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## Woman Resistance toward Domestic Roles in “Little Women” Novel by Louisa May Alcott: Feminist Approach

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### Abstract

Women’s resistance toward domestic roles is viewed from the main characters in the novel “Little Women”. This research aimed to see and analyze women's resistance toward domestic roles in the novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott using Tiffany K Wayne theory of triple roles and feminism approach. To find out what kind of roles of women shown by the main characters in the novel “Little Women” based on triple roles theory by Tiffany K Wayne. To find out how women's resistance toward domestic roles can be seen from the characters in the novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott. Several forms of women's resistance to domestic roles as reflected in the actions taken by the main female characters in the novel Little Women, including: Women can freely express their gender, women deserve to be educated, and the last is women can choose to carry out any role in their life. This research is using Qualitative data analysis is a way for working with data, organizing it, and classifying it into manageable components. The result is women's resistance to domestic roles as reflected in the actions taken by the main female characters in the novel Little Women, including: Women can freely express their gender, women deserve to be educated, and the last is women can choose to carry out any role in their life.

**Keywords:** Domesticity, Feminist, Gender Inequality

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Since the ancient times, women have always been considered as a second-class gender that is always below men and is always taught to obey men in everything. Women are physically weaker than men, creating a stigma that men are the superior gender compared to women. Because of this stigma, women who are considered as a weak gender and cannot do the same work as men, get a nature that has been indoctrinated to society since ancient times until now. Things that are often discussed by society as the nature and obligations of women in their lives are domestic roles, for example, women have the nature of being wives and mothers, women have the nature to marry and serve their husbands, women have the nature to be at home and carry out their roles -domestic roles such as cooking, washing, and cleaning the house. Because of this stigma, many women do not get proper education, and also do not get proper

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treatment in society because they are considered useless for society. Many women are not given the same education as men because society thinks that knowledge and education will not be useful for women, whose nature is only at home, cooking, washing, and serving their husbands, and so on.

Stigma that has been strongly attached to society for a long time is also known as patriarchal culture. The patriarchy, according to Lerner (1987), is "a historic creation built by men and women in a process which took about 2500 years to its conclusion." He adds that the patriarchal family served as the foundational unit of organization for the patriarchal system in its earliest manifestations, expressing and continuously producing its rules and values. Based on the statement expressed by Lerner, it can be concluded that the patriarchal system was manifested and grown from the beginning by humans and became the foundation for families embracing the patriarchal understanding. The foundations built by the family then become a doctrine that has been passed down over the years to every human being. This doctrine causes patriarchy to become a deep-rooted culture and is difficult to eradicate until now. The patriarchal system, which puts the male gender as a gender that has higher power over women, makes society divide the roles between women and men in society.

Women are regarded as weak, weepy, emotional, submissive, and thoughtless as feminine, whereas men are described as strong, powerful, and wise as masculine (Fakih, 2013:8). Women, who are defined as weak parties, get a role in society as a gender who must be at home and carry out domestic roles such as washing, cooking, and so on, and usually women who do things outside their domestic role as women will be considered as an unnatural woman. While men, get a gender role that runs life in society, works, gets education, and gets a safe space wherever they are. The gap between the roles given to men and women in society is what triggers women to fight this patriarchal system, and with the aim of getting a life that is in accordance with what women want, without being divided according to their gender. Those who fight gender injustice against women are called feminists and the movement that fights gender inequality and fights for women's rights is known as feminism.

Based on the phenomenon of patriarchy rooted in society as described above, there are many writers of literary works who raise patriarchy and gender discrimination in their works. Literary works that raise patriarchy and gender discrimination as well as resistance to patriarchy are spread into many forms, such as novels, short stories, poetry, and other forms of literature, and also continue to be written and in demand from time to time because of the issue of resistance to this patriarchy is still being fought by many people since long ago until nowadays. That way, even in literature this is known as feminist literary criticism theory, whose focus of study is on gender issues in literary works, including gender

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inequality, oppression of women, the patriarchal system, and also the resistance carried out by women against gender injustice.

One of the literary works that make women's resistance to the patriarchal system is a novel written by Louisa May Alcott, entitled "Little Women". The novel Little Women is set during and after the American Civil War (1861-1865) in (supposedly) the Alcott home in Concord, Massachusetts. The four March sisters (Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy), Mrs March (or Marmee), and Laurie (or Teddy), Mr Laurence's grandson, are all important characters in the novel. This novel tells about the lives of the March girls in living their lives and also reaching their respective dreams. Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy have their own life stories and live it with their own choices as well. Meg, the eldest and most beautiful lady among them all, wishes to be a housewife. Jo is a tomboy character who aspires to be a great writer. Beth is a sweet young lady who enjoys music. She aspires to be a great musician. Amy, on the other hand, is a spoiled kid who aspires to be a good painter. They are really fortunate to have a mother like Mrs March. She has a gentle heart and is intelligent. Mrs March or usually called Marmee, is a very good mother figure for her daughters, Marmee does not limit the life choices her four daughters want, she supports all of her children's choices and takes care of them with love. Although the background of this novel is during the civil war in the 1860s, where women are still considered as a weak gender and unfit to get education and work outside of domestic roles, Marmee educates her children to still be able to live life like what they want, without being limited by gender and social stigma.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in examining the novel "Little Women" and seeing how women's resistance to domestic roles that are indoctrinated in society is depicted through the life journey of the four daughters of March. The researcher wants to analyze women's resistance to domestic roles performed by the four daughters of March (Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy), based on the triple roles theory developed by Tiffany K Wayne, and uses a feminist approach in the analysis. More specifically, this study was undertaken to find out the answers to some of these following research questions: (1) what are the roles of women shown by the main characters in the novel "Little Women" based on triple roles theory by Tiffany K Wayne? And (2) how women's resistance toward domestic roles can be seen from the characters in the novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott? This research theoretically is expected to be a valuable contribution to the understanding of women's resistance to domestic roles and practically is anticipated that this research will serve as a guide for future researchers who are investigating women's resistance to domestic roles.

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## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research design describes how research is carried out, including data and data sources used in research, techniques in collecting data, and also how the data is analyzed in order to obtain appropriate and valid research results. The research that will be carried out by researcher uses qualitative research as a research design. According to Satori (2013), qualitative research is a study approach that discloses a specific social condition by accurately portraying reality through words based on applicable data collection and data analysis. Therefore, the data to be studied will only be analyzed using words and not based on numbers and percentages.

Likewise, this research uses a descriptive qualitative analysis, namely by analyzing objects in the form of a novel entitled "Little Women" written by Louisa May Alcott using a feminism approach, the data will be analyzed based on plot, and also the characterizations displayed in the novel to find out how the characters in the novel "Little Women" fought against domestic roles aimed at women at that time. This research focused on document studies and analysis to see how women's resistance toward domestic roles is contained in the novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott by using a feminism approach, and also using the theory developed by Tiffany K Wayne. The data source used in this study is a novel entitled "Little Women" written by Louisa May Alcott in 1869. This novel tells about the life of a family called the March family, this family consists of 6 family members, namely Mr. March who is the head of the family, Mrs. March or more often called as Marmee, Meg March, Jo March, Amy March, and also Beth March. This novel focuses more on the lives of the children of the March family in living their lives and achieving their dreams in a society that at that time still adhered to patriarchies.

The researcher chose the storyline from the novel "Little Women" as research data to see various kinds of women's resistance to domestic roles which were stigmatized as nature that women had to fulfill in society. The storyline of the novel "Little Woman" which tells about the life journey of the four women in the civil war era was chosen as the object of research to see how the characters in this novel fight the stigma of society towards the domestic role that women must play. The research findings will be presented in accordance with the description text that has been developed. According to Kawulich (2015), LeCompte and Schensul (1999) describe analysis as the process by which a researcher reduces facts to a story and its interpretation. The process of reducing enormous volumes of acquired data to make sense of it is known as data analysis. Moreover, quoted from Kawulich (2015), According to Patton (1987), three processes happen during data analysis: data is structured, data is minimized using summarization and categorization, and patterns and themes in the data are found and linked.

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### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Intrinsic Elements of Little Women Novel

##### 3.1.1 Characters of the Novel

a. Mrs.March/Marmee

Marmee is the mother of four daughters who are the main characters of this Little Women novel. Marmee, is told as a mother who is very kind and responsible for her daughters. Marmee is the only one parent who takes care of her four daughters which are Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy because of her husband or Mr. March became a volunteer warrior in the civil war that was going on at the time. Marmee, as a mother, becomes a role model for her children, especially for Meg, the eldest child. Marmee takes care of her four daughters lovingly without discriminating her affection for one of her daughters, even though March's four daughters have different characteristics and behaviors. Marmee teaches her four daughters that as siblings, we must love each other, care for each other, and also forgive each other. Because of Marmee's upbringing, her four daughters grew up to be daughters who were grateful for their circumstances and happy to have each other. Marmee also taught her daughters to keep dreaming as high as possible without feeling burdened by gender and society's doctrine at that time regarding women. At that time, a woman's standard of happy and successful life was to marry someone who was rich, but Marmee didn't require her daughters to find and marry a rich man, instead she supported the dreams of her four children and told them to them to keep working hard and looking for their own happiness.

b. Meg March

Meg is the eldest daughter in the March family. Meg is a beautiful woman and is interested in feminine and beauty. Meg is interested in things that are glamorous and luxury, she wants to be a beautiful woman and dreams of having a life like a princess who always wears luxurious dresses, beautiful jewelry, well-styled hair every day. Among the three younger siblings, Meg is the one who seems to care the most about appearance and is also the most similar to Marmee, her mother. Meg who always looks feminine and likes things related to beauty also has an interest in romantic things and has a dream to marry someone she loves and then build a happy household together. Meg always advises Jo to act like a "girl", because her sister is a tomboy and always acts like a boy and doesn't care about her appearance.

In the novel Little Women, it is told that Meg March married a teacher who teaches in the Laurence family, namely John. Although John is not an established figure in the style of a prince that Meg has longed for, but Meg and John love each other and try to understand each other's situation.

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c. Jo March

Jo is the second child of the March family and the most different of the three girls. Jo is not a feminine woman and likes beauty things like her sister, Meg. Jo prefers masculine things like wearing pants, tying her hair, running around the house, and not going to parties in dresses. Jo loves literature and writing, she also has a dream to publish her book and become a famous writer.

Josephine March is a child who is very devoted to her mother and father, as well as loves all her siblings even though she is known as a temperament and outspoken among all her siblings. Once, when Amy was angry about not being allowed to come to the theater and burned all of Jo's writings, Jo became very angry with Amy and then silenced Amy for a few days, but when Amy fell into the ice while chasing after her, Jo kept crying and caring for Amy who was sick, Jo apologized and asked Amy to make up. Jo's love and sincerity can also be seen when the March family receives a telegram from the battlefield stating that Mr. March is injured and is in the hospital, requiring Marmee or Mrs. March went to the hospital where Mr. March is. Jo, who couldn't bear to let her mother go without holding any money then was desperate to sell her hair for 25\$, even though Jo cried when she saw her hair that had become very short, she still did it for her love for her family.

Likewise when she grew up, Jo went abroad and worked in New York as a teacher and also continued her childhood dream of writing, she tried to send her writings to local newspapers in New York.

d. Beth March

Beth March is the third daughter of the March family, and has a fairly quiet nature as well as the most shy of the three siblings. Beth loves music and is very good at playing the piano, she is a great musician. Because Beth is proficient in playing the piano, Mr. Laurence (Laurie's father) who is a neighbor of the March family, gives Beth a piano belonging to Mr. Laurence's late daughter because Beth's skill at playing the piano reminded Mr. Laurence of his dead daughter.

But unfortunately, Beth has a fairly weak body condition, she often gets sick and she ends up experiencing a severe illness until she finally died and made the entire March family as well as Laurence's family who loved Beth sad.

e. Amy March

Amy is the last daughter of the March family, and is a child who loves art. Amy loved paintings and had a talent for painting so she was called Michael Angelo of the March family. Amy dreams of becoming a famous painter in the future. Because she is the youngest daughter in the family, Amy has a spoiled and childish personality. She wants more attention from her sisters than everyone, Amy is also the

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most selfish child among March's four daughters. Once upon a time, Amy was not allowed by Jo to join Jo and Meg to a theater because Amy was not invited by Laurie to the theater, Amy was angry with Jo for not being allowed to come, so Amy burned all parts of the novel that Jo was writing. After doing so, Amy doesn't feel the least bit guilty and blames Jo for upsetting her. Amy, who is still childish, thinks that the world only revolves around her, so she feels very hurt when her wishes are not fulfilled. After doing this and seeing Jo who was very angry and silenced Amy, Amy finally tried to apologize to Jo who resulted in Amy falling and sinking into the ice shards.

Even so, Amy is also a child who loves her family, she loves her mother, father, and sisters and tries to change the lives of those who are always poor. Amy, who was indoctrinated by her aunt, Aunt March, to marry a rich man with the aim of elevating her family's status and then got engaged to Fred Vaughn. She thinks that marrying a rich man will free her family from poverty and make her life better, because Amy considers herself as a woman who can do nothing to make money other than marry a rich man. But in the end, Amy realizes that she doesn't love Fred and chooses to reject Fred's proposal, she begins to understand that she doesn't have to marry a man she doesn't love just for money, and then doesn't feel happy in her life because of her decision. Amy then chooses to marry Laurie, the person she has loved since childhood and lives happily as Amy wants.

f. Theodore Laurence (Laurie)

Laurie is a grandson of a wealthy businessman, Mr. Laurence. Initially, Laurie was a quiet person and had no friends, he just continued to stay at home and participate in business activities with his grandfather, Laurie even went to homeschool and was taught by Mr. John, the man who would later become the husband of Meg, the first daughter of the March family.

Laurie met Jo at a party she attended with his grandfather, Jo who avoided the crowds at the party then met Laurie who was also sitting alone in a room at the party. The meeting with Jo makes Laurie friends with March's four daughters, Laurie becomes close to Meg, Beth, and Amy and often plays at March's house. Likewise with Mr. Laurence who eventually became close to the March family, they built a good relationship that helped each other as neighbors and good friends. Laurie also has a kind and generous nature, this is evidenced by the moment when on Christmas Eve, Marmee and the March daughters went to the house of the poorer Hummels to give their food to the Hummels, Laurie asked his grandfather to deliver a lot of food to the house March family as a Christmas present for them.

g. Mr. Laurence

Mr. Laurence is a successful merchant and businessman and has a lot of wealth. He lives alone with Laurie, who is the only grandson of him. At first, Mr. Laurence is a grandfather who is quite strict and

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requires his grandson to be a trader like him, he is also the type of person who is rigid and does not socialize with his surroundings. But after getting to know the March family, slowly the rigid and strict attitude that Mr. Laurence waned and he became so close to the March family that he gifted Beth, the third daughter of the March family, a piano left by his late daughter. Mr. Laurence gave the piano to Beth because he liked Beth's ability to play the piano and Beth's playing reminded him of his dead daughter.

h. Hannah

Hannah is a servant in the March family. Hannah is very loyal to accompany the March family, even when the March family has fallen into poverty, Hannah continues to accompany the March family and help Marmee take care of her four daughters. Hannah was already considered as one of the March family by Marmee as well as her four daughters

### **3.1.2 Plot of the Novel**

Louisa May Alcott, as the author of the novel *Little Women*, uses a back-and-forth plot in the writing of this novel. This novel tells the life of the four daughters of March in living their own lives and also reaching their respective dreams. This novel also tells about the problems between families, romance, and also their careers as women in the civil war era who still see women as a gender that is below men in society.

This novel has a back and forth plot, which tells the moments in the past experienced by March's four daughters, then returns to the present where the four March daughters have separated and do not live in the same house anymore. Readers are invited to follow the life story and memories of Jo March, as the main character in this novel. This novel tells about important moments that happened in the life of the March family, when they were happy together, when they helped others and the time when they were helped by others, as well as sad times for the March family. Readers are also invited to share every struggle, happiness, and sadness felt by the March family, especially the four daughters of the March family, namely Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy.

At first, readers are invited to see the daily life of Josephine March, who is already living in New York and pursuing her dream as a writer. Jo lives in a boarding house and teaches the children of the boarding house owner there, in that boarding house she also met Mr. Friedrich Bhaer, a scholarly professor, Mr. Friedrich showed an interest in Jo from the very beginning of their meeting. Jo sent her writing to a newspaper office and handed it over to Mr. Dashwood, someone who usually buys and publishes newspaper articles. At first, Mr. Dashwood seems hesitant to buy Jo's writing because he feels that such writing will not be of interest to readers. According to Mr. Dashwood, readers prefer scandalous writings, as well as writings about women who ultimately have a happy ending by marrying a man. But



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Jo March herself, is a woman who has a strong conviction that women can stand alone without men and the ultimate goal of women's lives is not marriage.

After Jo, the reader is then introduced to Amy March, the last child of the March family who is currently in Europe with her aunt, Aunt March. In Europe, Amy lives with her aunt March and studies the aristocratic life, as well as improving her skills in painting. Amy, engaged to a nobleman named Fred Vaughn, chose to be engaged to Fred on the doctrine of Aunt March who always said that the only way to free the March family from poverty was to marry a rich man. Amy, who always felt that she would be useless as a woman, thought about marrying Fred and living a life free of poverty even though she had not loved Fred in the past. Since a long time ago, Amy loved Laurie very much, but she harbored a crush on her until she grew up because of Laurie, whom she had always known loves her sister, Jo March.

Turning from Amy March, Louisa May Alcott, the novelist, invites us to meet Meg March, the oldest child in the March family. Meg is married to Mr. John Brooke, a teacher who used to be a private tutor for the Laurence family. Meg, who already has two children, lives not far from her parents' house. Since the first, Meg has always dreamed of becoming a princess, she who loves luxury and feminine things always wants a beautiful life together with the prince on the white horse in the future. But in the end, Meg prefers to marry the man she loves even though the man is not rich and is not able to provide Meg with the luxury she has been waiting for. One day, Meg, who was in a cloth shop, was attracted to one of the fabrics there. A woman who works there suggested Meg to buy the cloth because she thought the beautiful Meg would suit the cloth very well. Meg was interested in buying it, but she was hesitant because the cloth was very expensive, and she was in a financially difficult situation. But in the end Meg still bought the cloth. Meg then took the cloth home and regretted her decision to buy the expensive cloth, and when she told her husband about it, Mr. John was disappointed in Meg because Meg had spent a lot of money on things that weren't very useful. Meg also expressed her disappointment with the plight of the poor, she told Mr. John that she was sick of being in constant poverty and not being able to have what other women had. But in the end, Meg and her husband make up and try to understand each other because they love each other.

The last one is Beth, a shy and quiet girl who lives with her parents Mr and Mrs March in their house. Beth loves music and is very good at playing the piano, and because of her skills Beth is given a piano by Mr. Laurence because Beth reminded Mr. Laurence to his dead daughter. Beth then stayed at home and continued to practice her talent in playing the piano, she became one of the daughters of the March family who was dearest to Mr. Laurence. March's family live in a simple house in a place called Concord, Massachusetts. The head of the family of this family is called Mr. March, at the beginning of

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Mr. March is said to be on the battlefield as a volunteer with the aim of freeing their country from slavery. So that at their house Marmee (Mrs March), Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy, and also Hannah live for a long time with the March family and are considered like family.

One night, while the March daughters are still living in the same house, Meg and Jo are invited to a dance party for Meg's acquaintances. Jo, who doesn't like parties and crowds, seemed uncomfortable at the party, while Meg was able to mingle and enjoy the party right away. Feeling uncomfortable with the party, Jo walked to a quieter place and it was there that Jo met Laurie for the first time who accompanied his grandfather to the party. Jo and Laurie became close quickly because they had almost the same character. Since then, the Laurence family has slowly become close to the March family. After the March daughters became good friends with Laurie, Laurie takes Meg and Jo out to see a theater with his teacher, Mr. John Brooke. Amy, who was not invited to attend the theater, was angry with Jo who refused to let her go, then burned the novel that Jo was writing.

After coming home from watching the theater with Meg, Jo who wanted to continue her writing was confused because she couldn't find her writing in the place where she kept it before leaving. Jo then asked her sisters Beth and Amy about her missing writings, then Amy confessed that she burned all her writings because Jo only cared about her writings so far. Jo who heard this became angry with Amy and promised not to forgive Amy ever. The next day, Jo and Laurie, who had promised to go ice skating together, went out of the house, Amy who knew about this asked to join in the ice skating with Jo and Laurie, but Jo, who was still angry, silenced Amy and left without answering Amy's words to him. At Meg's suggestion, who told Amy to sincerely apologize to Jo, Amy ran out of the house and chased after Jo, who had been surfing with Laurie. Amy followed Jo and Laurie surfing on the ice, but unfortunately, the ice that Amy stepped on broke and caused Amy to fall into the water that was in the ice, Amy who drowned tried to ask Jo for help, Jo who heard Amy's scream immediately ran and help Amy.

After the incident, Jo forgave Amy's mistakes and blamed herself for the accident that befell Amy. After the Christmas season ended, the March girls returned to their respective activities. Jo, who was quite close to Aunt March, often came to Aunt March's very large house to read books in Aunt March's library. While there, Jo received advice from Aunt March that Jo should marry a rich man in order to free her family from poverty, because according to Aunt March women have no power other than marrying men to live a happy life. But Jo has a principle in her life that she will not marry with someone because she doesn't believe in love and according to her women don't need men to develop, women can stand on their own in their efforts and can find happiness on their own. One day, Marmee received a letter that conveyed the information that Mr. March is sick and is in a hospital in Washington Dc. Therefore,

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Marmee decided to go to the hospital where her husband was being treated. Jo, who knew that her mother who wanted to go out of town did not have any money at the time, cut her hair short and sold the hair, the money she got from selling her hair she gave to her mother and made the whole family touched by Jo's great sacrifice.

Turning to their time when they were adults, Amy and Laurie who were in Europe sitting alone in a park, Amy was practicing painting with Laurie who accompanied her while chatting. At that time, Laurie, knowing that Amy had loved him for a long time, asked Amy not to marry Fred, because Laurie knew that Amy didn't love Fred at all. Amy, who heard Laurie's words, became angry with Laurie because Amy felt that she had been run away by Laurie, who had just been rejected by Jo March. After some time after the argument, Amy began to think about Laurie's words, she realized that she did not love Fred long ago and would not be happy if she married and lived with Fred. After going through a long process of deliberation, Amy finally decided to reject Fred's proposal and give Laurie a chance, the person Amy has loved for a long time.

The storyline then returns to the past, when Marmee is a way to take care of her husband who is in the hospital. March's daughters who were given the responsibility to care for the Hummel family's condition began to lazy to visit and bring food to the poor Hummel family's house, except for Beth. Beth still went to the Hummels' house to feed them, but unfortunately she contracted dengue fever from one of the Hummels' sick children. Jo then takes care of Beth, whose illness is getting worse and requires Marmee to go home to see how her daughter is. After going through a stressful night after Beth was convulsing because of her illness, Beth finally recovered from the dengue fever. And then on Christmast's night after Beth recovered from her illness, Mr. March returned to their home and brought abundant happiness to the March family. Unlike in the past, Beth, who is currently sick, cannot fight her illness and dies. Beth's death makes Amy and Laurie who are in Europe rush back to their hometown, this also makes the whole of March and Laurence's family mourn the loss of Beth, the figure of a kind and obedient child they had died.

After Beth's funeral, Amy and Laurie announce to the whole family that they are getting married. Jo, who at first wanted to give a chance to Laurie, who previously expressed her love, was a little surprised and sad to hear the news, but she tried to accept and be happy for the decision of her sister and little bestfriend. After some time had passed since Beth's death, Jo started writing again in order to fulfill her promise to Beth that she wanted Jo to continue on writing. Jo sent the writing to Dashwood for publication, but Mr. Dashwood was apparently not very interested in Jo's story, he said that Jo was better off writing a story about a scandal, but Jo did not respond to Mr. Dashwood's request. Jo then came down

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from her room and found that Mr. Friedrich is visiting at her house, Mr. Friedrich reasoned that he was traveling in the area around Jo's house and happened to stop by. Then Marmee invited Mr. Friedrich to eat together with a whole family consisting of the March family as well as the Laurence family, they then chatted together and it seemed that the whole family liked Friedrich who was smart and authoritative. After Friedrich returns home, the whole family asks Jo to go after Friedrich because they believe that Jo likes Friedrich, and vice versa. Therefore, Jo rushed after Friedrich who was about to go to California and asked him to stay with Jo, and they were happily together.

### **3.2 Women's Triple Roles Theory by Tiffany K Wayne**

#### **3.2.1 Reproductive Role**

Reproductive roles are represented by the main characters in this novel. The reproductive role is a role related to the biological state of women who have a uterus and have maternal characteristics. Reproductive roles include the role of women in caring for and loving their children, taking care of the house, washing, cooking, and all domestic work done at home and on the basis of love. The role of reproduction in the novel *Little Women* is shown by the attitudes and behaviors of the main characters, namely:

a. Marmee (Mrs. March)

Marmee is a mother with 4 daughters who have different traits and attitudes of each. Even so, as a mother who loves her children, Marmee still takes care of her four daughters with love without discriminating her love for her daughters. Do in this novel, the character of Marmee is one of the characters that best represent the reproductive role played by women, namely taking care of household needs, caring for their children with love, and also teaching kindness to their children.

Another reproductive role that can be seen from Marmee is when a family member is sick, Marmee is always ready to care for and accompany them. It was proven when March's family got a letter stating that Mr. March was in the hospital, Marmee as a wife immediately went to Washington Dc to treat Mr. March. Likewise, when Beth was sick with dengue fever and her illness got worse, Marmee who was accompanying Mr. March at the hospital immediately went home to accompany his daughter. Marmee reflects the mother and wife figure needed by her family because she always takes care of them whenever and wherever.

b. Meg March

Reproductive roles that appear in the character of Meg March are also seen when Meg is married to Mr. John Brooke, Meg is a complete housewife who takes care of her two children, also takes care of

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their household needs, such as cooking, caring for clothes and other needs from her husband. Seen in one scene Meg March goes to a fabric store to buy a new coat for Mr. John.

c. Jo March

The reproductive role that can be seen from Jo's character in the novel is when Beth gets sick twice, and Jo always helps to take care of Beth. Jo accompanied Beth to bed when Beth was sick and also took her out of the house for walks. Likewise, when Amy was sick after an accident, Jo accompanied Amy in the room and took care of her with all her heart because she was very afraid if anything happened to Amy.

Jo's character who is quite tomboyish makes Jo not too fond of doing domestic roles in the family, at first, Jo has the principle of not getting married because according to her getting married will make women constrained and will not reach their dreams and will only become a wife who only does domestic work at home. Jo has a dream to be able to make her own money and achieve her dream of becoming a writer.

d. Beth March

Beth is a character who is known to be quite quiet and shy among the four daughters of March. Therefore, Beth's character is rarely shown doing domestic or other roles. The reproductive role shown in Beth's character is when Beth takes care of and delivers food to the Hummel family, Beth does that every day when Marmee is a way to see Mr. March who was in the hospital.

e. Amy March

Amy March is the youngest child in the March family and is known to be the most childish and selfish of her siblings. The reproductive role that can be seen from Amy's character is when Amy lives with Aunt March in Europe, Amy takes care of and accompanies Aunt March who lives alone while studying to develop her talent in painting.

### 3.2.2 Productive Role

The productive role is a role that is owned and carried out by women with the aim of making money and improving the economic status of these women. The productive roles contained in each of the main characters in the novel *Little Women* are:

a. Marmee (Mrs. March)

In the novel, it is told that Marmee is a housewife whose daily work is taking care of the house and taking care of her child. There is no mention of the novel that Marmee does to make money and the researcher concludes that in this novel, Marmee does not play a productive role.

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b. Meg March

Meg March's productive role is when Meg works to help her family's daily needs. Before marrying a teacher named John Brooke and deciding to become a housewife, Meg worked as a nanny as well as a teacher for the children in her neighborhood.

c. Jo March

Jo is the only character in the novel *Little Women* who really represents the role of women as productive human beings. Jo had the idea that women should work to earn money in order to support them or to help their families. In an environment and era that still adheres to the culture and mindset that women don't need to work and don't deserve an education because women only need to marry rich men to help their family's economy, Jo even thought about not getting married and trying to earn money in the basis of their own business. Therefore, from a teenager to an adult, Jo tried hard in her work as a writer and also a children's teacher, she did all that to realize her dream of liberating her family from poverty. At the end of the story, Jo is still married and finds her true love, but she also plays a productive role by teaching at the school she created herself together with her professor husband.

d. Beth March

Beth's character in this novel does not have a productive role shown in the story, Beth is March's daughter who really likes music and is very good at playing the piano, but Beth has never worked outside the home like her sisters.

e. Amy March

Amy is also not shown to have a productive role in this novel, because as a teenager Amy was the only one still in school, and as an adult Amy lived with Aunt March in Europe while learning how to become a noble wife as Aunt March wanted her to be. Besides that, Amy is also developing her painting talent in Europe

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicate that in the novel *Little Women* written by Louisa May Alcott, there are several female roles found in the main female characters in this novel, based on triple roles theory by Tiffany K Wayne. These roles are the role of reproduction, the role of production, and also the role of community management. However, the researcher only found two roles in this novel which were shown by the activities carried out by the main female characters in this novel. The first is the reproductive role, which includes taking care of and caring for the family, cleaning the house, and others. The second role found in the female character of this novel is a productive role, namely a role that is

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carried out with the aim of making money and fulfilling economic needs, such as working, selling goods, and others.

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