

**FATHERLESS DAUGHTER: ANALYZING FEMALE MASCULINITY IN**

***LITTLE WOMEN (2019) AND YUNI (2021)***

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Department



By

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**YOGYAKARTA**

**2024**

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*Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb*

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kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

*Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb*

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Yogyakarta, 12 January 2024  
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## **MOTTO**

*“Semoga seikhlas langit”*



## **DEDICATION**

I want to express gratitude and thankfulness to Allah SWT.

I am deeply grateful to my dearest Bapak and Ibu for always accepting me in every condition.

I want to thank my brothers, who have always helped me provide for my education financially.

I greatly appreciate Pak Danial, who has helped me a lot. Thank you for constantly reminding me that everybody has their own time.

I would also like to thank myself for always trying to make myself feel enough. I want to remind myself to always remember that I am capable, great, and loved. I should not overthink too much; I should do things mindfully and let Allah decide.

Lastly, I would like to thank a special guy who always shows me so much love and helps me survive mentally and academically. Thank you for help me grow<3

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## VALIDATION



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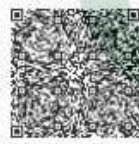
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## FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I hereby submit my graduating paper, entitled *Fatherless Daughter: Analyzing Female Masculinity in Little Women (2019) and Yuni (2021)* I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards. This graduating paper is also part of a research that I wrote entitled: *Father Absence and Female Masculinity in Little Women (2019) and Yuni (2021)*.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The researcher intends to express gratitude for all the things that resulted in completing the graduation paper. Furthermore, the researcher extends heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to everyone helpful and supportive of the researcher's efforts to create this graduation paper. Those are:

1. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wildan, as the Dekan of Faculty of Adab and Cultural science of UIN Sunan Kalijaga, thank you so much for giving the researcher the best opportunity to learn in this department.
2. Mrs. Ulyati Retno Sari, M.Hum., as the head office of English Department, thank you very much for educating me on many things regarding life and for your counsel during my studies.
3. Mrs. Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari S.S., MA as the secretary of English Department, thank you so much for helping me a lot.
4. Dr. Danial Hidayatullah, S.S., M.Hum as my research advisor, thank you so much for calming me whenever I am in a rush, frustrated, and overthinking. I will always remember you as a great mentor.
5. All lecturers in English Department, that I cannot mention their name one by one. Thank you to all of the lecturers for teaching me so much. I commit to using the knowledge I get as wisely as possible.
6. My parents, Bapak and Emak. Thank you so much for your unconditional love and also thank you because have given me everything.
7. To all my friends, Thank you for lending me your back.



8. To the one annoying guy, thank you for helping me survive during a hard time. Hope we always be happy as now. Hope you never be annoying again. Be mature!!
9. Thank you to myself who is always too hard for herself.

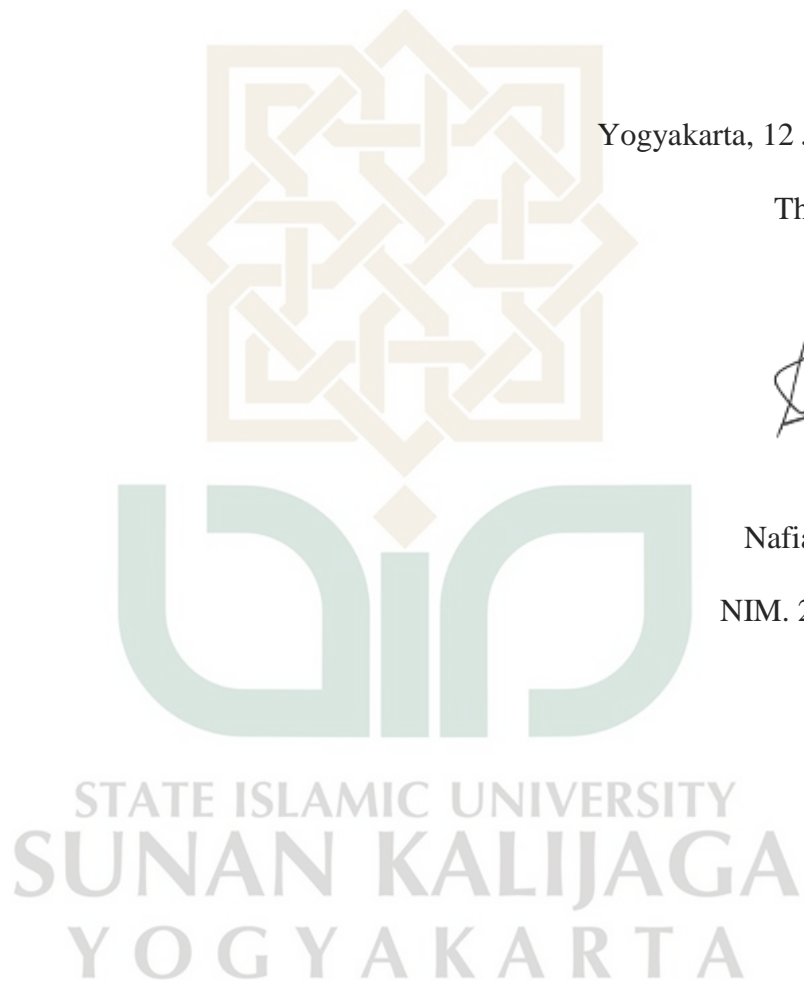
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTA DINAS .....	i
MOTTO.....	ii
DEDICATION .....	iii
VALIDATION .....	iv
FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
ABSTRACT .....	x
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of Study .....	1
1.2 Research Question .....	4
1.3 Objective and significance of Study .....	5
1.4 Literature Review .....	5
1.5 Theoretical Framework .....	9
1.6 Method of Research .....	11
1.6.1 Type of Research .....	11
1.6.2 Data Source.....	12
1.6.3 Data Collection.....	12
1.6.4 Data Analysis Technique.....	13
1.7 Paper Organization .....	13
CHAPTER II .....	14
INTRINSIC ELEMENTS .....	14
2.1 Theme .....	14
2.1.1 Theme of <i>Little Women</i> (2019) .....	14
2.1.2 Theme of <i>Yuni</i> (2021).....	15
2.2. Plot .....	15

2.2.1 <i>Little Women</i> (2019) .....	16
2.2.2 <i>Yuni</i> (2021) .....	20
2.3 Social and Cultural setting .....	24
2.3.1 <i>Little Women</i> (2019) .....	24
2.3.2. <i>Yuni</i> (2021) .....	26
CHAPTER III .....	28
DISCUSSION.....	28
3.1 Comparing the Traits of Tomboyism .....	28
3.1.1 Independence in Economic Vs Psychological (Attitude) .....	29
3.1.2 Positive and Negative Rebellion.....	34
3.2. Defining The Motifs of Tomboyism Caused by Absent Father .....	41
CHAPTER IV .....	44
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION.....	44
4.1 Conclusion .....	44
4.2 Suggestion .....	45
REFERENCES .....	47
CURRICULUM VITAE .....	52

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**Fatherless Daughters: Analyzing Female Masculinity in *Little Women* (2019)  
and *Yuni* (2021)**

***By: Nafiatur Rizqiyah***

**ABSTRACT**

This research discusses the relationship between the father's absence and the daughters' masculinity in *Little Women* (2019) and *Yuni* (2021). This research focuses mainly on Jo and Yuni, who have masculine characters and experience their father's absence. In Jo, her father lives away from her because he has to serve in the war (volunteer in the military), while in Yuni, her father has to work to fulfill the family's survival. Therefore, the researcher found the relationship between these issues using Carl Jung's father absence theory and Jack Halberstam's female masculinity theory. Then researchers use qualitative methods by interpreting or defining the comparison of Jo and Yuni's characters. The results obtained in this research are father's absence has been shown to affect daughters' masculinity. Then, there is a tendency for tomboy behavior in them. These behaviors are independence and rebellion. Both behaviors arise because of the form of father's absence experienced. As a result, not all girls who experience a father's absence will form the same behavior.

***Keywords:*** *Father Absence, Female Masculinity, Little Women, Yuni, Tomboy*

**Fatherless Daughters: Analyzing Female Masculinity in *Little Women* (2019)  
and *Yuni* (2021)**

***Oleh: Nafiatur Rizqiyah***

**ABSTRAK**

*Penelitian ini mendiskusikan tentang hubungan antara father absent dan maskulinitas anak perempuan pada film Little Women (2019) dan Yuni (2021). Fokus utama penelitian ini adalah pada karakter Jo dan Yuni yang memiliki kemiripan yaitu mereka mengalami father absent dan memiliki karakter masculine.. Dalam Jo, sang ayah hidup jauh darinya dikarenakan harus ikut berperang (menjadi volunteer dalam militer), sedangkan dalam Yuni, ayahnya harus bekerja untuk memenuhi keberlangsungan hidup keluarganya. Sehingga, tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari tahu tentang keterkaitan kedua hal tersebut dengan menggunakan teori father absence dari Carl Jung dan teori female masculinity dari Jack Halberstam. Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan menginterpretasikan atau mendefinisikan perbandingan karakter Jo dan Yuni. Hasil penelitian ini adalah father absence terbukti mempengaruhi maskulinitas anak perempuan. Hal tersebut memunculkan perilaku tomboyism pada mereka, yaitu independen dan rebellion. Kedua perilaku tersebut muncul karena bentuk father absence yang dialami. Alhasil, tidak semua anak perempuan yang mengalami father absence akan membentuk perilaku yang sama.*

**Kata kunci:** *Ketidakhadiran Ayah, Maskulinitas Perempuan, Little Women, Yuni, Tomboy*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

The role of a father in nurturing children has received less attention in society. Often, the nurturing of children is left to the mother alone. It is illustrated by the phenomenon that most fathers are away from their families, so the mother must stay home to care for the child alone. Alternatively, even in other cases, a child can be neglected without the care of both parents, which then puts the child's responsibility on the grandmother or closest family relative. The reasons for a father being away from his family are diverse, such as work, divorce, war, etc. Such cases refer to the father's absence. In literary works, the phenomenon of the father's absence experienced by girls is depicted in the movies *Little Women* (2019) and *Yuni* (2021).

*Little Women* (2019) is a movie directed by Greta Gerwig based on the novel of the same title written by Louisa M. Alcott. *Little Women* tells about the March family, who lives in Concord, Massachusetts. Mr. March is volunteering in war. Mrs March, usually called Marmee, lives with their daughters. There are four daughters in the March family: Meg, Josephine, Amy, and Elizabeth. Josephine gets the most screen time in this movie. Josephine March, also called Jo, is the second daughter of the March family. Jo is responsible, brave, and firm in her principles as a woman. Those are Jo's traits shown in the movie. Specifically, we could see it from the scene where she works far from home and makes money for

their family. She was also very firm with her principal because she was against Aunt March's statement about society's stereotypes that tend to require women to marry and live with their partners. Jo strongly desires to live an independent life with her own choices without being dictated to by others. She always tried to achieve her dream of becoming a writer, and she did not want to get married. Those characters or traits are reflected in the way that she dresses. Jo loves to wear clothes that make her look more boyish and masculine.

Moving on from Jo's masculine characters, there is also a movie with a similar phenomenon to *Little Women* (2019). The movie is entitled *Yuni* (2021). The main character of this movie, Yuni, also has a masculine side. The movie is about her as a senior high school student. She lives with her grandma because her parents work outside her town. As a teenager, Yuni has the same characteristics as any other teenager her age. She likes to hang out with her friends, has feelings for boys, and is curious to experience something new. Yuni's masculinity shows in the way that she interacts with her friends. It is known that Yuni loves purple. Because of that, several times, she gets punished by stealing all the purple items in the school. She is shown to be rebellious and dominant. Her dominant character can be seen in the moment where Yoga always helps Yuni fulfil her school assignments, and he is always available to do something Yuni asks.

Based on that, the research finds something interesting to analyze from Jo and Yuni's characters. Since Mr March, or Jo's father, volunteered in the military to help people in war, in *Little Women* (2019), the father and daughter scene is concise. The scene of Yuni's father is also limited in the movie. Her father moved



to the city to get a job. When we pay attention to Jo and Yuni's characters, they also have several characters that make them look masculine. It is such as their independence, bravery, dominance, et cetera. The aim of comparing those movies is to analyze the effects of father absence, reveal how culture influences father absence in shaping daughter masculinity, and the relation between father absence and masculinity. In this research, the researcher discusses the father's absence with the daughter's masculinity and how the father's absence influences the daughter's masculinity. The researcher uses the data to analyze the movies through story narration. This is because the story narration can explain more details about the scenes in the movie, and even the dialogue can be included. So, the story narration is representative enough to be data to analyze.

Since this research analyzes the relationship between the father's absence and the masculinity of the daughter, the researcher decided to use the theory of father absence by Carl G. Jung and the theory of female masculinity (tomboyism) by Judith Halberstam. The reason for choosing those theories is because they are related to the research topic. In addition, the theory also explains several variables following the phenomenon that exists in this research's object. Therefore, the use of this theory helps researchers in uncovering research problems.

"The term 'Father Absence' is generally taken to indicate that an individual has spent some or all of their childhood with a nonresident biological father" (Boothroyd, 2021, p. 2951). According to (East et al., 2006, section Defining father absence, para. 1), the definition of father absence is resumed because of the need for definitional clarity. The word 'Father Absence' can refer to



a variety of situations, including having a father who is not present in one's life, lost through death, divorce, or family discord, absent through work commitments, absent from the family residence due to incarceration or institutionalization, or physically present yet absent due to disinterest or neglect (Barber & Eccles, 1992; Jensen et al., 1989; Phares, 1993; Silverstein & Auerbach, 1999; Spruijt et al., 2001).

Meanwhile, masculine women refer to women who identify or socially recognize themselves as women yet demonstrate masculine traits broadly through their appearance, behaviour, and interactional styles (Dozier, 2017). The masculinity in women is usually called female masculinity. Based on Halberstam (1998), female masculinity shows how masculinity is generated. In other words, feminine masculinities are portrayed as discarded shreds of dominating masculinity for male masculinity to appear authentic to itself.

## 1.2 Research Question

Based on the Background of the Study, this research has some questions about some things that happened in *Little Women* (2019) and *Yuni* (2021), especially in Jo and Yuni. The questions are:

1. What is the relation between the father's absence and the masculinity of Jo and Yuni?
2. Why does the father's absence influence the masculinity of Jo and Yuni?

### 1.3 Objective and Significance of Study

According to the problem that has been explained, this research aims to find the relation between the father's absence and the masculinity of the daughter and how the father's absence can influence a daughter's masculine behaviour. Furthermore, the significance of this research is that the researcher hopes it can provide new and broader knowledge in the field of literature. The researcher also hopes that this research can contribute to future studies as a reliable reference, especially on topics related to father absence and female masculinity, alternatively, even in research that has the object of the films *Little Women* (2019) and *Yuni* (2021).

### 1.4 Literature Review

The first previous research that analyzed the movie *Little Women* (2019) is "Independent Woman Portrayed in Jo March in Little Women Movie (2019): A Feminist Approach" by Indriani & Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum (2021). The Study concluded that Jo March has four types of freedom: freedom in society, education, economy, and workplace. And then, the feminist values of Jo March are breaking the patriarchal system, emancipating women, and breaking stereotypes against women.

Second, it is the research entitled "Feminism in the 'Little Women' Movie Reviewed from 'The Aspects of Career, Love and Independence'" by Hapsari (2020). The results of this research are as follows: In the 19th century, for men, upper-class women were more ideal than the middle class. Then, most women

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the relationship between the father's absence and the masculinity of the daughter that has been conducted in this study, the researcher concludes that the father's absence affects the daughter's masculinity. The father's absence makes the daughter struggle so that indirectly, it makes them behave independently and rebellious, which means they enact masculinity traits. The same thing happens to Jo and Yuni. The absent father Jo experienced makes her responsible for her family's life, and she becomes a noisy or cheerful person and likes to fight with her siblings. Then, the father's absence in Yuni makes her a daughter who is assertive and dares to fight what is not her will; then, she also has a character who does not care about the norms of society, making her do things that go against the norm.

The different behaviours that are evident are influenced by the form of the father's absence. When the father's absence is total, or the father figure does not communicate regularly with the child during his absence, the result is that the child will have an excessively rebellious attitude. Then, when the father figure still communicates regularly, the rebellious attitude in the child can still be controlled and not excessive. The phenomenon is portrayed in Yuni's character. The father has to work far away from her, and even emotionally, the father does

not appear. Therefore, it causes her not to have someone to support her decisions. Yuni also feels frustrated and does terrible things like drinking and having sex to escape her frustration. Meanwhile, Jo's father volunteers in the war. The father still sends letters containing expressions of love and affection for his children, creating the character of Jo, who is responsible, brave, and noisy with his siblings. It is a sign that even though Jo's father cannot appear physically, he still appears emotionally.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The focus of this study is mainly on the lead characters from two movies: Yuni from "Yuni" (2021) and Jo from "Little Women" (2019). These movies should be looked at from a different angle in future studies. Further research should look into the relationship between father absence and the attachment styles exhibited by Jo in "Little Women" (2019) and Yuni in "Yuni" (2021), as suggested by the theoretical framework used in this study, which suggests that father absence can have a variety of effects, including influencing children's attachment styles. This method might shed more light on the psychological and emotional effects of fatherlessness as they are portrayed in these movies.

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