finding a servant, asked if he could get her a carriage. (p.36)

Another moment which also shows their concern for others is when the March girls interact with the Laurence family. Jo March can pull Laurie out of her lonely world and make friends with him. She is able to make Laurie reconcile with his grandfather, Mr. Laurence. On the other hand, Beth March also becomes the solace for Mr. Laurence's loneliness by playing the piano. Meg March and Amy March allow Laurie to join their circle of friends. The March girls realize that Laurie's luxurious life is not as perfect as they imagined. Lonely Laurie needs them to laugh and enjoy his life more.

The March girls' concern for Laurie made a very good impression. Gradually, the Laurie family and the March family finally become close. Mr.

Laurence praised the March family for being harmonious and always doing good either. That shows that March girls can reflect and apply the good deeds and upbringing that have been taught to them. Mr. Laurence praise the March girls for helping the poor woman and her six children in the sentences below,

"Just her father's way of doing good. I shall come and see your mother some fine day. Tell her so. There's the tea bell, we have it early on the boy's account. Come down and go on being neighborly." (p.60)

On the other hand, Mr. March admits that ever since he left for the battlefield, the March girls have tried their best to make him proud. When he returned from the battlefield, his daughters had grown into better versions of their uniqueness. He reveals this at a family dinner upon his return from his duties. The moment also coincides with the arrival of Christmas Day, thus adding to the extraordinary impression of the evening. Mr. March feels very happy because he could gather with his family. Likewise, the March girls, they consider the presence of their father the best Christmas present that year.

In chapter 22 entitled Pleasant Meadows, Mr. March accompanied by Mr. Brooke returns to the March family home after recovering his health. At that time, the March family was preparing for Christmas Day after the many difficulties that had gone before. Mr. March's arrival is the happiest gift for all members of the March family. The expressions of happiness and joy show by the March girls through the spontaneous reactions they represent. Everyone's reaction at that time could be considered as insane when they saw the figure of Mr. March present in their midst, as the narrative below,

Before the words were well out of his mouth, he was whisked away somehow, and in his place appeared a tall man, muffled up to the eyes, leaning on the arm of another tall man, who tried to say something and couldn't. Of course there was a general stampede, and for several minutes everybody seemed to lose their wits, for the strangest things were done, and no one said a word. Mr. March became invisible in the embrace of four pairs of loving arms. (p.250)

Jo March almost fainted from happiness and emotion-filled her. Luckily, Laurie helped her to calm down. Meg March who accidentally got an additional surprise from Mr. Brooke is just as happy then. Amy, who always trying to appear

as a girl with a proper attitude is also lost her principles for a moment when her father's face caught in her vision. Amy even falls from the chair and then hugs her father's legs tightly as a form of happiness that cannot be expressed in words.

Jo disgraced herself by nearly fainting away, and had to be doctored by Laurie in the china closet. Mr. Brooke kissed Meg entirely by mistake, as he somewhat incoherently explained. And Amy, the dignified, tumbled over a stool, and never stopping to get up, hugged and cried over her father's boots in the most touching manner. (p.250)

Meanwhile, Beth, who had just recovered from her illness, was only able to remain calm because her body had not fully recovered. However, she also couldn't hide her emotion when she met her father. The four girls seem to miss the father figure in their midst, until the euphoria spills at that very moment. Beth's happiness can be seen from the narrative below,

The study door flew open, the little red wrapper appeared on the threshold, joy put strength into the feeble limbs, and Beth ran straight into her father's arms. Never mind what happened just after that, for the full hearts overflowed, washing away the bitterness of the past and leaving only the sweetness of the present. (p.250)

After this heartwarming moment, the March family and several additional guests, like Mr. Laurie and his grandchild, and then Mr. Brooke have dinner together as a form of gratitude for the happiness they received at that time. Besides, at the same time they are celebrating the best Christmas for them. In dinner, Mr. March is the only character that March girls expect to talk about many things. Therefore, Mr. March also fulfills the wishes of his daughters. The moment where they gather for Christmas dinner can be seen in this narration,

Mr. Laurence and his grandson dined with them, also Mr. Brooke, at whom Jo glowered darkly, to Laurie's infinite amusement. Two easy chairs stood side by side at the head of the table, in which sat Beth and her father, feasting modestly on chicken and a little fruit. They drank healths, told stories, sang songs, 'reminisced', as the old folks say, and had a thoroughly good time. A sleigh ride had been planned, but the girls would not leave their father, so the guests departed early, and as twilight gathered, the happy family sat together round the fire. (p.251)

Mr. March pays tribute to the March girls with heartwarming affection for the hard work they have put in when he went to war. It starts with Meg March,

who is able to show her willingness to do household chores at that time. If previously she took care of the beauty and smoothness of her palms very much, she has been sacrificed it at that time. Meg got several burns from cooking, needle sticks, and calluses on her hands that made Mr. March is proud of the development of the eldest daughter of the March family. It shows in his words below,

"I remember a time when this hand was white and smooth, and your first care was to keep it so. It was very pretty then, but to me it is much prettier now, for in this seeming blemishes I read a little history. A burnt offering has been made to vanity, this hardened palm has earned something better than blisters, and I'm sure the sewing done by these pricked fingers will last a long time, so much good will went into the stitches. Meg, my dear, I value the womanly skill which keeps home happy more than white hands or fashionable accomplishments. I'm proud to shake this good, industrious little hand, and hope I shall not soon be asked to give it away." (p.252)

After Meg, Jo March accepst her reward from Mr. March. Jo, who is originally a girl behaved like a boy, can show Mr. March that she has changed after his arrival. Jo March grew up to be a girl who has a strong personality, likes to help, and has a tender heart. Jo March manages to live up to her will as she said when she read a letter from her father in the previous Christmas. Jo is blissful when she heard the compliment from her father. She feels that the compliment was well deserved either.

"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." (p.252-253)

Next, Mr. March gives Beth praise and deep affection. Mr. March who is holding his third daughter did not say much, but expressed his deep gratitude. He is grateful that Beth is able to get through her critical period and be with them at this time. Mr. March even promises that he will take care of her wholeheartedly according to God's will, just like he says below,

"There's so little of her, I'm afraid to say much, for fear she will slip away altogether, though she is not so shy as she used to be," began their father cheerfully. But recollecting how nearly he had lost her, he held her close, saying tenderly, with her cheek against his own, "I've got you safe, my Beth, and I'll keep you so, please God." (p.253)

When it comes to the youngest's turn, Amy patiently listens to her father's story. Mr. March has seen very positive developments in Amy March. She is no longer a fussy girl who likes to look at herself in front of the mirror for a long time, but she has learned to pay attention to other people. Amy is willing to help her mother, give her sister Meg her chair, and she can suppress her desire to show her father about her jewelry just like before. This positive change, according to Mr. March is proof that Amy is trying to develop her character carefully and thoroughly.

"I observed that Amy took drumsticks at dinner, ran errands for her mother all the afternoon, gave Meg her place tonight, and has waited on every one with patience and good humor. I also observe that she does not fret much nor look in the glass, and has not even mentioned a very pretty ring which she wears, so I conclude that she has learned to think of other people more and of herself less, and has decided to try and mold her character as carefully as she molds her little clay figures. I am glad of this, for though I should be very proud of a graceful statue made by her, I shall be infinitely prouder of a lovable daughter with a talent for making life beautiful to herself and others." (p.253)

The positive changes occur in the March girls are triggered by a letter from their father which they received in the previous Christmas. It shows that the role of Mr. March in terms of educating his daughters indirectly can be said to be successful. Mr. March's absence amid their family is not a reason to eliminate the presence of an exemplary and beloved father figure. Mr. March remains involved in the growth and development of her daughters. They are able to show it in front of their father as the best Christmas present. March girls have good personalities in the process of their development. Those personalities grow well with their own uniqueness and behavior.

March girls have amazing personalities. They are responsible, caring for others, and compassionate in their way. Their personality is similar to the personality of his father, Mr. March. In addition, they also have their characteristics. Meg with her grace, Jo with her masculinity, Beth with her

gentleness, and Amy with her confidence. The uniqueness and characteristics possessed by the March girls accentuate their characters accompanied by good personalities.

The existence of a father figure in children is a special privilege possessed by children. A father figure who can guide and educate them well will always give a deep impression on the child's growth and development process. The existence of a father figure for children is also able to prevent psychological impacts which occur on children, such as negative behavior and other tendencies (Hidayah & Astutik, 2020). Therefore, the father-daughters relationship in the March family is a privilege for March girls. Even when Mr. March is in a place far from them, the March girls still feel the presence of a father figure by applying the good teachings of their father.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter is part of the conclusion of the research and also suggestions recommended by the writer after conducting the research. The writer explains the conclusion first then followed by suggestions.

A. Conclusion

Mr. March's fathering on Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy shows a good impact in the form of positive behavior and personality. Mr. March is able to become a role model in raising his children well with the help of his wife, Mrs. March. His involvement as a father can be shown directly or indirectly. The behavior, attitudes, and good personality that he showed his daughters have a very good impact on the development of the March girls in the future.

The March girls' positive behavior and personality show that the Mr. March's fathering is successful. According to the results of this analysis, it can conclude that the involvement of fathers in child development is very influential. A good environment and parenting pattern will raise children with good behavior and personality as well. On the other hand, if the parenting pattern received by children is negative, it will also have an impact on child outcomes.

B. Suggestions

The novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott is one of the classic novels with the main theme of feminism in women's lives during World War II. However, it cannot be denied that this novel also has many other aspects and themes that can be analyzed using various literary theories. One of them is the psychological aspect in the form of the fathering phenomenon which is analyzed by the writer in her thesis. The concept of Fathering in *Little Women* is one of the unique things that can be found and analyzed in this novel. The writer hopes that with the completion of this research, readers will find new gaps which can be used to examine fathering which experienced by March girls more deeply.

In addition, the writer also suggests several things to the readers because the writer realizes that this research is still far from the perfection. First, the writer hopes that the readers will read the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott so that the essence of this research is understandable. Through this work, the writer also hopes that readers will find shortcomings from the data sources related to the research topic in this study.

Second, the writer suggests to students, in particular, to examine Michael E. Lamb and Eirini Flouri's Fathering theory more deeply so that in the future, literary research using this theory will be further enhanced and deepened. Third, the author also suggests students analyze the novel *Little Women* from different perspectives. In addition, students can also use other novels by Louisa May Alcott in their research because Alcott's works contains very deep meaning in terms of aspects of life which she presented in the form of literary works.

Finally, I hope this research will be useful for the writer herself. The writer hopes that everything has been done in the process of analysis and discussion during the research can bring benefits to many parties. The writer also expects to be able to pay more attention to the surrounding phenomena related to the chosen research topic. Because by applying knowledge in everyday life, the knowledge will have real uses.

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