

MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S *LITTLE WOMEN*

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas kepribadian tokoh utama dalam *Little Women* karya Louisa May Alcott. Analisis tesis ini difokuskan pada kepribadian tokoh utama Jo March. Masalah yang dikaji dalam tesis ini adalah Apa saja tipe-tipe kepribadian dan Apa tipe yang paling dominan dari kepribadian karakter utama dalam *Little Women* karya Louisa May Alcott, menurut teori Gerrard Heyman. Dalam menyelesaikan tugas akhir ini, penulis menerapkan metode kualitatif deskriptif penelitian kepustakaan agar mendapatkan kembali hasil yang sesuai dengan harapan penulis. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah: Tipe kepribadian yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama dalam *Little Women* karya Louisa May Alcott adalah: Gapasioneerden, Cholericici, Sentimental, dan Sanguinici. Jenis kepribadian yang paling dominan digunakan oleh tokoh utama dalam *Little Women* karya Louisa May Alcott adalah Cholericici.

Kata Kunci: Karakter, Kepribadian, Gapasioneerden, Cholericici, Sentimental, Dan Sanguinici

ABSTRACT

This thesis dealt with main characters personality In Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. The analysis of this thesis focused on main character's personality of Jo March. The problem of the study in this thesis are What are types of personality and What is the most dominant type of personality in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, according to Gerrard Heyman's theory. While completing this thesis, the writer Apply library research descriptive qualitative methods in order to gain the appropriate results as the writer hope to. The result of this study are: The types personality used by the main character in Louisa May Alcott Little Women are: Gapasioneerden, Cholericici, Sentimental, and Sanguinici. The most dominant type of personality used by the main character in Louisa May Alcott Little Little Women is Cholericici.

Keywords: Character, Personality, Gapasioneerden, Cholericici, Sentimental, and Sanguinici.

1. INTRODUCTION

People express their feelings and imagination in many ways, one of which is to pour them into literary works. The works can be either fiction or nonfiction. Literature is a work of art that is produced as a form of expression of the feelings of

its creator based on real experience, imagination, ideas, feelings, and beliefs that can be realized in the form of written works or through direct interpretation. According to Moelong in Syahridho (2016), Literature is the knowledge which is earned by human beings arise conduct

and it is used to reflect and express experience.

Literary works are written works that are delivered in a communicative way, including a novel. A novel is prose made into written form that contains the life stories of the characters based on the author's imagination. Creating a novel isn't just about what was going on at the time when the story was written, because it all depends on the author's idea and imagination in creating the plot according to the writer's target.

Based on the narration and conversations between the characters, we can determine which character is the antagonist, the protagonist, the tritagonist, or the deuteragonist. By characterizing, the author describes that each person has a different personality, like being sociable, optimistic, impulsive, humorous, expressive, competitive, and so on. By personalizing each character, we can interpret the value contained in the work, whether positive or otherwise.

According to Allport in Goldberg (2004), Personality is a dynamic organization, inside the person, of psychophysical systems that create the person's characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Each author has a different way to expose the personality of the main character. Some authors describe them as having a kind character, being gentle, attentive, or even having a temperament and being obstinate.

One of the greatest novels in history is Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, released in the 19th century. The genre novel "Coming of Age," or what is commonly called a "Bildungsroman," created by *Louisa May Alcott*, is one of the most realistic works of this kind of novel ever. This novel is one of those timeless classic novels that never goes out of style. This is attested to by the book's

commercial success and even keeps being adapted for the big screen.

Little Women is a very inspiring and monumental work that deserves to be recognized. This novel has a very realistic and timeless charm. The characterizations are neither overly clichéd nor exaggerated, but are very close to everyday life. Based on the explanation above, the writer interested in exploring more about the personality of the main character in this novel, with the title "*Main Character's Personality in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*".

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

a. Literature

As a creative art, literature is compared to the most realistic portrait of life. All phenomena of life, such as social, political, cultural, and even religious matters, can become valuable works and be appreciated by society through the packaging of literary works.

In a literary work, an author is free to express his feelings or even perceptions without worrying about the rules that indoctrinate the values contained in his work. Literature uses languages as a tool for delivering moral lessons to readers. On the other hand, through literature, the writer indirectly invites the reader into his imagination. The creation of literature is a uniquely human activity, born of man's timeless desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences (Pickering in Moputi, et al., 2019).

Literary works are not only about what is and what was written but also the value that may be presented and voiced by the author in order for the reader to feel the content of the story. In another word, an author is able to influence the reader's logic.

b. Novel

Novel is one of those long prose essays that

contains life stories with a longer plot, and emphasizing the personalities of certain characters through scenes and the character's personality in surrounding environment based on the author's point of view and imagination. The Novel is a picture of a real life and manners and of the time in which it is written (Wellek & Warren in Silaban, et all., 2021).

The story that is written in a novel is the result of the author's imagination, discussing some of conflict faced by the characters, especially the main character, who be the focus throughout the story. Novel is a unique work, cannot be control by time. In another sense, the stories written in novels can be based on the imagination of the past and future.

c. Characterization

Characterization is an object used by the writer in the form of a person, an animal, a being, a creature, or something else to play some role in a story. The author describes each character in a story in many ways. For instance, through direct narration, which is explained by the author (physical appearance and personality) and can also be assessed through dialogue tags or even through point of view between characters.

According to Abrams in Saraswati (2019), characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their instinctive ways of saying it – the dialogue – and from what they do – the action.

Good characterization can make the atmosphere of a story so real and inspiring that the reader forgets it's all fiction. Because it is very important for the writer to create characters that can get the reader's sympathy and empathize. Of course, if the writer fully understands the personality of

each character in the story, such as their feelings, attitudes, thoughts, etc., it can successfully affect the representation.

d. Psychology in Literature

Literary psychology covers almost everything we want to know about literature, because literature is a product of mind (Emir B.C., 2016). Literary psychology is a branch of literature that studies the psychological aspects of a literary work as interpreted by the author for the reader through the use of psychological concepts and theoretical frameworks. Authors create literary works, readers respond to psychological concepts in these works through characters, and critics analyze literary works using psychological considerations and relevance. That is how the fields of psychology and literature are related, leading to the development of a brand-new theory paradigm known as the psychology of literature.

The main objective of literary psychology is to combine the two fields of knowledge, literature and psychology, to understand the psychological aspects of literary works through the analysis of psychology theories and literary criticism. In other words, literary psychology is the tool for understanding the changes, contradictions, distortions, and irregularities in literary works, especially as they relate to psychological states.

e. Personality

Personality is the whole and complete combination of person's responses, reactions, behaviors, and acts in social interactions (between individuals, groups, and the environment), and it is a prominent attribute that describe a person. According to Michael and Yuici in Silaban (2021), personality is the complex organization of cognition, affects, and behavior that gives

the directions and pattern (coherence) to the person's life

f. Personality Types

Gerard Heymans (1857–1930) a professor of psychology in Groningen, Germany, states that humans have a unique and diverse personality type. Heymans divides human personality types, based on the strength of the three principles in each person into eight types. There are: *Gapasioneerden*, *Cholerici*, *Sentimental*, *Nerveuzen*, *Flegmatici*, *Sanguinici*, *Amorphous*, and *Apathetic*.

1. Gapasioneerden

Gapasioneerden personality type is good patriots, great person, kind heart, admitting fault, and have strong sense of family and like to help those are weak. If offended by others, people with this type will like to forgive easily. According to Gerard Heymans (1987), *Gepassioneerden de emotioneele actieven met overwegende secundaire functie (emotional and have strong secondary function, and active)*.

2. Cholerici

A person with a choleric personality type is more likely to be independent; it makes them seem like stronger, tougher, and bossier people because they demand a lot. However, their boss's attitude is not always bad; it makes them more optimistic about their abilities. They love luxury, so they have an urge to work hard, are more willing to take risks, and are sure of their convictions, even if this sometimes comes across as reckless due to haste and poor calculations. . *Cholerici de emotioneele actieven met overwegende primaire functie* (Gerard Heymans, 1987).

3. SENTIMENTAL

People with a sentimental personality type are known to be very sensitive. Even the smallest things can make them cry. They are articulate and expressive people. However, it's not uncommon for them to get

caught up in nostalgia because they're so obsessed with the past. This can have a negative effect, as they refuse to move on and always expect the past to repeat itself. *Sentimenteelen de emotioneele niet-actieven met overwegende sesundaire functie*. (Gerard Heymans, 1987).

4. Nerveuzen

A nerveuzen has a personality that is easy to change, or more commonly known as a mood swing, but the mood swing that is meant here is not fatal because they are not the vengeful type. A nerveuzen is a little impulsive and easily irritated, even over small things. If they don't like something, they easily get angry and rebellious; they are aggressive and have trouble controlling themselves when angry. But luckily, they're not the vindictive type; their mood may improve in a relatively short period of time. *Nerveuzen de emotioneele niet-actieven met overwegende primaire functie* (Gerard Heymans, 1987).

5. Flegmatici

A person with Flegmaticiti personalities can control their emotions easily. They are good listeners and prefer to observe rather than talk too much. In addition, Flegmaticiti is open-minded, easy-going, and agile. They are experts at cultivating relationships, whether in family and friendships or business partnerships.

But unfortunately, this attitude can sometimes make it look like they are avoiding existing responsibilities and problems. They feel more at ease in peace and always have enough. *Phlegmatici de niet emotioneele actieven met overwegende secundaire functie* (Gerard Heymans, 1987).

6. Sanguinici

Sanguine personality types have typically childish behaviors. They crave attention and want to be the center of everything. They are categorized as people-pleasers because they are always trying to please others, but they are not snobby.

However, when alone, they can look gloomy, especially when faced with difficult decisions. They will find it difficult to make a decision because they have doubts. But in their friendship, they tend to be loyal, sometimes outspoken, and wishy-washy. *Sanguinici de niet emotioneele actieven met overwegende primaire functie* (Gerard Heymans, 1987).

7. Amorphous

A person with an amorphous personality type will become a parasite for others. They are the kind of people who are always dependent, unable to be alone, forgetful, incomprehensible, rigid about friendship, petty, and apathetic. Amorphous personality

types include individuals who are codependent; they are unable to make wise decisions for themselves, and moreover, they like to spend generously. *Amorphen de niet emotioneele niet actieven met overwegende primaire functie*(Gerard Heymans, 1987).

8. Apathetic

An apathetic personality is usually characterized by an attitude of not caring about anything, including those around them. They're like a person who has lost respect for everything and does not trust anyone easily. They will do what they think is good and don't care what other people think. They don't want to be the center of attention, are unmotivated to do anything, and often don't care about emotions. He firmly adheres to his stance which holds vengeance, his personal life is gloomy, and unpractical (Gerard Heymans, 1987).

3. Research Design

This research used the psychological methods of literary psychology theory. The psychological theory used in this study is Gerard Heymans' Psychology of Personality. At the same time, the writer used qualitative research methods and library research to

analyze the data. In the qualitative research method, the writer collects data in the form of quoted words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, messages, or information contained in the object of study related to the personality of the main characters appearing in the story. While in library research, the writer collected information and data by reading related journals, articles, and books, and the writer analyze it by relating the data obtained to help the writer achieves the research goals.

The object of the study in this thesis is a novel written by *Louisa May Alcott 'Little Women'*. The story of novel analyzing to find out the personality that occur on the main character in the novel according to Gerard Heyman's theory.

4. Discussion

The data for this study were derived from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Author, Louisa May Alcott, Bildungsroman novel genre, Publisher Roberts Brothers, published 1868, Publisher narrative 2019 contains 436 pages; 20,5cm. The information gathered was limited to an examination of the Main Character's personality. Data are gathered from all sentences that can provide an answer to the research question.

In discussion of this analysis, the major topic of discussion is following Gerard Heyman's theory. Based on Gerard Heyman there are eight types of personality, there are; Gapsioneerden, Choleric, Sentimental, Nerveuzen, Flegmatici, Sanguinici, Amorphous, and Apathetic. The writer analyzed personality in order to know the most dominant personality of the main character in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*.

1. Types of Personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*

Based on Gerard Heyman's theory, there are four types of personality found in

the main character's personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*: gapasioneerden, choleric, sentimental, and sanguinici. The analysis of each type of the main character's personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* are shown as follows:

a. Gapasioneerden

Based on the data that has been collected, there are four characteristics of gapasioneerden found in Jo March's personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, namely: Strong sense of family, kind heart, easily forgive, and admitting fault.

Jo has a high sense of empathy for her family. This is proof that Jo has a strong sense of family. Jo has a strong commitment to increasing the happiness of her family and feels she has a responsibility to them. that Jo is not the type of person to hold grudges. Although she is angry, she can easily forgive.

This is another characteristic of Gapasioneerden. They are very kind and forgiving people. Jo is an easier person to forgive for other people's mistakes, she is also not ashamed to admit her mistakes. She gladly apologize if she feel she have make a mistake.

b. Choleric

Based on the data that has been collected, there are eight characteristics of choleric found in Jo March's personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, namely: visionary, ambitious, optimist, hardworking, careless, selfish, temperamental, and obsessed with wealth.

Jo has a desire to try to make writing more challenging and try other challenging acts. Visionary is one of the characteristic of Gapasioneerden. Jo also known as ambitious girl, she hopes that one day she will become a successful writer, be able to live independently, and be able to help her family's economy.

Jo is an optimistic person. Even though she realized that it might sound ridiculous, she confidently said that she would provide all the luxuries for Meg when she was successful one day. Likewise, when she has to face Aunt March, who is very talkative and often gets her into trouble, Jo actually responds positively to it; she believes that what Aunt March did to her was just training for her to be better.

Jo is a hardworker. She also believed in her abilities and that she was already doing her best. She has good self-respect of what she have done; this is the characteristic of a choleric. But Even though Jo known as independent person, she also have bad habits because she is classified as careless, selfish and temperamental girl. She also quite obsessed with wealth. She likes luxury and more interested in material things than romance, which she thinks is not important.

c. Sentimental

Based on the data that has been collected, there are two characteristics of sentimental found in Jo March's personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, namely: sadness and guilty.

Jo felt sad because Amy burned her book. For her, the book was a treasure. One of their sentimental traits is that they tend to find it difficult to forget events that hurt them. From the quotation above, Jo feels that Amy is crushing her dreams. Jo feels sorry for the incident that happened to Amy. She blamed herself and felt that she should be held responsible for the incident.

d. Sanguinici

Based on the data that has been collected, there are three characteristics of sanguinici found in Jo March's personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, namely: talkative, sociable/friendly, and good influencer.

Jo as a talkative person. She is good at talking and like to start a conversation. She easily gets along with her neighbor, Laurie. A friendly and sociable attitude is one of the characteristics of a sanguine.

2. The Most Dominant Type of Personality in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*

Based on the analysis previously, the writer can infer that the most dominant type of personality that the main character has in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* is the Choleric type. The reason is because Jo is described as ambitious, visionary, optimistic, hardworker, but careless, selfish, temperamental, and obsessed with wealth. It has all the characteristics of choleric.

Jo is obsessed with wealth and always relies on logic; she underestimates romance because, for her, getting married is not a crucial thing in her life. She wants to be independent and feel confident about herself. She is an ambitious girl and a good planner. She hopes someday she can be successful with her works.

5. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the personality of the main character in Louisa May Alcott *Little Women* the final conclusions are formulated as follows :

1. The types personality used by the main character in Louisa May Alcott *Little Women* are: Gapasioneerden, Choleric, Sentimental, and Sanguinici.
2. The most dominant type of personality used by the main character in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* is Choleric. Where Jo is an independent, visionary, ambitious, and optimistic person, but actually she is also known as a selfish person, anger and weak in controlling emotion.

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