

## ABSTRACT

**Dini, Sheta Medya.** 2012. *Women's Struggle for Duty and Career During American Civil War Era as Reflected in Louisa May Alcott's Novel Little Women*. Final Project. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts, Semarang State University. First Advisor: Henrikus Joko Yulianto, S.S., M.Hum. Second Advisor: Galuh kirana, S.S., M.Pd.

**Keywords: women's struggle, duty, career, American Civil War Movement**

This study was purposed to analyze the women's struggle for duty and career during American Civil era as found in the Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women*. I employed the novel *Little Women* as the object of the study. This final project had three problems to be explored, those are: (1) what stereotype roles does the main character in the novel experience? (2) what is the difference in women's life before and after the American Civil War in the novel? (3) how does the main character show her efforts in carrying out her duty and achieving her career? This study was a qualitative study with feminism and sociological approaches as the theories. The data were gathered by reading, identifying, inventorying, classifying, simplifying, and selecting techniques. The data were also analyzed by using the techniques of exposing, explaining, interpreting, and inferring.

This study results in several findings. First, the main character experienced several kinds of stereotypes roles. She experienced four dimensions of Gender Stereotypes. They are traits, role behaviors', physical characteristics, and occupations. Second, before the American Civil war women's lives seemed like to be left behind. Whereas after the American Civil War, women's lives has shown many progress. Third, the main character or Jo's character really showed her efforts in carrying out her duty and achieving her career by balancing those two jobs.

On the basis of the conclusion, several suggestions could be offered. First, I suggest to those who are interested in this novel to analyze it by using other approaches. Second, I also suggest to those who are interested in this research to analyze the problem in the novel by using men's point of view.