



and society. Literature as an imitation of human action, often presents a picture of what people think, say and do in society.

One form of literature is novel. Novel is a long narrative, normally in prose, which describes fictional characters and events, usually in the form of a sequential story. The word comes from the Italian novel is “novella” which means a story or a piece of the story. Taylor stated that novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or the value of human experience or conduct (46). In general, a novel tells the story of the characters in everyday life and all the nature, character and temperament.

Novel gives many themes that sometimes can be the representation of what is happening in the particular time. Society and class are probably one of the most interesting theme to be explored since it talks about society which people live in. this theme may also reveal the class difference in the society itself. It represents the way people interact in the society with others, and makes more interesting to explore. Then, novel can also set a gender stereotypes as a theme. According to *Dictionary of Cultural Studies*, “gender is the notion of gender can be understood to be referring to the cultural assumptions and practices that govern the social construction of men, women and their social relations. The concept gains much of its force through a contrast with a conception of sex as the biological formation of the body. Femininity and masculinity as forms of gender are the outcome of the cultural regulation of behaviours that are regarded as socially appropriate to a given

Then, “stereotype is vivid but simple representation that reduces persons to a set exaggerated, usually negative, character traits and is thus a form of representation that essentializes others through the operation of power” (Barker 188). Stereotype can be thought as a cognitive method or procedure, used by our mind in order to simplify the complex barrage of information it experiences. From this perspective, a stereotype is a method of understanding, which works through classifying individual people into a group category (Pilcher and Whelehan 166). It means that gender stereotype is a generalised view or preconception about attributes or characteristics that are or ought to be possessed by women and men or the roles that are or should be performed by women and men.

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The main character of *Little Women* is Josephine who turns into a woman in a society in America during Victorian age. To be a female is not easy as to be a male human during that period because there are some restricting regulations regulating women's behaviour and even in law, women have less power than men do. Women must be dependant on men and what girls should do is to prepare themselves for the marriage since the aim of life for every woman must be married. 'Jo is an outspoken tomboy with a passion for writing. Her character is based in large part on Louisa May Alcott herself. She does not want to be a conventional female. In her desires and her actions, she frustrates typical gender expectations. She feels uncomfortable on herself to be a woman. Even she rejects not to wear accessories of women and resists the culture that women should stay at home. She looks like more masculine than her sisters. She shows clearly the manner of a man such as putting her hands in the pocket, sometimes whistling and even examining the heels of her shoes in a gentlemanly manner. She does not like the life of marriage. Though God's destiny put her into women, but she refuses it. Jo confesses that she is more comfortable to be a man because he thinks that a man's life is not as complicated as women's lives.















