

JO MARCH'S AMBITION IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S *LITTLE WOMEN*

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Abstract

The research focuses on Jo March's Ambition In Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. The objectives of the study are to find out Jo March's ambition, the causes of Jo March's ambition, and the effects of Jo March's ambition. The researcher applies the theory of ambition stated by Tatenhove. The study uses intrinsic and extrinsic approaches and conducts qualitative research to analyse the problems. The result of this study shows that Joe March's ambition first is a passion that never fails you and will never let you fail it. Second, this is why it will ultimately cause the downfall of the individual. Third, a persistent striving to gain success and accomplishment. Fourth, a result of someone having certain goals and aspirations to promote their social status. The causes of Jo March's ambition are anger, feeling superior, increased confidence, emotional and intellectual needs, and survival instinct. The effect of Jo March's ambition are stronger effect on the career and life of the person.

Keywords: Ambition, Causes of Ambition, Little Women.

A.INTRODUCTION

According to the headline of lifepal.co.id on Monday, June 11, 2018, "He chose to be an entrepreneur even though his job gave him a large salary. Aang's reason is simple, he wants to provide the widest possible benefit to society. Starting with a capital of Rp 500 thousand, Aang runs a culinary business called Crispy Ikan Sipetek, sold for 20 thousand Rupiah, Aang becomes a successful entrepreneur with a turnover of up to 500 million Rupiah per month". His character describes someone who has the ambition to achieve his dream. According to Murray (1938)

Ambition needs are related to the need for achievement, exhibition, and recognition. The need for achievement is often expressed by succeeding, achieving goals, and overcoming obstacles. The need for recognition is met by gaining social status and displaying achievements. These needs are included in psychogenic needs. Sometimes the ambition even involves a need for exhibition or the desire to shock and thrill other people.

Barsukova (2014) also states that

The ambition is motivational formation and represents aspiration of a person to be a significant and a recognized personality to others for real achievements, important both for person and for other people. Ambition is the socio-psychological trait of a person, expressed in the desire to make actions in order to achieve leadership in a team, a group (public life, science, culture, etc.).

According to Marry Shelley (1818, page 32) ambition is a desire or passion that is passionate to get what we want, such as the desire of someone to achieve something in his life or do something to achieve good goals with his desires it is called with ambition.

Based on the above description of ambition needs are related to the need for achievement, exhibition, and recognition. Ambition is the socio-psychological trait of a person, expressed in the desire to make actions and ambition is a desire or passion that is passionate to get what he/ she wants.

Ambition, on the other hand, is marked by the desire for attainments independent of the degree to which obtaining these outcomes is based on superior performance. While we believe that those who are ambitious often have a strong achievement motive, the goals that are sought based on these two drives are quite different, with achievement-focused more on how well one does at a task and ambition focused more on the outcomes or extrinsic goals of task performance.

B.RESEARCH METHOD

This study applies qualitative research as seen by Creswell (2002). He noted that Quantitative research is the process of collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and writing the result of a study, while qualitative research is the approach to data collection, analysis, and report writing differing from the traditional, quantitative approaches. Creswell (2007, p. 36) recently noted that “some extremely useful introductory books to qualitative research these days do not contain a definition that can be easily located”. Rolfe (2006, p. 305), following their work, argues that.

The source of data is taken from the novel *Little Women* written by Louisa May Alcott's, *Little Women*. The novel was published in two volumes in 1868 and 1869, it has 376 pages. The data is the causes and the effects of Jo March's ambition. Those data will be in the form of evidence by quoting the text.

C.DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

In this part, the writers represent the analysis of Jo March's ambition, the causes and the effects of Jo March's ambition. Joe March is a passionate person who never fails. it will ultimately cause the downfall of the individual. Jo March's ambition makes her believe that no one can help her to live instead of herself. She cannot rely on her family, friends, or man forever. She decides that she should live in her dream with her liberty without relying on others. It is shown through her dialogue with Mr. Bhaer when she comes back from Weekly Volcano Press after selling her story.

FRIEDRICH. Always working

JO. (joke-dramatically). Money is the end and aim of my mercenary existence.

FRIEDRICH. No one gets ink stains like yours just out of desire for money.

Jo feels the intense pleasure and pain of being seen by someone, of knowing that they know you.

JO. (embarrassed, retreating) Well my sister Amy is in Paris, and until she marries someone obscenely wealthy, it's up to me to keep the family afloat.

Goodbye

FRIEDRICH. (staring up after her) Goodbye. (Gerwig, 2019, p. 5).

The dialogue shows that Jo March is an ambitious young lady. The ambitious side of Jo makes her attempt to do anything to earn money. As she says, "Money is the end and aim of my mercenary existence" The reason for her leaving her family is to make a living without distressing others and earn money of her own. She tries hard to make it happen. As she says, "Well my sister Amy is in Paris, and until she marries someone obscenely wealthy, it's up to me to keep the family afloat," without following the social system which is said by Aunt March to her "If you want to live well you have to marry a rich man." She believes without marrying a rich man, she can live well, earn money, and achieve her dream as a writer without being submissive. Her writing abilities, selling it, and making money give her confidence that she can be a famous writer who will never be forgotten. As Boggs and Petrie stated, "every action that the character takes in some way reflects the quality of his or her particular personality" (Boggs & Petrie, pp. 51-52).

Joe March is a persistent striving to gain success and accomplishment. Jo March has a job, something a bit unusual for a young lady with an upper-class background in nineteenth-century America. Even Jo, aged fifteen, she works as a companion for her Aunt March. Being a "companion" to a rich old lady, or even a rich young lady, was a common form of employment for nineteenth-century girls who came from good families but didn't have much money of their own

Jo March moves to New York City, lives in a dorm, and becomes a teacher for two little girls there. For extra money, she writes a story and sells it to Weekly Volcano Press. The story she writes and sells gives her extra money for her needs.

Another ambitious side of Jo March is shown through the dialogue between Jo and her sister Meg. The conversation happens during the wedding day between Meg and Mr. Brooke. Instead of agreeing to the marriage, Jo March convinces her sister not to marry Mr. Brooke because she thinks that her sister should be an actress instead of a wife.

Jo suddenly kneels before her, wild and desperate:

JO. We can leave. We can leave right now.

MEG. What?

JO. I can make money: I'll sell stories, I'll do anything – cook, clean, work in a factory. I can make a life for us.

MEG. But, Jo...

JO. And you should be an actress and have a life on the stage. Let's run away together.

MEG. I want to get married.

JO. WHY?

MEG. I love him.

JO. (angry) You will be bored of him in two years and we will be interesting forever.

MEG. Just because my dreams are not the same as yours doesn't mean they are unimportant. (Gerwig, 2019, p. 92).

From the conversation, we can see her desire and her confidence. She is ready to sacrifice and provide anything for her sister. Through the dialogue of the characters, as Boggs and Petrie stated, We can identify their thoughts, attitudes, and emotions by hearing the tone of the voice and word choice (Boggs & Petrie, 2008).

Jo March's ambition is a result of someone having certain goals and aspirations to promote their social status. When Jo returns home from New York, it seems like she might reconcile herself to staying at home, caring for her parents, and being the "angel in the house" that nineteenth-century culture suggested women should be. But she's got one more trick up her sleeve – her plan to open up a boarding school for boys.

Jo's final career choice brings together her love of boys and her homemaking skills with her interest in education and literature. It's the perfect compromise between being a mother and being an educator. It's also Louisa May Alcott trying to have her cake and eat it too. Jo is a stay-at-home mom, but also an entrepreneur. It's a beautiful dream, but maybe not realistic for everyone.

According to Tatenhove (1984:74), some factors make ambition happen. They can be negative factors that trigger ambition such as anger.

Josephine's character who dared to express her opinion, not even just toward her sister Jo also expressed her opinion on Mr. Laurence when Laurie was locked up for doing something that didn't like Mr. Laurence, Laurie even threatened to escape. That's when Josephine bravely explains everything to Mr. Laurence until finally Laurie is allowed out of his room.

Jo March is known as an independent character in the story. She is a tough one and does not want to be a burden to her family. She believes that she can do everything she wants without marrying a rich man. She can earn money of her own, she can write a book, and she can be anything she wants. The independent side of Jo March is shown through her external actions and dialogue with other characters.

She believes without marrying a rich man, she can live well, earn money, and achieve her dream as a writer without being submissive. Her writing abilities, selling it, and making money give her confidence that she can be a famous writer who will never be forgotten. As Boggs and Petrie stated, "every action that the character takes in some way reflects the quality of his or her particular personality" (Boggs & Petrie, pp. 51-52).

The confidence side of Jo March shows through the dialogue between Jo and her sister Meg. The conversation happens during the wedding day between Meg and Mr. Brooke. Instead of agreeing to the married, Jo March convinces her sister not to marry Mr. Brooke because she thinks that her sister should be an actress instead of a wife.

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On the other side, Jo's courage was also seen in the way she tried to realize her dream of becoming a female writer in that era, Jo from the beginning dream to become a writer, she had a hobby of writing since childhood. In trying to realize her dream, Jo has to deliver the manuscript in secret, because, besides the lack of female writers at the time, this is also because it is not too common for a woman to write and insert her opinion into the story. Jo was also afraid to disappoint her family if her manuscript was not accepted and could not make money to help her family's economy. On the other hand, of course, Jo prevents her family from knowing this because they will not give approve toward Jo's decision to become a writer. After all, it will be very risky when the opinions she writes in her script are considered as a protest or rebellion of women.

Jo's courage was seen when she dared to express her opinion aloud to her male friend and Laurie's grandfather at that time. Jo also dares to mingle with anyone without having to be afraid of looking at their family's social class, which at that time was relatively low, she still joins when Laurie invites her to meet Laurie's friends from abroad. Josephine was never discouraged from achieving her dream as a writer in that era when women were still not considered familiar with being a writer. She still sends her script to the publisher without a fake name, even though it is secretly from her family because she is afraid they will be disappointed if she fails, Jo takes all the risks and finally, the manuscript is published in the newspaper.

With her courage Jo March revealed that the manuscript was written by her for her family to be well received, the March girls are proud of it because Jo managed to publish the manuscript in an era when women are still difficult to fight for their manuscripts to be published. The effect of Jo March's ambition is that it has stronger effects on his career and life than make a distance in personality traits, ability, and socioeconomic status.

From the analysis that the writer has done, Josephine's courage is seen when she dares to express her opinion aloud to her male friend and Laurie's grandfather at that time. Jo also dares to mingle with anyone without having to be afraid of looking at their family's social class, which at that time is relatively low, she still joins when Laurie invites her to meet Laurie's friends from abroad. Josephine was never discouraged from achieving her dream as a writer in that era when women were still not considered familiar with being a writer. She still sent her script to the publisher without a fake name, even though it was secretly from her family because she was afraid they would be disappointed if she failed, Jo took all the risks

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The characterization of Jo March is conducted through several theories. To answer the question, the researcher uses the theory character of characterization by Boggs and Petrie. This theory consists of eight ways to examine the characterization of the main character, namely characterization through appearance, dialogue, external action, internal action, other characters' reactions, contrast, caricature and leitmotif, and the choice of name. Therefore, not all of the eight techniques are used to analyze the character of Jo March. Besides the theory of character and characterization, the researcher applied the theory of cinematic point of view, which consists of an objective point of view, subjective point of view, indirect subject point of view, director's interpretive point of view to support the result of the first theory.

Caring Jo March's caring character can be seen through her external actions, appearance, and dialogue back to winter in 1861. Back to the past timeline in Massachusetts, there was a civil war at that time. Her father is a volunteer, injured, and hospitalized in Washington. In the afternoon, when Marmee (Jo's mother) is busily working in a converted warehouse, she gets a telegram from Washington that says her husband is hospitalized. In the evening, March's family prepares for the mother to go to Washington accompanied by John, who volunteers to be an escort for Marmee. While preparing, Marmee tells Jo to borrow some money from Aunt March. Instead of doing what her mother asks, she sells her hair to get the money.

The most noticeable character of Jo March in the story is her tomboy character which can be seen through her external actions, appearance, and dialogue. This tomboy character is shown when Jo March is the only one of the siblings who dislikes wearing pretty dresses, good shoes, etc. She likes to wear comfortable clothes. From the theory of character and characterization by Boggs and Petrie, the characterization of a person can be seen through their visuals, and we can make the assumptions directly by looking at their facial features, dress, physical build, and mannerisms, and the way they move (Boggs & Petrie, p. 50). It is shown in her dialogue with her sisters back to Concord in 1861 while preparing for the holiday party.

D.CONCLUSION

The portrayal of Jo March's ambition is a passion that never fails and will never let you fail it, and this is why it will ultimately cause the downfall of the individual, The ambitious side of Jo March makes her believe that no one can help her to live instead of herself. She cannot rely on her family, friends, or man forever. A persistent striving to gain success and accomplishment Jo March moves to New York City, lives in a dorm, and becomes a teacher for two little girls there. For extra money, she writes a story and sells it to Weekly Volcano Press. The story she writes and sells gives her extra money for her needs. As a result of someone having certain goals and aspirations to promote their social status Jo's final career choice brings together her love of boys and her homemaking skills with her interest in education and literature. It's the perfect compromise between being a mother and being an educator. It's also Louisa May Alcott trying to have her cake and eat it too.

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