

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

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The thesis writer divides this chapter into two subtopics of conclusion of the main character and symbols and images.

5.1 The Main Character

The Awakening is a feminist novel. It has been accepted as a vision of women's emancipation since it was first published in 1899. This novel portrays a woman who abandons her family and the conventional code of her community. She refuses to idealize her life in the old manner since she is awoken to see herself as an individual with her own seductions, desires and passions.

The main character is twenty-eight-year-old Edna Pontellier. She is written to be an elegant and a beautiful lady with strong character. Here, she is told to be in search of self-discovery and turns away from convention and society. She seeks her own right and independence and she manages to prove to the society her capability to survive in her own way.

Through the analysis of the main character, the thesis writer finds that Kate Chopin, the author of The Awakening, is a feminist writer and she is persistent to write her main character, Edna, with a strong will and strong determination over herself. There are many events that show Edna's ambition to discover herself by isolating it from all bondages that she feels to weaken herself. She doesn't live in the conventional code anymore. The society points her to neglect her family. She adores Robert Lebrun whom she finds her true love with but her passion is awoken with Alcee's present. Alcee is such a cad because he oversteps the bounds that Robert will not cross.

Taking these double affairs as a sample, people may see and critic Edna as an immoral housewife and mother but the point is that she is able to show to the world her independence to make decisions over her life. Mostly, the gentlemen are the ones who like to cheat their wives and people will not care so much as it happens everywhere. In relation with the affairs, Edna is involved in the intimacy of the two young men. She does it as the men like to have affairs behind their wives.

Edna is actually a loving and caring mother for her sons. During her experiences of seeking freedom and

independence she never gets her children out of her mind. She just can not stand to see her life dragged into the world of slavery in taking care of her children. The thesis writer thinks that Kate Chopin wants people know that mothers are actually looking forward to listening to her own inner voice. She is supposed to be responsible over her children's present life and future but she also deserves to have her rights to see the world outside and feel the freedom as an individual.

However, the voice of minority will not able to change the world. The conventional code is more powerful than Edna. What she has in her mind and has done are merely a deviation for the society. Her struggle of seeking the independence and freedom remains a big question of reaching successfulness.

Edna is a round character. She used to be an obedient and subdued young woman whose family is a religious one. but then, in her marriage life, she changes to a rebellious one.

5.2 Symbols and Images

These two elements of literary are used by Kate Chopin to give a clear vision of an independence and freedom. From the early images of a green and yellow

parrot in its cage, the marriage ring on Edna's finger, lonely children, an anecdote of two lovers, a house which looks like a prison to the last image of a trauma in delivering babies are comprehended for a woman who has a struggle to have a freedom from being possessed as an object by others.

Along the way, the thesis writer may conclude that the parrot, the ring and the tyranny house, symbolize a tie that binds a woman's freedom to her husband and society. While a regal woman and the sea can be said to symbolize an independence and a freedom to choose life or death.

Lastly, Edna chooses to die in the sea for the reason of protecting to the world with the old rule of life. Her suicide symbolizes a rebellion against the rules and an independence yearning hidden in her heart.

5.3 Suggestions

Through the study of feminism in a novel The Awakening, the writer hopes that there will be further studies in the world of women with their feminism considerations, thoughts and expressions in various fields of life. The study may not be done merely by analysing a literary work that was written before 20th century but it also opens the possibility to have a study on the literary works of 20th century.

As the study is suggested to be scoped around women's lives, it would be more effective and provocative if people based their studies on the works of women's writers. A literary work has a high human value and its creation was about human beings' ways of life that the writer pronounces from the bottom of his heart. In this case, a woman writer has her own power to express her ideas and views towards women as whatever might happen to women in all countries around the world, she has actually been involved, too.

In relation to the women's conditions, the thesis writer is in an opinion to add her suggestion that this issue can be brought up in a clear discussion about women's role in Indonesia, as the third developing country. For example, the conventional code

issued in Indonesian women's life in connection with career, and independence. Moreover, the values of freedom and self-determination that are settled to Indonesian women.

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