

**AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLE IN LITTLE WOMEN MOVIE**



**A THESIS**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University as Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain  
Bachelor Degree in English Department*

**BY :**

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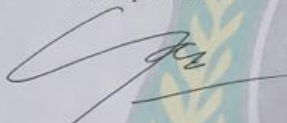
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THESIS

AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLE IN LITTLE WOMEN MOVIE

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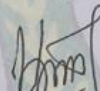
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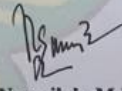
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AGREEMENT

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Nurfitra (F041191095) entitled *An Analysis of Language Style in Little Women Movie* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain *Sarjana* Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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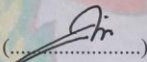
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**DECLARATION**

The thesis by Nurfitra (F041191095) entitled *An Analysis of Language Style in Little Women Movie* has been revised as advised during the examination on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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**STATEMENT LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY**

The undersigned,  
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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis entitled:

**An Analysis of Language Style in Little Women Movie**

is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials that have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references. If in the future it is proven that there is a part or all of the contents of this thesis that are plagiarized, the author is willing to accept the sanction for her action.

Makassar, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

The undersigned,



**Nurfitra**

**NIM. F041191095**

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Makassar, September 2023

Nurfitra



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## ABSTRACT

**NURFITRA.** *An Analysis of Language Style in Little Women Movie* (supervised by Prof. Dr. Abdul Hakim Yassi, M.A. and Dr. Kamsinah, M.Hum.)

The purpose of this study is to describe the types and the factors that influence language style which are used by main character in Little Women Movie. According to Joos (1976), language style is the forms of the language which the speaker uses and it depends on the degree of formality. He identified this style into five styles. Those are frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate style. Moreover, the used of language style also was influenced by several factors that can make people change his or her language style of speech, such as the setting, the participant, the topic and the purpose of the conversation. Descriptive qualitative method was selected to analyze the data. The theories that were applied in this study were Joos theory (1976) which concerns about language style, and also the theory of context from Hymes (1974) that influenced the language style of speech (SPEAKING). The result shows that there are twenty five (25) data from the conversation in the movie to perform the language styles. The collected data can be concluded that the type of style occurs dominantly in the movie is casual style. The thirty cases comprise of casual (14 cases), intimate (6 cases), consultative (3 cases), formal (2 cases) and frozen (0 case) style. This means that casual style is prominently proved to be used in communication within family relation and close friends. Moreover, the main character in Little Women movie prefer to use casual style when they communicate with others because this style is required for daily communication.

**Keywords:** *Language Style, Formal Style, Consultative Style, Casual Style, Intimate Style, Little Women movie.*

## ABSTRAK

**NURFITRA.** *Ragam Bahasa pada Film Little Movie* (dibimbing oleh Prof. Dr. Abdul Hakim Yassi, M.A. and Dr. Kamsinah, M.Hum.)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan gaya bahasa yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam film *Little Women* ini dan juga untuk menjelaskan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi gaya bahasa mereka dalam film itu. Menurut Joos (1976) gaya bicara adalah bentuk bahasa yang pembicara gunakan dan penggunaan tersebut bergantung pada tingkat formalitas. Dia mengidentifikasi gaya ini menjadi lima gaya. Mereka adalah baku atau resmi, formal, konsultatif, santai dan gaya akrab. Selain itu, penggunaan gaya bicara juga dipengaruhi oleh beberapa faktor yang dapat membuat orang mengubah atau gaya bicaranya, seperti tempat, pelaku, topik dan tujuan dari pembicaraan. Metode kualitatif deskriptif dipilih dalam menganalisis data ini. Teori-teori yang diterapkan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Joos (1976) yang menyangkut tentang gaya bahasa, dan juga teori konteks dari Hymes (1974) yang mempengaruhi gaya bicara (SPEAKING). Data yang terkumpul dapat disimpulkan bahwa jenis gaya yang dominan terjadi dalam film adalah gaya kasual. Dua puluh lima (25) kasus terdiri dari gaya kasual (14 kasus), intim (6 kasus), konsultatif (3 kasus), formal (2 kasus) dan gaya beku (0 kasus). Ini berarti bahwa gaya kasual terbukti secara jelas digunakan dalam komunikasi dalam hubungan keluarga dan teman-teman terdekat. Selain itu, karakter utama dalam film *Little Women* lebih suka menggunakan gaya santai ketika mereka berkomunikasi dengan orang lain karena gaya ini diperlukan dalam komunikasi sehari-hari.

**Kata Kunci:** *Ragam Bahasa, Ragam Resmi, Ragam Konsultatif, Ragam Kasual, Ragam Inti, film Little Women.*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, identification of problem, scope of problem, research question, objectives of the research, and significance of study.

#### **A. Background of The Study**

Language plays a vital role in our daily activities. People use language as a tool that helps people to communicate with each other. According to Lyons (1981), language are the principal communication systems used by particular groups of human beings within the spesific society of which they are members. By language, people can get communication through delivering and receive information such as transfer ideas from a person to others. It means language has a big impact on humans in understanding communication.

Language cannot be separated from society because we always use language in our activities. In linguistic the relation between language and society is called sociolinguistics. It is supported by Trioktaviani (2019) who stated that the language style is one of the categories in language variety and language variety is one of the topics discussed in sociolinguistics.

However, language is a complex, it is not enough just to know the meaning of the sentences uttered. We must pay attention on the context of situation, is that a formal and informal, who will be the audience? What

topic that will be talked? What is the purpose of our talking? One of the assumptions to maintain the conversation is keep going on language style.

As stated by Joos, language has five style, they are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. Every language style has different characteristic. Language style used in different a situation. It can be characteristic in the situation itself. Besides, this study not only applies the theory of language style by Joss, but also the theory of speech event by Hymes as contexts for supporting the main character in using the language style. According to Hymes (1972 in Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 247) speech event has added eight contexts which use the word “SPEAKING” as an acronym that is relevant for communicating. It means; setting and scene, participant, ends, act sequence, key, instrumentalities, norms of interaction and interpretation, and genre.

Language style can be found anywhere, in newspapers, in advertisement, in magazines, and also in literary works. Movie is one of the literary work. It is a story or series of events recorded by a camera and shown as moving pictures on a screen in a theater or television. In identifying language style, the researchers uses movie as her source of data.

The researcher selected language style as the research focus because some people realize that by seeing someone’s language style, particularly on the types of language style that they usually use, it shows their character and mind indirectly. Besides, language style is closely related to society. Each individual certainly has a language style in certain situations and

conditions. When people communicate each other, they should pay attention to the language style they used.

Language is not only used by society in the real life to do their importance, but also to have some entertainment. Language is applied in many forms, such as drama, poetry, novel, movie, article, etc. In this study, movie is chosen as the object of the research as there are many uses of language found in it. Occasionally, we can see the relationship of language and society in the movie which reflects the real life condition.

The researcher intends to conduct the research about language style in the “Little Women” movie. This movie portrays love, family, and dreams which are relevant to everyday life. This movie is interesting and inspiring to watch because it tells about the March sisters, four young women, who have their dreams and are determined to live their life on their terms and also support and care for each other. The movie also portrays women personalities that are different from each other, which can be seen through their actions and words.

## **B. Identification of The Problems**

Based on the background above, the writer identifies some problems that occur in his research, those are:

1. There are difficulties in to classify and identify certain language style.



2. A person have a certain way of thinking and behaving that surely affect how they speak. Furthermore, after there are many kinds of aspects, it is influence the language style.

### **C. Scope of The Problems**

The writer analyzes the language style used by the main character, Joo in Little Women movie. To limit the analysis the writer will only focus on discussing and research about the types of language styles used by the main character, also the influencing aspects of these language style.

### **D. Research Questions**

From the previous explanation, the writer discusses some problems stated below:

1. What kinds of language styles are used by the main character in Little Women Movie?
2. What are the factors that influence language style which used in Little Women movie?

### **E. Objectives of The Study**

The purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the language style that is used by the main character in Little Women Movie

2. To find out the factors that influence language style used in Little Women Movie.

#### **F. Significance of the Study**

The significance of this research is viewed through theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the researcher hopes that this research can contribute to linguistics, especially for sociolinguistics that focuses on language style. The researcher also hopes that this research can give a new reference for English Department students who are interested in conducting further research on language styles and their use in some different conditions. Practically, this research hopefully has some benefit for all students, especially at English Department students who are interested in sociolinguistics and be able to apply their knowledge and comprehend language style in the appropriate daily conversation, especially in formal situation and in several different conditions.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. Previous Studies

This study was conducted by reviewing some relevant thesis concerned with language style in the movie, as follows :

1. Muhammad Darryl Ivan (2020), wrote a thesis entitled “An Analysis of The Five Language Style Found in Lean on Me Movie”. His analysis is based on the five language styles using Martin Joos’s theory. He used a qualitative descriptive approach. In his thesis there are fifty four (54) data from 39 scene in the movie to show the language styles. And after doing this research, the result can be concluded that the types of the style occurs dominantly in the movie is casual style which represents 24 cases (44%), next followed by formal style is 18 cases (33%), consultative style is 7 cases (13%), intimate style is 3 cases( 6%), and frozen style is 2 case (4%).
2. Rizka Aprilia (2021), wrote a thesis entitled “An Analysis of Language Style in The Ron Clark Story Movie”. The purpose of her research is to know about types of language style that used by main character in The Ron Clark Story Movie through watching movie and reading script. It uses a used qualitative research to analysis the subject, because her research will find the language style in main character of The Ron Clark Story Movie. Her research used theory by Martin Joos. Besides that, in

her research did not find all of language style. It found four language style; formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style.

The result shows that there are 157 data from main character The Ron Clark Story Movie to perform the language style. The collected data can be concluded that the dominant of language style occur in casual style. The details of language style in The Ron Clark Story Movie are 89 data or 56.7 % casual style. The second is consultative style, there are 49 data or 31.2 %. The third is formal style, there are 14 data or 8.9 %. And the last is intimate style, there are 5 data or 3.2 %.

3. Dinda Dwi Maharani (2019), wrote a thesis entitled “A Sociolinguistics Analysis of Language Style in Wild Child Movie”. Her research is aimed to analyze language style used by all characters in “Wild Child” movie. The analysis was based on the five language styles proposed in Martin Joos’s theory. The researcher used qualitative method in which the data was collected by watching the movie then finding out the conversation that contains language style. The data in this research were taken from the dialogue of the movie that was transcribed into textual form. The researcher only focuses on conversation containing those 5 types of language style. Later on, the researcher classified them based on the types of language style that were found on the movie, then finding the dominant type of language style. This research obtained two conclusions. The first, the researcher found four types from five types of language style. The second, from those four types, casual style was

the dominant type, while frozen style was not found in “Wild Child” movie, for more detail as follows: formal style contains 65 data, consultative style contains 61 data, casual style contains 97 data, and intimate style contains 21 data. It can be concluded from the use of language style; the dominant type of language style is casual style that consisted of 97 data.

4. Iren Yswara Sipahutar (2018), wrote a thesis entitled “Language Styles in Love Rosie Movie: A Sociolinguistics Analysis”. The analysis is based on the five language styles using Martin Joos’s theory. The method used in analyzing is a qualitative descriptive method. In this thesis there are thirty nine (39) data from the conversation in the movie to show the language styles. And after doing this research, the result can be concluded that the types of the style occurs dominantly in the movie is intimate style which represents 23 cases (59%), next followed by casual style is 11 cases (28%), formal style is 3 cases (8%), consultative style is 2 cases (5%), and frozen style is 0 case (0%).

This research is considered being different with the previous study because the researcher uses different object and problem. The objectives of the study is to find the language styles that implemented in “Little Women” movie and find out the factors that influence language style used in Little Women Movie.

## **B. Theoretical Background**

## **1. Sociolinguistics**

Sociolinguistic is the study of the speech function according to the speaker, the hearer, their relationship and contact, the context and the situation. It is concerned with the function of language. Sociolinguistic is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and of how language of function in communication.

Sociolinguistics is an important study on how to use the language in society with different culture, gender, status, and social background. As stated by Holmes “sociolinguistics study the relationship between language and society” (Holmes, 1992:1). Sociolinguistics deals with the existence of social factors that have a role in influencing and determining the various linguistic forms used by a speaker.

Sociolinguistic is the part of linguistic which concerned with languages, social and cultural phenomenon. Here, people know how and why does language change, when and why people in different communities use language varieties and political educational aspect of the relationship between language and society. It is obvious that the relationship between language and society can be seen in relation of certain language from such a variation, styles of language, or dialect in its application of society.

Sociolinguistic deals with the relation between a language and the people who use it. The study of context leads the analysis of situation types and of the uses of language. For example, in our educational activities, we

normally use a formal style, in our daily activities or when we talk with our friends, we use casual style and in our daily business activities, we use consultative style, frozen for real formal and ultimate for most casual style.

## **2. Language Style**

Language is not only media to communicate each other, but it is important study to establish and maintain relationships with other people. In language, there is language style as knowledge in linguistics. Ducrot and Todorov (1993:44), says that Language style is the choice among the other alternative in using language. It refers to the way to convey the same information by using different expression and related different variations of language that are used in different situation and needs. It means language style can use to communicate in society that the different way it is depending on the situation and needs.

Language contains a great deal of society. People in society can be successful in their sociality if they can make a good deal with their speaking to others. But it also can be complicated if they make mistakes in it. So, people have to pay attention to certain aspect of language variation of styles of language to achieve successful and fluent communication. People can make a great achievement with the style of language they use. But they also can make a big mess when they use language at random things. The users of language should know the rules to talk with one another to make a good communication in society to make a good relationship.



Language style is used in a conversation among people with their colleagues in the office will be different from people and their colleagues in the mall and it will be in different way people talk to a younger siblings at home over the breakfast table to talk to a public a figure people meet at a ceremonial dinner. It has each way to talk. People will use different variety of languages in different situation and people also consider with whom people talk to. It is impossible for us to talk in the same way in different situation and different person.

Wardhaugh (2006:51) also stated that people may try to relate the level of formality chosen to variety of factors: the kind of occasions; the various social, age, and other differences that exist between the participants; the particular task that is involved, e.g., writing or speaking; the emotional involvement of one or more of the participants; and so on. It could be argued that the level of formality in language variation (style) in communication is also influenced by the level of social diversity, age, and anything else that related to the speakers.

Language style can make people know how to identify a person based on the language they used. People will know a person is a polite or impolite person when they talk to someone who is older or having a higher position than him or her. People also will know the characteristics of a person based on a variety of language someone uses in a situation. Such as like what Wardhaugh (2006:7) discusses about how many different ways people can ask someone to open a window or seek

permission to open the window yourself because the room you are in is too warm. People have to choose one of many variants way to talk with others.

Salzman (1998:167) stated that, “the way individuals speak varies not only according to their regional and social dialect but also according to the context. The distinctive manner in which people express themselves in a particular situation is referred as style”. In accordance with explanations above, they can be concluded about of language style is the variation of language in which using in different situations or context. The style of language is used differently depending on the context in terms of subject matter, the audiences, the mode of discourse, and the formality of the occasion.

### **3. Types of Language Style**

#### **1) Frozen Style (Oratorical Style)**

It is the most formal style used in formal situations and ceremonies such as in palace, church, speech of state ceremony, and some other occasions such as in palace, church, speech of state ceremony, and some other occasions. This style is more elaborated than the other styles. The sequences of the sentence are complicatedly related this style requires high skill and almost used exclusively by specialist, professional orators, lawyers, and preachers.

## **2) Formal Style (Deliberative Style)**

Formal style is defined as the style of language that used for important or serious situation. It is also used in addressing audience usually that is too large or permit effective interchange between speaker hearers. Through the forms are normally and not a polished as those in oratorical style such in a typical classroom lecture is often carry out is formal style.

Formal style is usually a single topic oriented and it is related to the fact, that formal writing is technical. Formal style used in school by students, teacher, lecturer, headmaster.

Example:

1. Mr. Roy: Do you want to learn this course?

Ellla: Yes Sir, I want to learn it.

2. Mrs. Wanda: would you like to have a sit first before you deliver your speech?.

3. I would like to introduce myself to you.

## **3) Consultative Style**

Consultative style or business style is usually used in semi-formal situation. Consultative style is typically a dialogue though formal enough that words are chosen with some care. It is using the transaction, information exchange, and process. This style also used in such conversations as seller-buyer conversation, doctor-patient conversation, teaching and learning process, and small

group discussion. Consultative is the language style open to give and take of everyday conversation discussed so far. We make routine request. Here, both participants are active in case when one is speaking, the other will give short responses, such yes, no, that's right, I think so

Example:

Doctor: "Do you feel better after that?"

Patient: "I think so"

#### **4) Casual Style**

Casual style is a style that is used for the conversation is relaxed or normal situation that is appropriate to the conversation with our friends or sometimes members of a family, such as outside the classroom, when the students have a chat.

The characteristic of casual style uses first name or even nickname rather than a little name and last name in addressing one another. The pronunciation is rapid and often spoke unclearly and uses slang word. It is a main a pointing out of an in-group relationship. Omission of unstressed words is the characteristic of casual style.

Casual style is also simply defined as a style that is used for the conversation in our relaxed situation that is appropriate for the conversation with our family, friend with the background

information so freely inserted into casual conversation. For example:

what's up?

Need help?

Anybody home?

Take it

### **5) Intimate Style**

Joos in his book "Five Clocks" states that an intimate style is one characterized by complete absence of social inhibitions. Talk with family, beloved ones, and very close friends, where you tend to reveal your inner self, it is usually in an intimate style.

The word that generally signal intimacy such as, "dear", "darling", and even "honey" or "hon" might be used in this situation. On the other names, nicknames might regularly prove embarrassing to hearer as well as speakers outside of intimate situations.

This language can identified by the use of incomplete language, short words, and usually with unclear articulation. This because between participants already understood each other. This style is characterize by what joos calls "extraction," (Broderic 1967). In this style, intonation is important than wording or grammar. The speaker sometimes use private vocabulary. As joos explain style is characterized by a stable list of words with private

meanings shared only by a small group usually in a pair, in family situation. The reason for using intimate style are to express feeling between the speakers, to express intimate phenomena. By using intimate style, the most informal atmosphere can be produced, and automatically skip the distance and create comfortable communication.

The example of intimate style:

“You have to believe me, Dear”,

“Just try to be brave as your father boy”,

“Sweetie, the choice is yours”

#### **4. Hymes SPEAKING Concept**

According to Hymes, a speech situation can only be understood if not only linguistic, but also other aspects are taken into consideration, such as: the setting of the communication, its goals, and the information about the participants. In order to reflect all these factors and help speech act analysis, Hymes coined the following acronym: SPEAKING. Below is the explanation of how to decode it

##### **1) (S) Setting and Scene**

Setting refers to the time and place where the speech takes place. Scene refers to the situation of place and time or the psychological situation of the conversation. Different times, places, and speech situations can lead to the use of different

variations of language, for example speaking on a football field when there is a match in a crowded situation is certainly different from talking in a library room when people are reading a lot and in silence.

## **2) (P) Participant**

Participant or persons involved in speech event refer to a wide range of elements between speakers and listener, senders and receiver, addresser and addressee etc. In a speech event the role of the speaker can be changed as listener and vice versa, while in the position preacher his position can not be changed because it is monologue. Social variables, education, age, etc. who engage in utterance or participation is crucial to the use or choice of languages.

## **3) (E) Ends**

Ends is the results or goals that will be achieved by the participants in a communication event. Ends are the targets to be addressed in a speech. Called ends because it is the final goal targeted from a speech. Like the efforts of children to obtain permission parents to go out of the house then the need for an language strategy to desire or goal can be achieved. The inappropriate use of language will keep the speaker away from achieving his goals.

## **4) (A) Act Sequence**



Act sequence refers to the stages in acting on a speech and in it also concerns the form and content of the conversation expressed in the event of the utterance. The form and content of speech in public lectures, in ordinary conversation, and at parties are different.

**5) (K) Key**

Key is the fifth factor that includes the tone, nature or spirit that underlines the mandate to be delivered. The tone in this key is intended to be the intonation of a conversation such as communication with a slow pattern or quickly or in a hurry. Tone also refers to high or low intonation. While the spirit associated with the psychological condition of participants involved whether in a relaxed or rigid circumstances. Hymes classifies this fifth step as the key because the tone or the nature behind the utterance becomes a key in a speech and a major factor in the success of a conversation.

**6) (I) Instrumentalist**

The instrumentalist is a communication tool or channel used in a communication such as face to face communications with participants using oral or verbal communication but is remotely telephoned or by letter medium, Short Message Service (SMS) or other channels.

**7) (N) Norms**

Norms or rules include two norms of interaction i.e. rules of interaction and norm of interpretation is the rule in interpreting. This rule is closely related to the participant's behavioral norms. In a conversation there are rules that must be obeyed. There is an unwritten but general norm or ethic that are also institutionalized rules of speech as in the boarding school and the palace. An Islamic student in a particular boarding school in communicating is considered impolite if when communicating with kyai see the face of the kyai directly. This view is certainly different with the western society, any person whatever his position if in a communication it is considered rude or even considered underestimate if when speaking does not see directly to the participant. Similarly, in the palace, a servant should not speak directly face to face with a King. In the general public the rules in communicating are not as strict as those in the two environments. Nevertheless, there is still a rule like cutting off a conversation is an act that is not polite or directly criticize the speaker and certain things is also a less polite action. Thus the norm in this sense refers to the rules that apply to each place.

#### **8) (G) Genre**

Genre is a model or categories of a conversation contents or variety refers to the variety of languages used. In a speech event there are several choices of use categories of the mandate to be

conveyed, whether shaped, poetry, chanting, pantun, proverb, tale, prayer, motivation, advice, learning or information.

## **5. Little Women Movie**

Little Women is a 2019 American film directed by Greta Gerwig. This film is adapted from Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel of the same name. The film represents the original themes of the novel; morality, family, marriage, and dreams. This film was first released in United States on December 25, 2019, distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing. Little Women film received numerous awards and nominations. The film received six nominations at the 92nd Academy Awards and winning for Best Costume Design, nine nominations at the 25th Critics' Choice Awards and winning for Best Adapted Screenplay, five nominations at the 73rd British Academy Film Awards, and also received two nominations at the 77th Golden Globe Awards and the film was chosen as one of the top ten films of the year by American Film Institute (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org>).

The film portrays family, dreams, sacrifice, and love, which are relevant to real life. The movie tells about March sisters, four young women, who have their dreams and are determined to live their life on their terms but still support and care for each other. They are Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. They are always together from childhood until when they have grown up, they decide to leave home to reach their dreams.

However, even though they are siblings but they have different personalities. Jo, the second sister, becomes the center among those main characters in the film. She always prioritizes her family; she always puts her sisters first before she could focus on herself. When she has become a teacher in New York and tried to achieve her dreams to be a writer, she gets a letter from her mother, Marmee, that Beth's health is getting worse, so Jo decided to go home to Concord, a town in Massachusetts, for taking care of her third sister. In the end, Beth passed away. Jo becomes so lonely because all her sisters have gone. Meg and Amy have married while Beth has died. Then, Jo decides to write a novel based on the lives of her and her sisters. She starts writing all night and into the next days until her book is finally published.