

ABSTRACT

SUHENDRO, OLIVIA CHRISTINE. **Stereotype of an Ideal Woman as Challenged through Polly Milton's Characteristics in Louisa May Alcott's *An Old-Fashioned Girl*.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2016.

An Old-Fashioned girl (1869) is Louisa May Alcott's literary work that represents the life of Polly Milton. The novel tells the readers about Polly Milton's effort as a country girl in challenging the stereotype of an ideal woman in the city. She visits her friend in the city but she does not know that the city is a fashioned city which is so contradictory to her modest style.

In order to challenge the stereotype of an ideal woman in Louisa May Alcott's novel, *An Old-Fashioned Girl*, two problems are formulated. The first is how the characteristics of Polly Milton are described in the novel. The second is how Polly Milton challenges that stereotype in the novel.

The writer applied Feminist approach to answer those problems above, along with the theory of character and characterization, theory of stereotype, and theory of ideal women. Meanwhile, a library research is used as the method of this study.

The result of all the analysis after answering those two problem formulated problems shows that Polly Milton's characteristics can be seen from her personal description, others' opinion, her own speech, conversation of others, author's comments, and author's thoughts. From those ways of character analysis, the reader can see that Polly is a shy and modesty fashioned girl. Also, she is a strong, mature, cheerful, responsible, caring, and well educated person. Polly finally realizes that her characters do not match with the stereotype in the fashionable city. In that city, glamorous things become very important for women of nobles. In defending her principles, Polly challenged the stereotype in a fashioned city.

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An Old-Fashioned Girl (1869) adalah sebuah hasil karya dari Louisa May Alcott yang menggambarkan kehidupan Polly Milton. Novel ini bercerita kepada pembaca tentang perjuangan Polly Milton menantang stereotip di kota. Dia mengunjungi temannya di kota, tetapi dia tidak mengetahui bahwa kota yang dia kunjungi adalah kota mode yang sangat bertolakbelakang dengan gayanya yang sederhana.

Dalam rangka menemukan tantangan stereotip di novel Louisa May Alcott yang berjudul *An Old-Fashioned Girl*, dirumuskanlah dua buah permasalahan. Pertama adalah bagaimana karakter Polly Milton dideskripsikan di dalam novel. Kedua adalah bagaimana Polly Milton menantang stereotip yang ada di novel.

Penulis mengaplikasikan pendekatan feminism untuk menjawab rumusan permasalahan di atas, bersama teori tokoh dan penokohan, teori stereotip, dan teori wanita ideal. Sementara itu, metode yang digunakan adalah studi pustaka.

Hasil dari analisis yang penulis lakukan untuk menjawab kedua rumusan permasalahan menunjukkan bahwa karakter Polly Milton dapat terlihat dari deskripsi pribadi, pendapat orang lain, pola perkataannya, percakapan dengan orang, komentar penulis, dan pikiran penulis. Dari cara analisis karakter itu, pembaca dapat melihat bahwa Polly adalah anak perempuan yang pemalu dan sederhana dalam berpakaian. Juga, dia adalah seorang yang kuat, dewasa, ceria, bertanggung jawab, peduli, dan berpendidikan cukup. Polly akhirnya menyadari bahwa karakternya tidak cocok dengan stereotip di kota mode. Di kota itu, hal glamor menjadi ikon penting bagi para wanita bangsawan. Dalam mempertahankan prinsipnya, Polly menantang stereotip yang ada di kota mode.