

**THE IDEA OF FEMININE STRENGTH AND
INDEPENDENCE IN JO MARCH'S CHARACTER
IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S LITTLE WOMEN**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching**



By :

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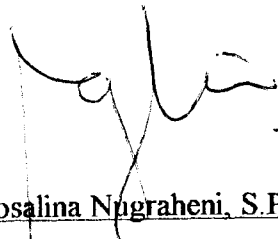
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ABSTRACT

Sutedja, Shienny "THE IDEA OF FEMININE STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE IN JO MARCH'S CHARACTER IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S NOVEL "LITTLE WOMEN". S-1 Thesis, The Faculty of the Teacher Training, The English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya, 1998.

By learning literary works, students do not only improve their vocabulary and grammar, but also broaden students' knowledge and outlook and build up their personal and intellectual. It is possible for students to learn another culture from literature because it shows people's attitudes, beliefs and problems. The writer chooses a novel to be analyzed because the length of a novel makes it possible for the writer to develop the elements of the novel that she is interested in.

Here, the writer chooses Louisa May Alcott's Novel to be analyzed with the consideration that she is a well-known American author of children and juvenile fiction. She also writes sensational novels and straight adult novels. Furthermore, she writes a slighter work than the masterpiece of Cooper, Hawthorne, Melville and Twain, but she achieves a similar end in Little Women. Little Women has steadily attracted adults to be read and enjoyed among the domestic fictions which Alcott writes for girl. The main character in Little Women is Jo March who represents Alcott's own artistic and personal life.

Using a qualitative research in which the writer herself functions as the instrument and practical criticism in analyzing her novel, the writer tries to find out Jo March's character which reveals the idea of feminine strength and independence. This study also tries to find out what other characters think about Jo March's feminine strength and independence.

After analyzing Louisa May Alcott's novel Little Women, the writer finds the results. First, the characters of Jo March reveal the idea of feminine strength and independence because she shows her strength in handling hard situations that should be faced by her and also tries to do something meaningful that give the pride to her. She has an ambition to be a famous writer and she wants to realize it very much. She aims to make herself to be remembered by many people even after her death because of her good writings. The other reason for her to be a famous writer is having a successful career as a writer so she does not have to depend herself on another person. She also shows that in many cases she has an independent spirit. For example, she prefers selling her beautiful hair to give some money for her sick father to borrowing money from another person. Second, other characters either Jo's family or outside of Jo's family consider Jo March is very strong and independent girl. They think Jo is very tough and brave because she is not afraid of anything in facing problems. She could stand in her hard life which happens to her

and her family and she never gives up to face the problems and makes progression by trying to realize her ambition to be a famous writer. Other characters really admire her talent and ability in writing books although she is a girl. They realize that she is an independent girl who never allows herself to be dependent to another person financially or in realizing her ambition to be a writer because being an independent person gives her pride.