

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Every people in this world has their own experience in their life, whether bad or good life experience. Some of the people want to share their experience to others, can be by oral or written communication. They write it as literary work, for example in the form of novel, autobiography or memoir. They do that because they want their story always be remember by themselves as a writer and people who read it. Writing a novel or autobiography is a part of literature, because according to Krystal (2016) literature is not only what is written but what is voiced, what is expressed, what is invented in whatever form. Based on that staement, literature is the things that used by human to shows about their imagination, experience and all the tings that they have been done in their life. They show that in a form of voice and also written word. Literature also is a writing in which expression and form, in connection with ideas of permanent and universal interest are characteristic or essential features, as poetry, novels, history, biography and essays.

According to Nordquist (2016) in www.thought.com, Autobiography is a style of writing that has been around nearly as long as history has been recorded. An autobiography also is an account of a person's life written or otherwise recorded by that person. The term *fictional autobiography* refers to novels that employ first-person narrators who recount the events of their lives as if they actually happened. Bates (1937) defines autobiography as a narrative of the past of a

person by the person concerned. Most autobiographies are written from the first person singular perspective. It is usually a story that tells about self, and it is not only about writers. Also, autobiography speaks, not only about writers but also about their experience.

“The value of an autobiography depends ultimately on the quality of spirit of the writer. Good autobiography represents a new of stage self-knowledge and a new formulation of responsibility towards the self; it involves mental exploration and change of attitude.” (Pascal in Nagaiah 2015,p.3)

Based on the statement above, an autobiography depends on how the author brings his/herself in the writing. Self knowledge is described as the ideas of who they are then it reveals their personality traits into the writing. For example, in the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott talks about a character Jo who had a bit hot temper in her personality. Then she wanted to handle her temper by asking an advice to Mrs. March. This is counted as responsibility towards herself.

The author writes his or her biography into novel to share events that occurred in their lifetime, and also they help future generations relate to those events by explaining their effects on the lives of those who lived through them. Louisa May Alcott wrote a story about the unwavering bond of family, coupled with growth and sacrifice, this coming of age series became a guide book for little girls for generations to come. Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania November 29, 1832, she is the second daughter in Alcott's family. She is an American novelist, widely appreciated for timeless classic novel *Little Women*. A great success of *Little Women* gave Alcott financial independence and created a demand for more books. Over the final years of life, she turned out a steady

stream novels and short stories, mostly for young people and drawn directly from her family life. The writer chooses this novel because it is Alcott's a best-selling novelist of the late 1800s, and many of her works, most notably *Little Women*, remain popular today. Louisa May Alcott had been publishing poems, short stories, thrillers, and juvenile tales since 1851, under the pen name Flora Fairfield. In 1862, she also adopted the pen name A.M. Barnard, and some of her melodramas were produce on Boston stages. Louisa May Alcott died in 1888.

Little Women is a novel based on true story from Alcott's life. It was about her journey in facing her life to achieve her dream. She was a spirited girl in her childhood who wants to become a successful writer. She vowed to be rich, famous and happy. In this story, Alcott and her three sisters Anna Bronson Alcott, Elizabeth Alcott, Abigail May Alcott are living with her mother and her father, Bronson Alcott. As four girls grow older, each of them faces her own personal demons and moral challenges. Louisa, especially who has a dream to be a writer, keep reaching her dream by making stories or even short stories through her journal.

In this paper the writer would like to analyze the autobiography inside of the literary work. The story in novel based on true experience of the author. The writer chooses one of best seller novel from Louisa May Alcott entitled *Little Women*. This novel tells about March family that consist of Marmee, and her three daughters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Meg who is the eldest daughter in family. The second daughter, Jo who always cheerful, a bit tempered and likes to write. Beth, the third daughter who loves music and plays piano. The childish and spoiled girl named Amy. She is the youngest daughter in family. Their father was away as a

chaplain because he is at civil war. These 4 sisters befriended with a new neighbour named Laurie. They experience good and bad times in their adolescent life, their relationship with one another also their dream in the future.

From explanation above the writer decides to analyze Louisa May Alcott's life portrayal in *Little Women* novel to give information and describe about Louisa May Alcott's adolescent life consist of her family, nursing her sister, her temper also her hobby and her dream to be a writer. This is important to discuss because in literature, we as the reader not only read novel as it is but the reader have to know deeper about the situation or condition what is really occurred in the novel like social condition, or the story behind it that described by the writer.

1.2 Research Question

Reffering to the background, the writer formulate the problem as follow:

How is Alcott's life portrayed as the main character in *Little Women*?

1.3 Research Objective

To reveal Alcott's life portrayed as the main character in *Little Women*?

1.4 Uses of Study

1.4.1 Theoretical uses

Theoretically, the use of this research provides some information for the readers about autobiography of the author in literary study especially in analyzing a research. The writer expects this research able to enrich and deepen

comprehension of the readers who are interested in discussing about autobiography of the author in *Little Women* novel.

1.4.2 Practical uses

The writer would like to deliver this research as the contribution to the readers who need information about autobiography of the author that portrayed in the novel. The analysis gives contribution of knowledge for the writer and readers who wants to know about autobiography of the author as reflected in her or his literary work.

1.5 Scope of Study

The study give the limitation of the study which is focused on the story and the correlation between the story of the author's life as seen in the character of Jo in *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. The writer uses Women Autobiography from Jelinek (1986).