

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents and elaborates the methodology used in this research to answer the research question. It comprises research design, the data and source of data, data collection, data analysis, and synopsis of the data.

3.1 Research Design

This study uses a qualitative approach in attempt to analyze the construction of Laurie in two different versions of *Little Women* films. Champbell (2014) asserted that a qualitative research as a method to collect an open-ended and emerging data to develop the topics. It means that a qualitative research does not rely on numerical and statistical analysis to measure the data. As said by Gerring (2017), qualitative method focuses on particular individuals, events, and contexts which are expressed in natural language. In other words, qualitative is a method of descriptive research for highlighting the process, meaning, and in-depth understanding from a phenomenon that cannot be conveyed by numbers. Further, Havel and Grootel (2019) also claimed that the preliminary data in qualitative research is delivered by language both written or spoken, including pictures to identify an understanding in certain phenomena. This study revolves around Laurie character to find out how the character is built; thus, this study is descriptive in nature. Therefore, a descriptive qualitative approach is suitable method for this study because the study relies on collecting and analyzing particular scenes involving Laurie in *Little Women* films in attempt to answer the research question.

3.2 Data Source

The data were taken from two different versions of *Little Women* film. The first one is *Little Women* (1994) directed by Gillian Armstrong. This film was released by the production company DiNovi Pictures with a duration of 1 hour 59 minutes. This film was quite successful by winning several award categories such as Best Original Score for BMI Film Music Award in 1995, it also got four awards for Best Actress category, won the Best Movie for Families for MovieGuide

Awards, and Best Costume Design for BAFTA Awards in the same year. The second film is *Little Women* (2019), directed by Greta Gerwig with 2 hours 15 minutes duration. This film involves more than one producer, namely Amy Pascal, Denise DiNovi, Robin Swicord by Columbia Pictures, Regency Enterprises, and Pascal Pictures production. The success of this film also makes this film won several awards from the release years until the present. There are Movie of the Year category for AFI Awards, Best Woman Screenwriter category for Alliance of Women Film Journalist, three awards for Best Adapted Screenplay category, nine awards for Best Costume Design category, and eleven awards for Best Supporting Actress category, and so on.

The data are in the form of particular scenes which involve Laurie, Laurie's interaction with the girls, and particular scenes related to Laurie in the same events from the two version of films.

3.3 Synopsis of the Film

Little Women is a film adaptation based on novel written by Louisa May Alcott with the same title. The story tells a life of four sisters in March family (Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth) and their mother who live in an American town while their father is serving in the American civil war. Later, they find out about their wealthy neighbor, Mr. Laurence, and his grandson Laurie. The two families then are getting close, especially Jo March and Laurie who are getting along really well. Jo March does not realize that Laurie has feeling for her.

Afterwards, it comes the moment when Laurie confesses his feeling to Jo March. Laurie says he loves Jo, but he is rejected. Jo March considers their relationship is good as friends and she does not want to get married to Laurie. In both films, Laurie finally marry Amy.

3.4 Data Collection and Analysis

According to Gill, Stewart, Treasure, et. Al. (2008), the method of data collecting in qualitative research consist of observation, textual or visual analysis, and interviews. The data collection in this study use textual or visual analysis in



which the data are collected by taking screenshots of particular scenes in film. The steps in collecting the data were as follows:

1. Watch the two version of films several times and take notes on Laurie's appearance.
2. Segment the plot of the two films. Each film is divided into scenes to see the pattern of the film.
3. Take screenshots on particular scenes from the same events in film which contains Laurie's interactions with the girls' character, the dialogue related to Laurie, and some events which also related to the characterization of Laurie in both films.
4. Analyze the screenshots data using the theory of film by Bordwell and Thompson (2008), the theory of characterization in film by Boggs and Petrie (2012), and theory of masculinity by Connell (2006). Take a note on Laurie's characterization through his actions, appearances, dialogues, et cetera. to categorize the data into the categories of the characterization's framework. Afterwards, describe the categorized data that showcases Laurie's masculinity in the plot. For example, in the category masculinity through external action, the plot description focuses on the character's action. After that, the film elements are used to emphasized the depiction of masculinity in Laurie's character.
5. Interpret the construction of Laurie character on the two different *Little Women* films.

3.5 Data Presentation

Table 3.1 Research Analysis

<i>Little Women</i> (1994)	<i>Little Women</i> (2019)
The encounter with Amy in Paris	

	
01:24:54	00:07:38
Plot Description	
This is a shot of Laurie when he finds Amy doing her painting in Paris. He is with the girls on his sides before leaving them to approach Amy. Laurie is sneaking closer to Amy and pinching Amy's nose to surprise her. Then, they look excited when they see each other.	This is the first appearance of Laurie on the film. In this shot, Amy finds him walking alone in the opposite direction. They both are in Paris and Amy just finished her painting session. Laurie turns his head around when Amy shouts out his name. They are really excited to see each other so that they are hugging.
Setting	
A bright shiny afternoon in summer, in garden with flowers. Props: cigarettes.	In autumn, on the street.
Costume and Make-up	
Black suit, white shirt, grey waistcoat and black trousers.	All grey color in his costume, from the waistcoat, suit, long coat, and trousers. Also a red shawl.
Shots and Angle	
A long shot that shows the garden then switch to medium long shot in Laurie's appearance, and then to medium close-up with straight-on angle.	Laurie is shot with long shot at first, then switch to medium shot with straight on angle and widescreen framing.

As shown in the table, Laurie in both *Little Women* films is depicted quite differently. The two shots show that Laurie in *Little Women* (1994) is more sociable

than in *Little Women* (2019). It can be seen through the *mise-en-scene* and camera work. The two shots are taken in different tone. The former version uses warmer tone than the latter. Besides, the setting of garden with flowers suggests a warm atmosphere which is amplified with Laurie's easy-goingness and laughter. Laurie is portrayed as a gentleman with impeccable dress, long and ruffled hair, and happy demeanor. The shot is taken from medium to long shot to show Laurie enjoys the outing and his surroundings.

In contrast, Laurie in *Little Women* (2019) seems like a more aloof person. In this scene, Amy asks where is Mr. Laurence and Laurie says, "in Germany, He is travelling. I'm travelling on my own now. Just relaxing.", then when Amy gives another question, "Are you chasing some young girl across Europe?" Laurie curtly answers, "No.". Besides that, this version uses cooler tone by take the busy street in Autumn as the setting, which defines Laurie's indifferent among the crowds. Besides indicates Laurie's social status, the choice of his costume in grey also shows Laurie as introverted cool guy. Thereafter, the shot from long to medium shot is taken to clarify Laurie's solitudes in the busy street.

In short, Laurie in *Little Women* (1994) seems to indicate hegemonic with cigarettes in his hand and his popularity among girls in that place. Meanwhile, Laurie in *Little Women* (2019) does not seem to gain the hegemonic practices. The way Laurie in *Little Women* (2019) treats and talks to Amy seems to show that there is no significant gap in gender role between them.