



### Psychoanalysis of The Main Character in The Little Women Movie

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**Abstrak**— Psikoanalisis adalah teori yang membahas tentang hakikat dan perkembangan kepribadian manusia. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana id, ego, dan superego tokoh utama film Little Women. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan psikologi, tepatnya teori psikoanalisis id, ego, dan superego oleh Sigmund Freud. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui observasi dan dokumentasi. Objek penelitian ini adalah film Little Women. Analisis data dilakukan berdasarkan prosedur data yang disarankan oleh Miles dan Huberman yang terdiri dari langkah pemadatan data, tampilan, dan verifikasi data. Dari lima belas data yang ditemukan dalam film Little Women, terdapat tiga data id, sembilan data ego, dan tiga data superego. Ego adalah kepribadian yang paling banyak muncul dalam karakter utama film Little Women. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan bahwa id Jo digambarkan melalui pikiran dan temperamen negatif. Ego direpresentasikan melalui bagaimana dia bisa bersikap realistik ketika banyak masalah dalam hidupnya. Dan superego digambarkan melalui pikiran bersalahnya.

**Kata kunci:** psikoanalisis, sigmund freud, little women

**Abstract**— Psychoanalysis is a theory that discusses the nature and development of human personality. The purpose of this research is to find out how the id, ego, and superego of the main character of Little Women's movie. In this research, the researcher used qualitative descriptive method. The researcher used a psychological approach, to be exact psychoanalysis theory of id, ego, and superego by Sigmund Freud. The data was collected through observation and documentation. The object of this research was Little Women's movie. The data analysis was employed based on the procedure of data suggested by Miles and Huberman which consisted of step data condensation, display, and verification data. Of the fifteen data found in the Little Women movie, there are three data of id, nine data of ego, and three data of superego. The ego is the most personality appearing in the main character of Little Women movie. Based on the result of this research, the researcher found that the id of Jo is portrayed through negative thoughts and temperament. The ego is represented through how she can be realistic when there are so many problems in her life. And the superego is portrayed through her guilty thought.

**Keywords:** psychoanalysis, sigmund freud, little women

#### INTRODUCTION

Literature is a full creation of form, feeling and expression that defines imaginative ideas through language as a medium of communication (Anandi et al., 2022). Most students believe that literature is a horrible topic that they should avoid studying. However, whether or not literature is interesting depends on their sensitivity and imagination to enhance the beauty of literature. Literary work is the result of human thought that tells about life's dealings with feelings, thoughts, and problems (Harun et al. 2022),

In literary studies, there is a connection between movies. A movie is an audio-visual medium that is designed to spread a message. Movie is a story that presents the dynamics of everyday human life (Firdiani et al., 2022). For students, watching a movie about the teaching of literature is significant because it can improve education. Teaching literature can have a significant positive impact on education by fostering cultural awareness, moral development, the growth of creativity and taste, and character development. Movies represent the values that are now prevalent in society, which strengthens their power to shape individual beliefs (Ramakrishna et al., 2017). Movies can affect people's beliefs because they frequently represent beliefs, norms, or routines that are relevant to people's daily lives.

Using psychoanalysis or a psychological approach is one of the theories that are highly common when analyzing literary works (Harun et al., 2022). According to Khotimah et al., (2020) All of the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, as well as awareness and unconsciousness, are part of the personality or psyche. This psychological analysis has evolved into one of the methods for determining a literary work's secret meaning. Psychoanalysis aimed to demonstrate behavior that was carried on by the interaction of the conscious and unconscious. The relationship between the unconscious and mental processes has been given a lot of attention. They thought that awareness of this is beneficial and essential for maintaining mental health.

Psychoanalytic Theory is one of the theories that are frequently employed in literary criticism. Psychology of literature is the study of literature by looking at something related to work as a psychiatric activity (Endraswara 2006). Psychoanalysis placed a strong emphasis on motives, focusing in particular on subliminal or hidden motivations that help literature make sense on two levels: the level of communication itself and the level of character action. Freud put forward three psyche or personality structures, the Superego, Id, and Ego. The film's representation of the id, ego, and superego can be seen through gestures, actions, dialogue, and reactions to others' actions. Id is a term that refers to a selfish, childish, primitive, pleasure-oriented aspect of the personality that is unable to defer enjoyment. Internalized cultural and parental norms of "good" and "bad," "right" and "wrong" behaviour are referred to be "superego." Ego is the mediator between the Id and the Super-Ego, finding agreements to appease both. It might be defined as our "awareness of place and time."

The research by Nurmala (2020), *Feminism Portrayed in Greta Gerwing's Movie Little Women*. The article describes the Tong and Botts theory used to analyze utterances. The results of the study showed that the main character of this movie has five types of feminism. There are Liberal Feminism, Marxist and Socialist Feminism, Radical-Feminism, Psychoanalytic Feminism, and the Postmodern Feminism. The similarity is in this article uses a movie Little Women as a research yet different

research study. And the research by Khofifa (2022), entitled *Analysis of Id, Ego, Superego of the Main Character in the Movie Script Cruella by Tony Mcnamara and Dana Fox*. The article describes the Freud theory used to analyze utterance. According to the study's findings, Cruella's Id character is depicted by her weird and extremely cruel fantasies of retaliation. She learned to turn her thoughts of retaliation into more realistic methods, which illustrates the ego. Her guilty thinking and recognition of her true self also serve as representations of the superego. It is evident that Estella, who also has an alter ego named Cruella, leads with her id, her ego frequently guides her brain, and her superego, which is her least dominating idea. This similarity is in this article uses psychoanalysis theory by Freud.

For this research, the researcher chooses the script of the Little Women movie to be analyzed. This movie was first released in February 2020, directed by director Greta Gerwig, the movie script was written by Greta Gerwig too. It is the seventh cinematic version of Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel of the same name. Little Women tells the story of four sisters from the March family, who share a dream to live life on their terms, without the interference of others. The story starts with the life of Jo March (Saoirse Ronan) in 1868. At that time, Joe was pursuing his career as a teacher and novelist in New York. Amy March (Florence Pugh) also follows in her sister's footsteps to leave Concord, Massachusetts, and settle in France with their aunt. Meanwhile, the eldest sister, Meg March (Emma Watson) is now married to a teacher named John Brooke (James Norton). Many events were experienced by the March sisters. Finally, they can live the life they choose. Starting from the failure of love, career, and family conflicts, Even though distance separates Jo, Amy, and Meg, the love they share overcomes all their differences. Now, as Beth March (Eliza Scanlen)'s condition worsens, the four March sisters are reunited and give strength to one another.

To make it simple to understand the text that depicts a character's personality based on fundamental psychoanalytical principles, the researcher used a single basic theory, known as "Freudianism". It led to Freudianism being a more complete theory than previous theories. Freud's theory has broad implications depending on how it is used. In addition, the main character in the film Little Women has a strong character. From the previous explanation, the researcher decided to conduct a study on the psychoanalysis of the main character as Jo's character changes in the movie make it highly intriguing to examine utilizing the psychoanalytic element. By applying Freud's theories, the author aims to learn more about Jo's psychology in the Little Women movie. As a result, the study "Psychoanalysis of the Main Character in the Little Women Movie" was conducted.

## **METHOD**

The method of this research applied descriptive qualitative. Qualitative research is the act of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting precise narrative and

visual data in order to understand more about a specific topic of interest. The purpose of descriptive research was to provide an in-depth description and explanation of the object being researched (Arikunto, 2020).

This research takes the object of the problem to be analyzed is the personality structure of the main character in the *Little Women* movie. In collecting data, the researcher has done watched, identified, classified, and interpreted some dialogues in the movie contextually and theoretically. The researcher applied a qualitative descriptive research method with the theory of psychoanalysis according to Sigmund Freud as a detailed elaboration. The researcher used data analysis technique with observation technique.

Data will be analyzed using several appropriate steps Miles, Huberman and theory (2014) is analyzing data with three steps: data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusions or verification. In more detail, the steps according to the theory of Miles, Huberman and Salda (2014) will be applied as follows:

a. Data Condensation

The process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, or transforming data that appears in the full corpus (body) of written-up field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials is referred to as data condensation (Milles and Huberman, 2014). In this research, the researcher will use observation and documentation.

b. Data Display

The second step is data display. In qualitative research, data presentation can be done in the form of short descriptions, charts, tables, and so on. At this stage, the researcher uses tables.

c. Conclusion

The third step of analysis activity is conclusion drawing and verification. At this stage, conclusions in qualitative research can answer the formulation of the problem that was formulated from the start, supported by valid evidence.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher analyzed the id, ego, and superego that appear in the main character of the *Little Women* movie namely Jo. There are fifteen data found related to the research topic. From the observation, the researcher found three data that appear in the main character, which means id in Jo does not dominate. Besides that, the researcher found nine data representing Jo's ego. The ego personality structure dominates in Jo. Also, there are three data that are in accordance with the superego personality structure that exists in Jo. Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that the dominant structure personality of Jo is Ego. The id, ego, and superego collaborate to create patterns of human behavior. The id makes demands based on natural desires, the ego limits it to reality, and the superego provides every action with moral ideals.

Based on the data that the writer collected and examined in order to answer the research question of how the id, ego, and superego of the main character are represented, the writer concluded that, Jo's id is portrayed through her words that can hurt the other person and actions that can harm someone. While, Jo's ego is portrayed through how she suppresses her emotions as much as possible, and she can accept the fact that she was born from a relatively simple family, so she has to work harder for herself and her family. And Jo's superego is represented by her guilty thinking and understanding of her true self.

a. Id

The instinctive and basic part of personality is known as the id. All drives and impulses are contained in the id, which is a region of the unconscious. Based on the results of observations made by researchers, the main character in this film has a weak Id personality structure, as evidenced by only finding two scenes that show Id's personality structure, as evidenced in the following conversation:

(00:22:59 – 00:24:01)



Jo : Of course I'm upset. You just told me didn't like my work.

Jo : My reaction indicates that you are a pompous blowhard. Shakespeare was the greatest poet who ever lived

Jo : Listen, you are not friends. You are not my friends, and I don't want your opinion because I don't like you very much. So just don't talk to me anymore, thank you.

According to the conversation above, it is the first fragment of conversation that Id of Jo appears. In the conversations underlined, Jo disapproves when Friedrich criticizes his writing. Jo felt angry that she didn't even want to be friends with Friedrich. Jo couldn't control her emotions well. The id is the part of the unconscious which contains all drives and impulses.

(00:47:54 – 00:49:55)



Jo : Tell me, or I will make you.

Jo : I hate you!

Jo : She doesn't deserve my forgiveness, and I will hate her. I will hate her forever.

In this case, incident between Jo and Amy, It can be seen the id appears from Jo. Jo was very angry and even tried to hurt Amy when she found out that her book was burned by Amy, Jo did not accept Amy's apology. In this scenario, Jo shows her dark side, she can hurt anyone even her own sister when the things she likes are taken by someone else. When her mother advises Jo to forgive Amy, Jo refuses her and says that Amy doesn't deserve an apology from her.

(01:56:40 – 01:56:55)



Jo : Coming! I'm starving.

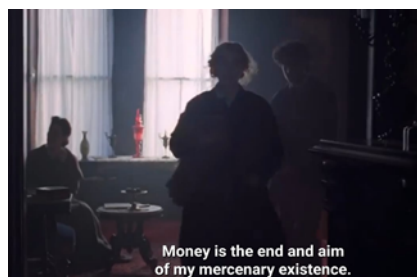
Jo : I'm famished.

Based on the conversation above, Jo shows her Id side. Which, when she felt hungry she immediately ate without caring about guests waiting. Jo is more concerned with her desire to eat without looking at the circumstances around her, where there is someone who wants to meet her.

b. Ego

The ego is a personality system that functions according to the reality principle and serves as a person's personal guide to the world of things in reality. Based on the results of observations made by researchers on the main character in the film Little Women, it can be concluded that Jo has a more dominant Ego personality structure than the Id and Superego personality structures. It is proved that the researcher found nine data that match the ego personality structure. The following are scenes that show the personality structure of the Ego in Jo as the main character:

(00:05:45 – 00:06:01)



Jo : Money is the end and aim of my mercenary existence.



Jo : My sister Amy is in Paris, and until she marries someone obscenely wealthy, it's up to me to keep the family afloat, goodbye.

In the conversation between Jo and Friedrich above, it can be seen that Jo is a responsible person. Jo fought not only for herself, but she also fought for her sisters too. She realized that she didn't come from a rich family, so she worked harder to earn money.

(00:35:15 - 00:35:50)



Jo : Thank you aunt March for your employment and your many kindnesses, but I intend to make my on way in the world.

Jo : There are precious few ways for women to make money.

From the dialogue above, the ego of Jo appears. Jo has a different statement from Aunt March, but Jo delivers it well and not in a high tone. Jo logically thinks that there are many ways to earn a lot of money and become rich. In the underlined conversations, Jo expresses her disagreement with aunt March, Jo would have achieved success on her own without Aunt March's help.

(00:43:54 - 00:44:12)



Jo : Take this and find her the best doctor you can.

Jo : No, I'm not going back. I'm using the rest to take her to the sea and get her strong.

Based on Jo and Marmee's conversation above, the ego level of Jo's personality appears. She gave the money she worked for Beth's treatment. On the other hand, she needed the money to live in New York, but Jo chose not to return to New York and help Beth recover.

(00:50:05 - 00:51:43)



Jo : Amy. It's Amy!

Jo : I'm so sorry. Oh, my sister, my sister.

From the conversation above, it can be seen the ego appears. In the previous scene, Jo felt angry and disappointed with Amy, because Amy had burned her book. But when Amy chased Jo down, Jo immediately helped Amy even though previously Jo felt disappointed with Amy Jo also felt guilty for ignoring Amy.

**(01:12:17 - 01:12:44)**



Jo : Will this enough for the train?

Jo : I only sold what was my own.

Jo : I was just crazy to do something for father. It'll be good for my vanity anyway.

From the conversation above, it can be seen the ego appears. Jo is willing to do anything to help his family's economy. When his salary was not enough to help his father's treatment, she was willing to sell his hair.

**(01:36:44 - 01:38:56)**



Jo : No, I can't. I can't change how I feel, and it would be a lie to say I do when I don't. I'm so sorry, Teddy. I'm so sorry, but I just can't help it.

Jo : It would be a disaster if we married.

Jo : And we would quarrel, because we can't help it even now. I hate elegant society, you'd hate my scribbling, and we would be unhappy and we'd wish we hadn't done it, and everything will be horrid.

Laurie expressed her feelings to Jo but Jo refused. Jo refused Laurie for



several reasons, they had a lot of differences and Jo did not want to force his feelings, Jo realized that if she was forced to receive Laurie's love then everything would become messy. From the scene above it can be conducted that the personality level of the ego of Jo appears. Jo could not force his feelings just to make Laurie happy, and Jo refused Laurie's love in a good way. In this scene, it can be seen that Jo knows herself very well.

**(01:48:10 - 01:48:37)**



Jo : Yes, yes. Ammy, I'm so happy for you. This... This was meant to be.

Jo : Life is too short to be angry at one's sister.

From the conversation above, it can be seen the ego appears. In some previous scenes, Laurie expressed her feelings of love for Jo. However, after a few years later, Laurie and Ammy (Jo's sibling) were in the same country and spent time together, which Ammy loved Laurie but Laurie still loved Jo, but after some times, Laurie fell in love with Ammy and they were married unknown by Jo. At the same time, Jo wanted to open his heart to Laurie and learn again to love Laurie. Sometimes later, Ammy and Laurie met Jo and gave news of their marriage. When Jo knew the news of their marriage, Jo tried to control herself not to be angry with Ammy and Jo said that "Life is too short to angry at one's Sister."

**(01:49:48 - 01:50:36)**



Jo : I know I'm not half so good as my sister, but you know I'll be a friend to lean on, if you'll let me.

Jo's ego appears based on the dialogue between Jo and Mr. Laurence above. Jo said that she is not as good as her dead sister, but she is willing to be a friend of Mr. Laurence, she wants to replace Beth, who was previously considered by Mr. Laurence.

**(01:54:55 - 01:55:16)**



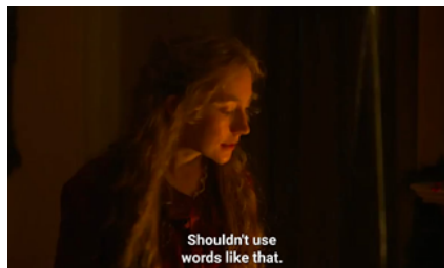
Jo : I'd like to open a school. We never had a proper school. Now there are women's colleges opening. There should be a school. For Daisy.

In the conversation above, Jo shows his ego. Which was, shown when she said that she wanted to open a school, because Jo and his sisters could not find a good school so she wanted to establish a good school for men and women.

c. Superego

The part of the unconscious known as the superego is where self-criticism and the voice of conscience originate. It displays societal moral standards. In this superego personality structure, the researcher found three data. So, it can be said that the Superego in Jo does not dominate. The following are scenes that describe the structure of the superego personality in Jo:

(00:14:22 - 00:14:42)



Jo : Europe? Oh, that's capital. Oh shouldn't use words like that.

Jo : She reminds me to be good, so father will be proud of me when he returns.

From the fragment of conversation above, it can be seen the superego appear from Jo. The underline word indicated that Jo fulfills some rules that her sister reminds her of.

(00:51:50 - 00:52:25)



Jo : If she died, it would have been my fault.

The underlined conversation shows that Jo is very guilty of Amy. According to psychoanalysis, guilt is caused by the superego. Jo regretted

being angry with Amy, she thought that Amy fell because of her.

(01:35:11 - 01:35:40)



Jo : You don't really like French though. Do you? That's wonderful, Amy.

Based on the dialogue above, the superego aspect that happens on Jo is represent, when she tried to suppress his disappointment. In the previous scene, Aunt March invites Jo to go to Europe and Jo is very excited about the invitation. However, suddenly Aunt March invites Amy to go to Europe. In this scene, it's obvious that Jo wants to be angry but she suppresses it.

The Id is the most fundamental component of personality. It is an instinctive mechanism that operates the pleasure principle. The Id will attempt to act on wants or decisions without considering their rationale. In this study, the main character of Jo has the Id structure appearing three times. The id within Jo appears when Friedrich's work is criticized, he feels unacceptable and speaks harsh words. In addition, Jo's temperamental attitude can be seen in the scene when the paper she is writing is torn up by Amy, Jo is so angry that she acts temperament with Ami. And also, Jo's Id appears when he feels hungry and he eats without looking at the situation around him. This is also supported by previous result research from Anandi (2022) that, Arthur's Id was about his negative thought to the unfair life due to the negative response from his surroundings.

The ego is a psychological structure associated with self-concept that is controlled by the reality principle and distinguished by the capacity for patience. The reality principle, the id's impulse, governs the ego and is concerned with what is realistic and doable. The ego's functions include perception, thought, reality checking, the capacity for consideration, and acting as a middle function. The primary duties of these primary duties, namely seeking, discovering, and forging connections with things in the outer world, are performed by the ego. To be able to control the ego, we must first know ourselves well, be friends with ourselves, accept ourselves as we are, and know the purpose for what we live. In this study, the ego personality structure dominates in Jo. Jo works in a realistic principle. Jo has the ability to weigh things in life. Jo has an awareness of her simple life, so she works hard for herself and her family. Jo knows herself very well. This was proven when Jo argued with Laurie, Jo had good reason to reject Laurie's love. This is also supported by previous result research from Gultom & Astarini (2018) Ego is never

give up, have a strong reality principle.

Superego is the moral aspect of a personality that is obtained from parental upbringing or the norms and values in society and is based on morals and judgments about right and wrong. Although the superego and ego can reach the same decisions about something, the superego's reasons for making decisions are based more on moral values. Whereas ego decisions are based more on what other people think. In this study, researchers found three superego personality structures in Jo. The superego that appears in Jo is feeling guilty, this was evidenced when Jo was angry with Amy but Amy fell while chasing her, Jo felt very guilty and blamed herself. Besides that, Jo's superego is also seen when she has to be good, so that her father is proud of her. This is also supported by previous result research from Anandi (2022) that, Arthur's superego is keeping a good people alive.

## CONCLUSION

Personality structure refers to how the personality is organized in terms of its fundamental, enduring elements and how those elements relate to each other. Researchers found three id-structure personalities, nine ego-structure personalities, and three superego-structure personalities. The most prominent structure personality of Jo is the ego. So, it can be concluded that Jo works based on the principle of reality. Ego is the component of personality which is responsible for dealing with things with reality. Jo can balance the Id and Superego within her. Based on the result of this research, the researcher found that the id of Jo is portrayed through negative thought and temperament. The ego is portrayed through how she can be a realistic person when there are so many problems in her life. And the superego is portrayed through her guilty thought.

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