

GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S *LITTLE WOMEN*

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan gangguan identitas gender seperti yang dialami oleh Josephine sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel *Little Women* karangan Louisa May Alcott. Permasalahan pertama yang diangkat adalah pemaparan mengenai gejala-gejala timbulnya sifat transgender pada diri Jo. Permasalahan kedua menjelaskan faktor-faktor yang berkontribusi terhadap munculnya sifat transgender dari Jo. Permasalahan ketiga adalah mengungkapkan dampak dari sifat transgender yang dialami oleh Jo bagi dirinya dan keluarganya. Untuk menjawab permasalahan pertama, penelitian ini menggunakan penjelasan gejala-gejala transgender oleh Ensiklopedia Kesehatan Anak dan mengungkapkan sifat transgender dari Jo sebagai gangguan identitas gender dengan menggunakan kriteria diagnostik oleh Diagnostik dan Statistik Manual - Edisi 4 (DSM-IV). Permasalahan kedua dijabarkan dengan menggunakan istilah peran gender. Permasalahan yang terakhir dijabarkan dengan menggunakan teori humanistik oleh Abraham Maslow. Data diambil dari novel *Little Women* karya Louisa May Alcott adalah dalam bentuk kutipan, frasa, monolog, dialog, dan deskripsi yang menunjukkan sifat transgender dari Jo sebagai gangguan identitas gender. Oleh karena itu, studi kesusastraan berada di bawah payung pendekatan psikologis dan berdasarkan lensa para transgender. Analisis tersebut mengungkapkan sifat transgender dari Jo sebagai gangguan identitas gender. Gejala-gejala dan faktor sifat transgender dari Jo digambarkan secara jelas. Aktualisasi diri dari Jo muncul sebagai dampak dari menjadi transgender. Teori humanistik oleh Abraham Maslow akan digunakan untuk mengungkapkan aktualisasi diri dari Jo.

Kata kunci: gender identity, transgender, masculinity, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 4th Edition (DSM-IV), self-actualization

Abstract

This study is used to reveal gender identity disorder as experienced by Josephine the main character in the novel *Little Women* written by Louisa May Alcott. The first problem talks about the explanation of Jo's symptoms of transgender. The second problem describes the factors that contribute to Jo's transgender. The third problem reveals the impacts of Jo's transgender on her and her family. To answer the first problem, this study uses the explanation of the symptoms of transgender by Encyclopedia of Children's Health and reveals Jo's transgender as gender identity disorder using the diagnostic criteria by Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - 4th Edition (DSM-IV). The second problem answered by using the term of gender role. The last problem answered by using the humanistic theory by Abraham Maslow. The data are taken from the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott in the form of quotations, phrases, monologues, dialogues, and description within Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* which indicates Jo's transgender as gender identity disorder. Therefore, this literary study falls under the umbrella of psychological approach and the transgender lense. The analysis reveals Jo's transgender as gender identity disorder. The symptoms and factors of Jo's transgender is depicted clearly. Jo's self actualization emerges as the impacts of being transgender. The humanistic theory by Abraham Maslow is used to reveal Jo's self-actualization.

Keywords: gender identity, transgender, masculinity, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 4th Edition (DSM-IV), self-actualization

INTRODUCTION

Little Women is one of the greatest novel which were written by Louisa May Alcott, a two of four daughter of an American Transendentalist Amos Bronson. The novel is first published in 1868 and followed by the second volume in the next year. This novel tells about a young girl who has strong feeling that she adopts inappropriate gender should

be. She feels uncomfortable on herself being a woman. Even she rejects to not wear accessories of women and resists the culture that women should stay at home. In the psychology studies, people who question their gender identity which is not suitable with their sex to which they were assigned at birth called transgender. Get along with it, Jo

feels that she deserves to be the leader in the home to replace his father who was at war. Because this study focuses on gender identity disorder, it is going to be Jo who will be the centre of attention. This study is going to analyze Jo's the transgender as gender indentity disorder. Louisa herself is confessing that her novel entitled *Little Women* is based on almost her true story. The characters itself is depicted as her sisters itself. They are May, Elizabeth, and Anna that are depicted as her sisters while she is depicted as Jo's character.

(1) Statement of Problem

- a. How are the symptoms of Jo's transgender?
- b. How do the factors contribute to Jo's transgender?
- c. What are the impacts of Jo's transgender on her and her family?

(2) Solving problems plan

To answer those questions, this study is going to use the understanding of sex and gender and the term of transgender to explain the symptoms of Jo's transgender. Then, the concept of gender role and gender stereotypes will be the next concept to reveal the factors that contribute to Jo's transgender. Last, the humanistic theory by Abraham Maslow is used to reveal the impacts of Jo's transgender on her and her family.

(3) Purpose of the study

In line with the statement of the problem above, this study is aimed to:

- a. To explain the symptoms of Jo's transgender.
- b. To reveal the factors contribute to Jo's transgender.
- c. To reveal the impacts of Jo's transgender on her and her family.

(4) Summary about the theories

The understanding of sex and gender and the term of transgender is used to explain the symptoms of Jo's transgender. According to WHO, gender is used to describe those characteristics of women and men, which are socially constructed, while sex refers to those which are biologically determined (Retrieved June 1st, 2012, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender>).

The term Transgender was coined in the 1970s by Virginia Prince, an American transgender activist, who published *Transvestia* magazine and started Society for the Second Self for male heterosexual cross-dressers in USA as a contrast with the term Transsexual. Long before ago, people

do not understand the meaning of transgender and why it can be identified as gender identity disorder. People only know the term of transsexual. With the rise of the transgender term which was coined by Virginia Prince, it is no longer confusion between the terms of transgender and transsexual. After knowing the distinct of both of the term, it can be concluded that Little Women Jo the main character is an example in analyzing about transgender. Whereas Little Women was published long before people know the term of transgender. Transgender refers to someone who does not desire surgical intervention to change sex, and/or who considers that they fall between genders (Moelker, 2008). As a result, it can be said that transgender is a psychological term which constructed by the society. These are the elaborations of the symptoms of Transgender which is explained by Encyclopedia of Children's Health (Retrieved, June 1st 2012, from <http://www.healthofchildren.com/G-H/Gender-Identity.html>):

1. Stating repeatedly a strong desire to be, or insist that they are, of the opposite sex.
2. Showing a marked preference for cross-dressing.
3. Displaying a strong and long-term preference for fantasies and role-play as members of the opposite sex.
4. Participating in or want to play stereotypical games of the opposite sex.
5. Showing a strong preference for friends and playmates of the opposite sex.

The concept of gender role and gender stereotypes will be the next concept to reveal the factors that contribute to Jo's transgender. *Gender* and *gender role* refers to society's idea of how boys or girls or men and women are expected to behave and should be treated. A display of gender, as with a gender role, represents a public manifestation of gender identity. It can be said that one is a sex and one does gender; that sex typically, but not always, represents what is between one's legs while gender represents what is between one's ears. The statement above clarifies that sex is visible and gender is invisible. It can also be meant that sex is biologically type which is created by God while gender is socially constructed. Bornstein, author of *Naming All the Parts* touches base to this idea by saying "Gender roles when followed; send signals of membership to a specific gender". Bornstein explains that gender role is describing the duties of each gender.

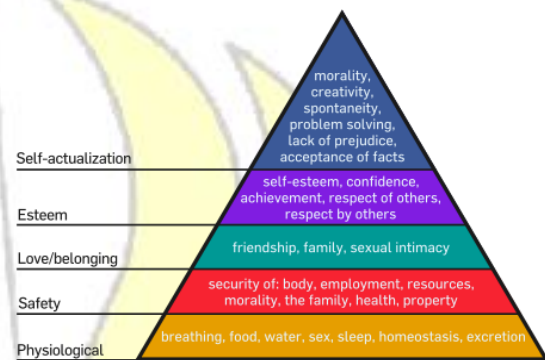
Because of the presence of gender roles, a stereotype has been created. This stereotype means that men and women need to follow their specific gender roles in order to be socially accepted. Gender roles have forced society to form a stereotype of what the “perfect woman” and “perfect man” should be. People base this “perfect woman and man” off of what they see in magazines, television shows, advertisements, music, and art (Ryan, Hoxmeier, 2009).

Traditionally, the female stereotypic role is to marry and have children. She is also to put her family's welfare before her own: be loving, compassionate, caring, nurturing, being sympathetic and finding time to be sexy and feeling beautiful. The male stereotypic role is to be the financial provider. He is also to be assertive, competitive, independent, courageous, career-focused, hold his emotions in check, and always initiate sex. These sorts of stereotypes can prove harmful such as they can isolate individual expression and creativity, as well as hinder personal and professional growth (Retrieved June 3rd 2012, from http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study_guide/Gender-Stereotypes.topicArticleId-26957,articleId-268966.html). If men and women do not follow these certain characteristics, they are often shunned and do not feel socially accepted. These roles also have forced the society to either embrace the outcome or reject it.

The humanistic theory by Abraham Maslow is used to reveal the impacts of Jo's transgender on her and her family. A decision to choose being transgender has impacts on the subject itself and the family. Most of transgender people have discrimination in getting job, making relationship, and socializing with people. Even they are avoided by their family. This discrimination occurs because third gender (such as transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual) is still not widely legalized, and even some countries are not recognized the existence of them yet.

Being Transgender is chosen by people who feel that they are not comfortable with their gender since birth. They are in the middle of man's world and woman's world. Someone who decides to be transgender always has reasons behind it which is different from one another. The reason is based on the experience of people. Accepting and to be accepted are the desire of transgender. To reach those goals, transgender has to through self-actualization process. Self-actualization process is

an impact of being transgender. The humanistic theory is needed to prove the process. The Humanistic theory is proposed by Abraham Maslow, an American psychologist who creates Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. He first introduced his concept of a hierarchy of needs in his 1943 paper *A Theory of Human Motivation* and his subsequent book *Motivation and Personality* (Cherry, 2012). The shape of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is most often displayed as a pyramid (Retrieved July 12th 2012, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow%27s_hierarchy_of_needs):



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

There are five different levels in Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Cherry, 2012):

1. **Physiological Needs**
These include the most basic needs that are vital to survival, such as the need for water, air, food, and sleep. Maslow believed that these needs are the most basic and instinctive needs in the hierarchy because all needs become secondary until these physiological needs are met.
2. **Security Needs**
These include needs for safety and security. Security needs are important for survival, but they are not as demanding as the physiological needs. Examples of security needs include a desire for steady employment, health insurance, safe neighborhoods, and shelter from the environment.
3. **Social Needs**
These include needs for belonging, love, and affection. Maslow considered these needs to be less basic than physiological and security needs. Relationships such as friendships, romantic attachments, and families help fulfill this need for companionship and acceptance, as does involvement in social, community, or religious groups.

4. **Esteem Needs**

After the first three needs have been satisfied, esteem needs becomes increasingly important. These include the need for things that reflect on self-esteem, personal worth, social recognition, and accomplishment.

5. **Self-actualizing Needs**

This is the highest level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Self-actualizing people are self-aware, concerned with personal growth, less concerned with the opinions of others, and interested fulfilling their potential.

According to McLeod (2007), there are several characteristics of self-actualizer, a term for those who achieve self-actualization, as stated below:

1. Demonstrating a Greater Acceptance of Themselves, Others, and of Nature in General.
2. Exhibiting Spontaneity, Simplicity, and Naturalness
3. Having a Quality Detachment and a Need for Privacy
4. Resisting Enculturation
5. Freshness of Appreciation

Gender identity disorder in *Little Women*, Jo's transgender is going to be analyzed with those theories. By analyzing and studying *Little Women*, only Jo's character will be discussed here. Moreover, this study will reveal Jo's Transgender as Gender Identity Disorder by using the understanding of sex, gender, the transgender concept as the main topic and all parts of them. The symptoms, factors and impacts of Jo's Transgender as Gender Identity Disorder will take a part of discussion above. This study is made for giving contribution about understanding transgender and trans-people's problem in the society. This also gives insight about transgender for students in English Department of State University of Surabaya.

METHOD

After explaining the theories which are going to be used, this study is going to show how the theories are applied. This study uses a novel written by American author Louisa May Alcott entitled *Little Women* taken from <http://www.planetpdf.com> as the data source. The novel is first published in 1868.

The data will be gained in the form of quotations, phrases, monologues, dialogues, and description within Louisa May Alcott's *Little*

Women which is revealing Jo's Transgender as Gender Identity Disorder.

This study uses the descriptive-qualitative study and library research. There is no statistics data such as number or table here. The references are taken from books, journals, and internet to support the theory.

In analyzing the data, this study will use the term of Transgender by Virginia Prince in the USA written by Wendy Moelker. This study also combine the first term with the definition Gender Identity Disorder by The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 4th Edition (DSM-IV) which taken from the Booklet written by George Stewart and from the journal of Alley Stoughton for the Humanities American Seminar April 21, 2010. Then, the Humanistic theory by Abraham Maslow written by Kendra Cherry will be used to reveal the impacts of being transgender.

The first step to analyze is collecting the data by reading the novel. It aims to solve the problem on statement above. After the quotations are ready, it will be collected on a group based on the sub chapter of analysis. Then, the discussion will be done based on the statement above. It guides the Jo's Transgender as Gender Identity Disorder which is depicted in the novel. The last action will be analyzed with specific theories as stated above. Finally, the last step in analyzing is producing the conclusion on each chapter.

ANALYSIS AND RESULT

- (1) The symptoms of Jo's transgender the story builds here

A way to differ men and women is by seeing physical appearance. Men are usually more masculine, having short hair, sharp eyes, strong jaw, and strong body. Women is more feminine, having long hair, bright eyes, skinny fair, neat eyebrows, body slim, and more fragile body than man. Men do not put make up whereas women put it as her routinely to make her more beautiful. Another classification between men and women is by looking their style. Woman likes to be more elegant but man wants to be more gentlemen. Man uses her logic while woman uses her feeling to decide something. This makes almost men is more assertive than women. People whose transgender is identified as man or woman based on birth sex, but they usually show her gender as the opposite of sex.

The first page of the novel, we will be offered by explanation of the physical appearance and attitude of each character as stated below:

Fifteen- year-old Jo was very tall, thin, and brown, and reminded one of a colt, for she never seemed to know what to do with her long limbs, which were very much in her way. She had a decided mouth, a comical nose, and sharp, gray eyes, which appeared to see everything, and were by turns fierce, funny, or thoughtful. Her long, thick hair was her one beauty, but it was usually bundled into a net, to be out of her way. Round shoulders had Jo, big hands and feet, a flyaway look to her clothes, and the uncomfortable appearance of a girl who was rapidly shooting up into a woman and didn't like it. (Alcott, 1868:7)

Josephine March or Jo, a fifteen girl of March family, is the main character. She is the two of four sisters. She is a young girl who is totally different than women generally. She looks like more masculine than her sisters. Her long hair is the only prove that she is born as a woman. She feels uncomfortable for growing up as a girl.

It is revealed on the statement above that Jo is not ready for growing up as a woman. She never thought that she has to grow up and being a young lady. For Jo, being a woman is not her desire. She looks confuse and awkward when she has to face the truth. A woman or girl usually has the calm-looking, but Jo looks more strength-looking as a man. It starts from her decided mouth, sharp eyes, and big hands and foot. The decided mouth itself is a symbol that she is an assertive. As stated before that man is more assertive than woman. People who has sharp ayes are usually type of a focus person. While big hands and foot are symbolic of strong body.

Jo shows clearly the manner of a man such as putting her hands in the pocket, sometimes whistling and even examining the heels of her shoes in a gentlemanly manner. It is stated below:

Jo immediately sat up, put her hands in her pockets, and began to whistle. (Alcott, 1868:5)
Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun. I'm sure we work hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her shoes in a gentlemanly manner. (Alcott, 1868:4)

She is so flexible in imitating of man manner. Jo's manner shows that she once proud when she

can become a man. Jo is very comfortable in doing man's gesture. That comfort is one of the triggers of the transgender symptoms.

Everyone thought soberly for a minute, then Meg announced, as if the idea was suggested by the sight of her own pretty hands, 'I shall give her a nice pair of gloves. Army shoes, best to be had," cried Jo. (Alcott, 1868:9)

In the 1800s, both women and men gesture are allowed to wear boots (Retrieved August 3rd 2012, from http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sejarah_Amerika_Serikat). But Jo bit different. Based on the statement above, instead of buying boots for her mother's birthday, Jo gives an army shoes as a gift. The army shoes is a man's attribute in war. It is symbolic of the men's power. This is contrary to the gifts given by Jo's sisters which is very feminine like cologne, handkerchiefs embroidered edges, and a gorgeous pair of gloves. Jo is different than women in general. She prefers to have attributes that are even more appropriate used by men.

In the novel, Jo is revealing much confession that she hates growing up as a woman, likes imitating the manner of man, and resisting the culture about women should be by stating:

"I hate to think I've got to grow up, and be Miss March, and wear long gowns, and look as prim as a China Aster! It's bad enough to be a girl, anyway, when I like boy's games and work and manners! I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy. And it's worse than ever now, for I'm dying to go and fight with Papa. And I can only stay home and knit, like a poky old woman!" (Alcott, 1868:6)

Jo confess that she hates growing up as a woman and frontally said that being a woman looks as prim as China aster. Jo dislikes being compared as a flower because it means women is no more than an ornament. Jo also emphasizes that she really likes things such as games, works, and behavior of men. In 1860's, the society sets the women should be at home and knitting (Kendall-Tackett,2001). Jo cannot accept it for herself. In this case, Jo confesses that she is part of transgender people who wants to be the more appropriate person as a man.

Jo is very disappointment in not being man. She feels being woman is limited by the role. She is hoping to become a very useful person to accompany her father fight on the civil war. It

proves that Jo prefers to challenge herself than do something useless. It can be said Jo also has strong desire to resist the culture for women as far.

Half a dozen jovial lads were talking about skates in another part of the room, and she longed to go and join them, for skating was one of the joys of her life. She telegraphed her wish to Meg, but the eyebrows went up so alarmingly that she dared not stir. No one came to talk to her, and one by one the group dwindled away till she was left alone. (Alcott, 1868:38)

Jo who wishes could be a man chooses a playmate of the opposite of her gender. The statement above explains even Jo only wants to get along with a bunch of men to talk about thing like ice skating sports which is her favorite sport. Margaret once again alarms Jo. Choosing a friend is an important measurement in categorizing someone is transgender or not. Jo prefer to not talking with other except the men because Jo does not want people know about her transgender. Actually, transgender people are too embarrassed when they are asked to show the actual gender identity as it would lead a person to avoid it. People will be uncomfortable to someone who was not identified with the true "identity". Therefore, in this case Jo heeds the alarm of his brother.

Transgender is a stranger identity in the community because it was in the middle of two worlds, the world of men and women. So that when a transgender reveal her true identity, consequently there are only two, which she would be accepted or rejected.

Jo also shows one of masculine traits such as keep the emotions Jo who does not like to resemble as women tries not to be angry at the person who called her as "Miss March". Jo said:

"I can't thrash Aunt March, so I suppose I shall have to bear it.' And Jo resigned herself with a sigh." (Alcott, 1868:40)

Jo never tries to make herself trapped in a hot situation that can make her to hold back emotions especially that person is her aunt, the famous Aunt March who is nag and many wants. Aunt March often calls Jo as the Josy-phine which makes her feel uncomfortable because it sounds like a girl's name. Jo is only able to let go of it.

(2) The factors that contribute to Jo's transgender

Since birth, the parents should have given an example of how one should dress, behave, to differentiate the treatment of children. Being a man

or a woman is an option that should be used as an identity in the community. These identities are indeed born from the values that are seen and understood by the public. That is why the public has its own criteria how to define the roles of man and woman.

Actually one another community groups have different criteria in defining the roles of men and women, but there is an explanation about the roles generally. For example, the men enjoy a socially dominant position in our own patriarchal society. Thus, from an early age, boys are helped to acquire a masculinity that allows them to assume and maintain that position. By the same token, girls are taught to cultivate a submissive femininity. Resulting difference in the man and woman character is then described as inborn and used to defend the existing power arrangement. Only those who accept it are normal, and only they can expect to succeed. The male social role is designed to reward masculine men, while the female social role only offers its advantages relative to feminine women. In other words, masculinity and femininity are gender roommates qualities are developed in response to social discrimination. However, once they have been developed, they justify and cement it. The masculine and feminine gender roles mutually reinforce each other and thereby perpetuate the inequality on roommates based.

Jo does not like when it should be required to look beautiful. It is proven by saying:

"I'm not! And if turning up my hair makes me one, I'll wear it in two tails till I'm twenty,' cried Jo, pulling off her net, and shaking down a chestnut mane. (Alcott, 1868:6)

This is contrary to the nature of most women always want to look beautiful in front of others. When her sister asks for her hair, Jo rejects it. Jo has no desire to grow into a woman completely, so she too lazy to even make up her hair just to look more presentable and elegant. Denying of looking beautiful is an action resists the women role in society.

When Jo and Meg are invited to the Mrs. Gardiner's party, Jo prefers to perform without using gloves by giving the reason:

"Mine are spoiled with lemonade, and I can't get any new ones, so I shall have to go without,' said Jo, who never troubled herself much about dress. (Alcott, 1868:34)

Though at that time, a pair of gloves is indicating the femininity side of a woman. A pair

of gloves is a symbol of the elegance of a woman. It is also an attribute that must be worn by a woman. If a woman does not wear it, it will lose her identity as a woman. Glove itself is a cover of the hand which has meant that woman's attitudes to be kept like a glove function (Retrieved August 10th 2012, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860s_in_fashion).

Meg is very angry with Jo by shouting:

"You must have gloves, or I won't go," cried Meg decidedly. "Gloves are more important than anything else. You can't dance without them, and if you don't I should be so mortified." "Then I'll stay still. I don't care much for company dancing. It's no fun to go sailing round. I like to fly about and cut capers." (Alcott, 1868:34)

Meg is angry to Jo because, Jo will not be able to dance without wearing gloves. Margaret is a figure of perfect woman who likes the things of a woman. It is denied by Jo who does not like dance and denies Meg's advice because she prefers to be running here and there and try a new challenge than having to manage the movements of a beautiful princess dance.

"They'll go loitering around the house, and we shall have to dodge. Meg will be absorbed and no good to me any more. Brooke will scratch up a fortune somehow, carry her off, and make a hole in the family, and I shall break my heart, and everything will be abominably uncomfortable. Oh, dear me! Why weren't we all boys, then there wouldn't be any bother." (Alcott, 1868:285)

Jo does not like the life of marriage. Though God's destiny put her into women, but Jo refuses it. Jo confesses that she is more comfortable being a man because he thought a man's life is not as complicated as women's lives. At the time growing up and beginning to fall in love with a man, then a woman shall to prepare for the future away from home and live with her husband. Kendall-Tackett said on her journal *Heart and Home: The Fascinating History of Womens Domestic Work in America* about married women, "Women at home were portrayed as idle or even parasites. At the same time, women were advised to create a haven for their husbands at home" (Kendall-Tackett, 2001). This is what makes Jo forbid Meg to marry. Jo also feels that she will lose the love of her beloved sister and give that love for her husband and children. In addition, Jo is horrified to find that her role as "the

man" will be gone replaced by the real man that is Brooke.

The figure of man is very rare in the Jo's family that is why Jo promises to herself to be a man in her family. As we know that man should provide security, comfort, and support the economy of family. Jo and her sisters aware of their father's position and feel worry about it. When Mr. March goes to war, he has just two possibilities; die on the war or return to home with no full body. Jo and her sister's concern is revealed as followed:

The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly, "We haven't got Father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of Father far away, where the fighting was. (Alcott, 1868:299)

Jo often tells herself that she is a figure of a man in his home and would protect her family from all sorts of dangers. Such feeling is arousing her passion for changing gender roles. Her promise to her father to protect the family while her father went to war so that makes Jo decide to become a transgender.

Jo clearly confesses that she is the man in the family by saying:

"[...] I'm the man of the family now Papa is away, and I shall provide the slippers, for he told me to take special care of Mother while he was gone." (Alcott, 1868:299)

It is revealing that she has a strong desire in being other gender. Jo wants to give strict protection to her family especially to her mother. It means that Jo also has the male gender role as a leader such as keeping her family safe and comfort.

Jo is very excited when she meets Laurie again. It means that Jo prefers to make friends with the opposite of her gender. It is stressed in the statement as followed:

She liked the 'Laurence boy' better than ever and took several good looks at him, so that she might describe him to the girls, for they had no brothers, very few male cousins, and boys were almost unknown creatures to them. (Alcott, 1868:299)

Jo wants to keep the memory about Laurie's physical appearance so she can retell it to her sisters clearly. It is very rare to Jo's family to see a man's figure at home. Jo unconsciously that her admiration is indicated that she shows her

transgender which is prefer to choose a partner of the opposite gender.

(3) The impacts of Jo's transgender on her and herself

Jo slowly become a more serene and relaxes in dealing with the trials of life. It is represented by giving explanation:

"I don't approve of the match, but I've made up my mind to bear it, and shall not say a word against it," said Jo solemnly. (Alcott, 1868:328)

Previously, Jo always complain with every event that happened to him. Along with the many events that path, Jo become more understanding of the conditions of herself and others. She receives her sister engagement with big hearts, despite the fact that is very difficult to release Margaret into the hands of others.

Jo finds herself and her family in bleak times. Several events happened to Jo repeatedly. There is an incident when Jo and her family gets a telegram containing the news of his father's illness. She sincerely gives her hair to exchange for money. Jo proves her effort to the family by emphasizing:

"It doesn't affect the fate of the nation, so don't wail, Beth. It will be good for my vanity, I getting too proud of my wig. It will do my brains good to have that mop taken off. My head feels deliciously light and cool, and the barber said I could soon have a curly crop, which will be boyish, becoming, and easy to keep in order. I'm satisfied, so please take the money and let's have supper." (Alcott, 1868:229)

Jo who is still very young has very kindhearted to lose her hair. Even she is able to compose herself and her family by saying that no matter her hair short because it showed identity to feel like "a man". She is not so concerned with herself and think more of how to make others around her happy. Finally, she does not cover up anymore the other side of her and prouds to be herself.

According to Brian Johnson's "Self-actualizing people have the wonderful capacity to appreciate again and again, freshly and naively, the basic goods of life, with awe, pleasure, wonder and even ecstasy, however stale these experiences may have become to others" (Ryan, Sadie, 2009)

When a person already reached the stage of self-actualization, then one of the criteria is that she became more sensitive to the surrounding environment. As a Transgender, of course Jo wants

to prove that she can also do the same thing as a non-transgender.

Josephine is very grateful when she can give what she has for the sake of others. Even if Jo has to give up part of her body, she is still willing. For example, when Jo's mother needs money to pick up her father who falls ill on the battlefield. Jo explained gently:

"I hadn't the least idea of selling my hair at first, but as I went along I kept thinking what I could do, and feeling as if I'd like to dive into some of the rich stores and help myself. In a barber's window I saw tails of hair with the prices marked, and one black tail, not so thick as mine, was forty dollars. It came to me all of a sudden that I had one thing to make money out of, and without stopping to think, I walked in, asked if they bought hair, and what they would give for mine." (Alcott, 1868:230)

Besides to her family, Jo also likes to help the poor people around her. Based on the statement above, Jo shows her generosity. Jo participates in the idea of her mother to give all breakfast at Christmas to underprivileged residents.

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CLOSING

Conclusion

Jo stated clearly that she wants to be the opposite sex. This was evidenced by her desire to assist her father to fight during a civil war in America in the 1860's. Jo is very upset when she cannot participate in the war, coupled with the burden of thinking be a woman that she thought should always wear dresses and embroidery until the old age. As a Transgender, Jo rarely wear men's clothing, except when she has to show a play. Actually, it is required to fill the vacancy figure of a man in the show being played. Jo's families often motivate her to become a completely woman, so Jo

is very excited when Jo have to portray the tough men. Jo has a dream to be able to fulfill all the needs of their families' which is a stereotypical of men as a financial provider. This is evidenced by her hardworking like working at Aunt March, her ambitions to become a famous writer who at the time was dominated by men writers and her willing to cut her hair to get the money to pick up a sick father in battle.

Second, describing the factors contribute to Jo's transgender. The biggest cause of what makes Jo being a Transgender is the absence of man's figure in home. She decide to choose as being Transgender because she and her family need husband and father's figure. She adds that she wants to fulfill the man's figure in home because there must be someone who protects the family and gives attention that becomes husband and father's duty. The next factor of Jo's transgender is Jo's dislike on women role in society. People whose transgender feel trapped in the wrong body. He or she is between two world, man and woman's world. Jo as Transgenderist does not accept the role of being woman. She really does not like things that are too feminine such as wearing gloves and putting make up on her face, so she thinks that being "man" is the best choice.

Being Transgender in Jo's cases are positive to herself and her family. Beside from revealing Jo's potential, Jo also success in providing financial of her family. She is the grater savior who gives protection much to her family. It is proven when her sister, Beth, is getting a death ill, she always makes Beth think positively to face it all. Transgender and their life are very interesting to be analyzed. Louisa May Alcott made it easy to be understood by using nice illustration in the novel.

Based on theoretical framework analysis, it can be concluded that Jo's transgender matches with the criteria of gender identity disorder. Jo's transgender here is a form of behavior and gender changing, not a mental illness. Jo is positioning herself as a man to fulfill the emptiness of man's figure in home. Supporting her acts, then she refuses all parts of the woman role. She hates that women's world is limited by the gender role. Even she also changes her name to get acceptance as being a man. She prefer to become a man that she thinks it is her true gender identity.

SUGGESTION

For next study to this novel, other researchers may be able to take Margareth to be analyzed. Of course, this journal can be used for a guide to analyze Margareth in case of her characterization or other purposes.

The research can be also done on the love story of Jo. That can use social approach.

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