




Review Article

An Analysis of the Feminist Characters in Kate Chopin's "The Awakening"

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ABSTRACT

This research concerns with the analysis of feminist characters in Kate Chopin's work. The purpose of the research is to describe the feminist characters of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* short stories by analyzing the main female characters as feminist characters and the contribution of the feminist characters to the development of the plot. The design of the research is a descriptive design. The finding of this research showed that from the characters existed in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, feminist character is Edna Pontellier. She was considered feminist from her conversation, actions of disregarding patriarchy and social boundaries toward women, an effort to complete self-rights, self-needs, and her inner thought about freedom and self-autonomy. Also, this research showed that Edna Pontellier feminist characters have a contribution to the development of the plot of the stories. Her feminist characteristics and behavior affect to the plot. The feminist characters' thought and attitude play important in changing the mood of the characters' action so that making the plot developed.

Keywords: feminist; kate chopin; short stories; analysis

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1. Introduction

Women in Kate Chopin's stories are not content to have their lives molded and shaped into the forms men design; they are not willing to accept traditions and rules which run counter to the innermost drives of their hearts. It promotes a woman's strength and courage to against for freedom. Trying to gain the female reader's thought and heart that they have same right as men have, they need to feel the true happiness and freedom rather than just being obedient person with wide limitation. Trustily, it is just about the human being. The traditional perception that women only have a role as mother women is not right. It is actually a good role, but women are born not only for that.

Connecting the stories and by looking to the past, it still places women in secondary class, who have to respect and follow the first class, men. In that time, being women is hard work. They only have some choices in work place and in society. Mungkasa (2017) on Gender Issue stated that "the world is better place for the women than it was at the start of the

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20th century”. It is true for today; feminism has been one of the important components in the society. But, still, many people have positive and negative stereotype for the feminist women (Wolf, 1997).

Gender has long been understood as one’s social identification as a boy or a girl, a man or a woman (Weatherall in Holmes & Meyer, 2000). People are often misunderstood, thinking gender simply as female sex and setting social expectations towards women behavior and rights on that misconception. Until the 1960s, the word gender means nothing but that “masculine” or “feminine” ((Narayan, Chambers, Shah, & Petesch, 2000). Gender should not be about women only but it is about the equality of roles between men and women in all aspects of life. Gender can be defined as the sex-role that a person takes on according to guidelines or standards instilled in us by society. One can be a male or female biologically, but still be perceived as the opposite sex due to the way one may think or present him self or her self (Oakley in Fakhri, 1996).

In *Second Sex*, Beauvoir (2003) argues that there will always be certain differences between men and women and that these two separate categories can create miracles together. But first women can no longer be slaves to men; men and women must both be seen as subjects. Men and women are different because of society has set them up with. It is observed for men to be strong and women to be weak. Also it is in the mentality of the person who is making the comparison to choose how a woman or man is supposed to think. Butler (in (Budianta, et al, 2002) notes that feminists rejected the idea that biology is destiny, but then developed an account of patriarchal culture which assumed that masculine and feminine genders would inevitably be built, by culture, upon ‘male’ and ‘female’ bodies, making the same destiny just as inescapable. That argument allows no room for choice, difference or resistance.

According to Bhasin & Nighat (1999) feminism builds a belief to cut off the patriarchal, traditional role, and man domination towards women, that is men and women should be equal; socially, financially and politically. Feminism rests on two analytical terms: sex or gender and the patriarchy. Ewart (in Humm, 2002) stated that feminist readings often discuss the jobs that are traditionally assigned to women, such as caring a home, caring for a husband, and bearing children, and the ways in which these jobs are used to keep women in a powerless position.

2. Methods

The design of this research is a descriptive qualitative design. This method is to find out the feminist characters in Kate Chopin's novel *The Awakening*, in which the researcher deals with a process of data reduction, analyzing data display and finally interpreting the result of the analysis. Moreover, this design uses content analysis approach, which is kind of descriptive study which used to characterize the content of popular books, work and art, and document as the subject (Lowenthal in Denzin & Yvonna, 1993: 464).

Data required in this research are sentences in paragraph that describe the feminist characters and its contribution to the development of plot on Kate Chopin's "The Awakening". The data is presented in written text. The primary source of data in this research was Kate Chopin's novel "The Awakening" short stories, taken from Kate Chopin "The Awakening and Other Stories",

To analyze the data, this research used the flow model analysis proposed by Miles & Huberman (1994:10). They define analysis as consisting of three concurrent flow activities; data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/ verification. In here, the researcher used data triangulation and investigator triangulation. The researcher used data triangulation for its easiness in collecting the data from printed media and internet access. The researcher also used investigator triangulation since the researcher needed the judgments from the person she knows their ability to give their perception about feminist characters which the researcher has been analyzed and to judge whether the interpretation made by the researcher is accurate or not.

By combining the multiple observers, theories, and material, the researcher tried to overcome the weakness or biases and the problems that came from single observer. During the process, the researcher reduced the data and matched the result of other data and investigator to avoid bias. The result of the data triangulation showed that the novel and the selected short stories which the researcher chooses are actually about the women life and the feminism idea.

3. Findings and Discussion

The finding of this research showed that from the characters existed in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, feminist characters Edna Pontellier. Edna Pontellier is twenty-eight-year-old wife of a New Orleans businessman. She finds herself dissatisfied with her marriage and the limited, conservative lifestyle that it allows by Creole society. She changes from her semi-conscious state of devoted wife and mother to a state of total awareness, in which she discovers her own identity and acts on her desires for emotional and sexual satisfaction. Through a series of experiences, she becomes an independent woman, who lives apart from her husband and children and is responsible only to her own urges and passions. The plot in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* short stories primary talks about the main female characters, feeling, life and the main female society. Kate Chopin's novel and short stories present about women life and things that mostly occurred at her time. In exposition, she often describe about women condition and the social expectation toward them. Get into first realization of their needs, feeling trapped in man domination and social expectations, make their inner thought start to rise and build the rising action which promote their action to break free, gaining for freedom and self happiness. The peak of their effort to gain their identity, dignity, and freedom push them into action and self realization which comes to climax of the stories. Falling action then describes their reaction and social reaction of their changed behavior.

After all, at the conclusion/ denouement, some of them still could not pass social boundaries, social perception, and man domination so that their can not pass from their weakness and still lived of powerless. But, there are also some of them who could reveal and gain their powerful and find true happiness and full their needs. In these stories, the nineteenth century is a difficult time for women because of the domination of men and social expectation towards women left some of them on limitation, some are try to against the condition, and some are fortune to complete their life as an individual.

Edna Pontellier is an American woman and little of French "She was an American woman, with a small infusion of French which seemed to have been lost in dilution (Chopin, page 6, ch.2)". She is described with yellowish brown eyes, short waved yellow-brown hair, freckles on her face, small-dark mole near her lip and on her temple, and has a handsome look rather than beautiful as written in the following quotations:

"Mrs. Pontellier's eyes were quick and bright; they were a yellowish brown, about the color of her hair (Chopin, page 5, ch.2)". "her yellow-brown hair, that waved a little, was heavy, and clung close to her head (Chopin, page 17, ch.7)". "a few freckles on her face, and a small, dark mole near the under lip and one on the temple, half-hidden in her hair (Chopin, page 60, ch.18)". "Her eyebrows were a shade darker than her hair. They were thick and almost horizontal, emphasizing the depth of her eyes. She was rather handsome than beautiful (Chopin, page 5, ch.2)".

She is a woman who likes reading and enjoys the solitude while doing it "She felt moved to read the book in secret and solitude (Chopin, page 12, ch.4)". She also enjoys her time on listening musical playing: "Edna was what she herself called very fond of music. Musical strains, well rendered, had a way of evoking pictures in her mind (Chopin, page 29, ch.9)". Her hobby is drawing a picture "Mrs. Pontellier had brought her sketching materials (Chopin, page 13, ch.5)". When her inner thought of to be feminist arise, she wants to explore her drawing talent and she thinks of further study:

"She produced the roll of sketches and started to unfold them. 'I believe I ought to work again. I feel as if I wanted to be doing something...I might study for a while with Laidpore' (Chopin, page 61, ch.18)".

The quotation shows that she wants to become an educated woman, to explore her ability and talent. She wants to study with Laidpore, someone who has a good music talent and she expected to learn with. In her daily routine, she is described as not becoming a good housewife:

"In short, Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman. The mother-women seemed...women who idolized their children, worshiped their husbands, and esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals and grow wings as ministering angels (Chopin, page 10, ch.4)".

The quotation explain Edna behavior which different to women at her time, her behavior is far away from a good wife label, named a mother woman at that time. She is not a Creole; it becomes the reason for her different than any other Creole women who almost are mother-woman: "Mrs. Pontellier, though she had married a Creole, was not thoroughly at home in the society of Creoles (Chopin, page 12, ch.4)", she comes from other than Creole descent. The Creole society has characteristics that do not suited to her.

Edna feels trapped in people assumption that she is lucky for having a perfect husband who adored by “all declare that Mr. Pontellier was the best husband in the world (Chopin, page 9, ch.3)”; “Mr. Pontellier was a great favourite, and ladies, men, children, even nurses, were always on hand to say good-bye to him (Chopin, page 9, ch.3)”. In here, she actually does not think like them at all “Mrs. Pontellier was forced to admit that she knew of none better (Chopin, page 9, ch.3)”. But, her husband sees her as valuable piece of him rather than a person “looking at his wife as one looks at a valuable piece of personal which has suffered some damage (Chopin, page 4, ch.1)”. The researcher was considering the first feminist action of Edna’s character is from her action to not behave the things her husband wish her to do “He thought it very discouraging that his wife, who was the sole object of his existence, evidence so little interest in things which concerned him, and valued so little his conversation (Chopin, page 7, ch.3)”. He describes Edna’s behavior changed to be like a feminist woman when she starts to act different from before, refuse all he wanted her to do “She’s got some sort of notion in her head concerning the eternal rights of women (Chopin, page 73, ch.22)”. But, Edna still happily receives money from her husband as a usual wife “liked money as well as most women (Chopin, page 9, ch.3)”. Her friend describes her as childlike, for she refuses her fate as mother woman: “In some way you seem to me like child, Edna (Chopin, page 106, ch.33)”.

To her children Edna does not always want to be side of them, she rather enjoys her loneliness without them when they send to her grandma’ house:

“She was fond of her children in an uneven, impulsive way. She would sometimes gather them passionately to her heart; she would sometimes forget them...Their absence was a sort of relief, though she did not admit this, even to herself. It seemed to free her of a responsibility which she had blindly assumed and for which Fate had not fitted her (Chopin, page 21, ch.7)”. “How glad she was to see the children! She wept for very pleasure when she felt their little arms clasping her; their hard, ruddy cheeks pressed against her own glowing cheeks. She looked into their faces with hungry eyes that could not be satisfied with looking. And what stories they had to tell their mother! (Chopin, page 104, ch.32)”.

The quotation shows that she enjoys having time to herself rather than with her children. She sometimes does not miss and worship her children, but sometimes she does. It shows when she spent a week with them in their grandmother’s house and enjoys her motherhood

day. She also has little interest to her children, her husband describes her failed to act like a mother "his wife failed in her duty toward their children (Chopin, page 10, ch.4)". She does not want to be the typical female of that time and give up her entire world, herself and soul for her children. She thinks that her children have no right to possess herself, her soul; that she still has right to complete her own needs and her pursuits "I would give up the unessential; I would give my money, I would give my life for my children; but I wouldn't give myself (Chopin, page 53, ch.16)".

At her age of twenty-eight, in her family summer weekend on Grand Isle, she feels her first joyful of becoming free individual:

"That summer at Grand Isle she began to loosen a little the mantle of reserve that had always enveloped her (Chopin, page 16, ch.7)".

"In short, Mrs. Pontellier was beginning to realize her position in the universe as a human being, and to recognize her relations as an individual to the world within and about her. This may seem like a ponderous weight of wisdom to descend upon the soul of a young woman of twenty-eight – perhaps more wisdom than the Holy Ghost is usually pleased to vouchsafe to any woman. (Chopin, page 16, ch.6)".

The quotations explain that before that summer weekend, she is not different from other women. She is a usual mother with two children. But, the experiences in that summer weekend changes her thought and mind. She cannot suit to the domestic life of family: husband, devoted and obedient wife, of being housewife. She feels that it is fool for women who pass a life on that way:

"glimpse of domestic harmony which had been offered her, gave her no regret, no longing. It was not a condition of life which fitted her, and she could see in it but an appalling and hopeless ennui (Chopin, page 63, ch.18)". "It seems to me the utmost folly for a woman at the head of a household, and the mother of children, to spend in an atelier days which would be better employed contriving for the comfort of her family (Chopin, page 63, ch.19)".

The quotations above show that she is not satisfying of domestic life, a life of husband and wife with their children. She cannot make herself love to life in that way. She marries her husband because feeling sympathy to his devotion and also forced by her father and her big

sister. She wants to escape from her family so that she accepts his marriage proposal, but she finally comes to the understanding that she regrets her marriage:

“Her marriage to Leonce Pontellier was purely an accident,... He fell in love, as men are in the habit of doing, and pressed his suit with an earnestness and an ardor which left nothing to be desired. He pleased her; his absolute devotion flattered her. She fancied there was a sympathy of thought and taste between them, in which fancy she was mistaken. Add to this the violent opposition of her father and her sister Margaret to her marriage with a Catholic, and we need seek no further for the motives which led her to accept Monsieur Pontellier for her husband (Chopin, page 21, ch.7)”.

The quotation shows that she now learns that she has been fault to think her marriage with Leonce Pontellier would be a happy marriage. Her father and sister force her to marry with him, on the reason of his religion. She accepts his marriage proposal because she has impressed on his behavior toward her. Those things made her marriage such as an accident for her.

That mistaken marriage affects her for having no passion and love with him “Her husband seemed to her now like a person whom she had married without love as an excuse (Chopin, page 86, ch.25)”; “of her husband, realizing with some unaccountable satisfaction that no trace of passion or excessive and fictitious warmth colored her affection, thereby threatening its dissolution (Chopin, page 21, ch.7)”. Her summer weekend changes her, starting when she falls in love with another young man named Robert who awakened her passion, her affection, her longing, and make her grown to become an adult woman. It is explained in the following quotations:

“For the first time she recognized anew the symptoms of infatuation which she had felt incipiently as a child, as a girl in her earliest teens, and later as a young woman (Chopin, page 51, ch.15)”. “The sentiment which she entertained for Robert in no way resembled that which she felt for her husband, or had ever felt, or ever expected to feel (Chopin, page 53, ch.16)”.

The quotations above show that she has just fall in love with a young man who awakened her desire and passion as a woman. That feeling is different from her feeling to her husband with lack of passion and love.

That summer, she begins to understand and expresses herself for a self autonomy when she swims alone at the night as far as she can do:

"A feeling of exultation overtook her, as if some power of significant import had been given her to control the working of her body and her soul. She grew daring and reckless, overestimating her strength. She wanted to swim far out, where no woman had swum before (Chopin, page 31, ch.10)".

The quotations above shows that she has gained her control of her own body. She enjoys that feeling and the strength of herself autonomy of her body and soul. That swimming represents her feminist thought where most of women at her time did not do.

Then she shows her right of herself that she would not do the things people ask her to do. She refuses her husband order when he asks her to enter the house when she enjoys her seat at the sea shore " 'Leonce, go to bed', she said. 'I mean to stay out here. I don't wish to go in, and I don't intend to. Don't speak to me like that again; I shall not answer you' (Chopin, page 35, ch.11)". She continues to refuse her husband wish, she refuses her Tuesday reception which over six years marriage she usually did respecting her husband's society rule; it is the day where she usually stays at home to receive visitors: "Mrs. Pontellier did not wear her usual Tuesday reception gown; she was in ordinary house dress (Chopin, page 56, ch.17)". She starts to do and act according to her own personal desires, with little regard to her husband's wishes. She leaves her household duties, goes outside alone, and comes home late. The quotations below explain her changed habit and her changed behavior:

"She began to do as she liked and to feel as she liked...She made no ineffectual efforts to conduct her household (Chopin, page 63, ch.19)".

"She has abandoned her Tuesdays at home, has thrown over all her acquaintances, and goes tramping about by herself, moping in the street-cars, getting in after dark (Chopin, page 73, ch.22)".

She likes to do man's stuff; she goes to the race and drinks brandy. She just want to feel and do like a man. It implies her desire to have equality with men. The quotations below will explain it:

"The race horse was a friend and intimate associate of her (Chopin, page 82, ch.25)". "I will take some brandy, said Edna,...She drank the liquor from the glass as a man would have done (Chopin, page 87, ch.26)".

Her feeling of disregarding her marriage and her husband, she expresses by trying to break her wedding ring. But her effort does not affect to that ring, the ring still unbreakable.

“taking off her wedding ring, flung it upon the carpet...she stamped her heel upon it, striving to crush it. But her small boot heel did not make an indenture, not a mark upon the little glittering circlet (Chopin, page 59, ch.17)”.

The quotation above shows that she starts to hate her marriage. She expresses that feeling by throwing and crushing her wedding ring. But the ring is still unbreakable. It implies that she can not release from her marriage life.

In her heart, she still want to know what character of woman she is, who according to society, she is a bad woman, a bad mother “I’m going to pull myself together for a while and think - try to determine what character of a woman I am...By all the codes which I am acquainted with, I am a devilishly wicked specimen of the sex (Chopin, page 91, ch.27)”.

She is a capricious person, for her behavior always changed. One time she refuses her husband wish and acts rude to him, but another time she behaves as a devoted wife to him:

“Edna was not so consciously gratified at her husband’s leaving home as she had been over the departure of her father. As the day approached when he was to leave her for a comparatively long stay, she grew melting and affectionate, remembering his many acts of consideration and his repeated expressions of an ardent attachment. She was solicitous about his health and his welfare. She bustled around, looking after his clothing, thinking about heavy underwear, quite as Madame Ratignolle would have done under similar circumstances. She cried when he went away, calling him her dear, good friend, and she was quite certain she would grow lonely before very long and go to join him in New York. But after all, a radiant peace settled upon her when she at last found herself alone (Chopin, page 79, ch.24)”.

The quotation above shows that Edna behavior changed at the time of her husband’s departure on his business. She shows that she really loves and will miss him in his absence at their home, and she also enjoys her task of caring her husband needs. But after her husband left, she rather enjoys her solitude.

Her independent feeling motivates her to move out from her husband house, she wants to live her life by her own money, in her own house. She is bored on household duties in her husband big house with many servants and task to her own small house.

"I am going to move away from my house on Esplanade Street'. 'Just two steps away', laughed Edna, 'in a little four-room house around the corner. It looks so cozy, so inviting and restful, whenever I pass by; and it's for rent. I'm tired looking after that big house. It never seemed like mine, anyway - like home. It's too much trouble. I have to keep too many servants. I am tired bothering with them' (Chopin, page 87, ch.26)".

The quotation shows that she just moved 'two steps away' from her husband house. It explains that she still could not leave her life habit before. She can not wholly separate to her husband and family.

She gains her strength and individual expansion with a total break up from society which denies women for having the ability to think and act as individuals:

"There was with her a feeling of having descended in the social scale, with a corresponding sense of having risen in the spiritual. Every step which she took toward relieving herself from obligations added to her strength and expansion as an individual. She began to look with her own eyes; to see and to apprehend the deeper undercurrents of life (Chopin, page 104, ch.32)".

The quotation above shows that she realizes that her behavior and action made her far away from the social community which she keeps at high as before. Rather than regret it, she still proud of her behavior because she can gain the strength, the self identity and the satisfaction.

She believes that independence and social rank form an inverse relationship; that is she has 'descended in the social scale', but she has 'risen in the spiritual'. She grows to be a woman who has a financial independent, where she can full her needs by her own money.

"I have a little money of my own from my mother's estate, which my father sends me by dribblets. I won a large sum this winter on the races, and I am beginning to sell my sketches.... I cannot judge of that myself, but I feel that I have gained in ease and confidence... I know I shall like it, like the feeling of freedom and independence (Chopin, page 88, ch.26)".

The quotation shows that she get financial independent by managing her wealthy from her mother and selling her picture. By that independent she discovers the truly feeling of confident and freedom as a woman.

Leaving by her young lover push her into her peak experience, that is when she has an affair with another young man she met at the race and they have intimate intercourse. For Edna, it means her first intimate experience for her body really follows and enjoys the

moment “It was the first kiss of her life to which her nature had really responded (Chopin, page 92, ch.27)”. But after that moment, she feels regret that the action is not based on love but passion only “There was a dull pang of regret because it was not the kiss of love which had inflamed her, because it was not love which had held this cup of life to her lips (Chopin, page 93, ch.28)”.

Her love and passion together are arisen when she meets again her lover, Robert, and she expresses her affection feeling towards him: “She leaned over and kissed him - a soft, cool, delicate kiss,...The action was full of love and tenderness (Chopin, page 118, ch.36)”. She declares herself as free individual; no one possesses her, except her own self. When Roberts tells her whether Leonce will divorce her and make her becomes his wife, she does not receive it happily but rather disagreed that idea:

“dreaming of impossible things when you speak of Mr. Pontellier setting me free! I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier’s possessions to dispose of or not. I give myself where I choose. If he were to say, ‘Here, Robert, take her and be happy; she is yours’, I should laugh at you both (Chopin, page 119, ch.35)”.

The quotation shows that she does not even think to divorce with her husband, but she actually declares her power of herself which her husband or anyone does not possess. At that time, she never wants to belong as a wife to anyone else again. It brings her far away from the typical female of the time, and becomes a feminist woman.

She is actually rethinking again about all the things when she finally left again by her lover with only a note written “I love you. Good-by - because I love you (Chopin, page 124, ch.38)”, Edna becomes faint and sad when she read the words: “never uttering a sound. She did not sleep. She did not go to bed...She was still awake in the morning (Chopin, page 124, ch.38)”; “Despondency had come upon her there in the wakeful night, and had never lifted (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)”, from the quotation said that she is in broken heart.

She starts confusing when her friend tells her to consider again her behavior which would affect to her children life.

“she remembered Adele’s voice whispering, ‘Think of the children; think of them’. She meant to think of them; that determination had driven into her soul like a death wound - but not to-night. To-morrow would be time to think of everything (Chopin, page 124, ch.38)”. “She had said over and over to herself: ‘To-day it is Arabin; to-morrow it will be some one else. It

makes no difference to me, it doesn't matter about Leonce Pontellier - but Raoul and Etienne!' (Chopin, page 126, ch.39)".

The quotations show that she starts rethinking again her choice; she thinks of what would her children become if she still stands on her perception and her behavior. She actually feels that she is trapped on man's domination; her husband, her lover, so that she never regret her awakened feeling of being independent person, but the only last thing she sorry is about her children. What people would prejudice to them because their mother behavior. Her children will get bad mark from society by their mother behavior which different from other mother and women at that time. But, she actually hates that feeling. The feeling of her husband and children domination make her powerless to her self autonomy "The children appeared before her like antagonists who had overcome her; who had overpowered and sought to drag her into the soul's slavery for the rest of her days (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)".

In her distressed, she goes to the sea she had ever swim before, Grand Isle, the place which awakened her. She want to ensure people that her death is not perceived as a suicide but just a swimming accident, she makes specific requests that she will have dinner after her swimming "What time will you have dinner? asked Edna. I'm very hungry; but don't get anything extra (Chopin, page 126, ch.39)"; "I hope you have fish for dinner, said Edna, as she started to walk away; but don't do anything extra if you haven't (Chopin, page 126, ch.39)"; "do you know, I have a notion to go down to the beach and take a good wash and even a little swim, before dinner? (Chopin, page 126, ch.39)". She has decided that it would be better for her children losing their mother to an accident rather than losing their mother to scandal, a concession to society's prejudices. The following quotation will give the explanation:

"She thought of Leonce and the children. They were a part of her life. But they need not have thought that they could possess her, body and soul (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)"; "It makes no difference to me, it doesn't matter about Leonce Pontellier - but Raoul and Etienne!' (Chopin, page 126, ch.39)".

The quotations show that she can find no other ways to save the children and save her only freedom as her suicide could do. She does not prefer to back to her married life with Leonce because if she does so, she will sacrifice the freedom that she works so hard to find. She also does not want to submit her entire life and soul for her children.

She finds herself as a bird with broken wings which made her flight down to the sea "A bird with a broken wing was beating the air above, reeling, fluttering, circling disabled down,

down to the water (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)”, it shows that she can not fly to reach her dream. She feels sorry that Robert, her lover, someone she expected to understand, acting as same as her husband and her social boundaries behave to her “He did not know; he did not understand. He would never understand (Chopin, page 128, ch.39)”.

In the end, she chooses to suicide at the sea “Her arms and legs were growing tired...Exhaustion was pressing upon and overpowering her (Chopin, page 128, ch.39). All the things mixed on her mind and her tired body pushed her to suicide “the shore was far behind her, and her strength was gone... then sank again (Chopin, page 128, ch.39)”. She does not want to depend on her husband and she does not want her children to depend on her. She simply wants her independence, to become her own self in her own way.

Even though Edna’s awakening and self awareness bring her to suicide, but she thinks that the year of joy and understanding that accompanies her, is worth more than a lifetime of her before life. She can discover her own identity and acts on her own emotionally and sexually desire. She describes her changed behavior as something new realization from sleeping to awakening. The quotation below will explain it:

“The years that are gone seem like dreams - if one might go on sleeping and dreaming - but to wake up and find - oh! well! perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one’s life... There are periods of despondency and suffering which take possession of me. But I don’t want anything but my own way (Chopin, page 123, ch.38)”.

The quotation shows that for her, to live with self-awareness, possessed and controlled only by her own soul, valued richer than to live according to the social limitation, social rules, and social expectations toward her (from her husband and her social community). Even in the limitation, her thought still represents her feminist thought.

The contribution of the feminist characters to the development of plot or the role of the feminist character is presented on Edna Pontellier’s character as the main female character. The researcher finds that The Awakening show the feminist inner thought and action/ behavior of Edna Pontellier who could not submit herself to be a perfect housewife.

“Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman. The mother-women seemed...women who idolized their children, worshiped their husbands, and esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals and grow wings as ministering angels (Chopin, page 10, ch.4)”; “glimpse of domestic

harmony which had been offered her, gave her no regret, no longing. It was not a condition of life which fitted her, and she could see in it but an appalling and hopeless ennui (Chopin, page 63, ch.18)"; "It seems to me the utmost folly for a woman at the head of a household, and the mother of children, to spend in an atelier days which would be better employed contriving for the comfort of her family (Chopin, page 63, ch.19)".

The quotations show her feminist side that since the beginning she is not a mother woman even though she is a mother of two children and a wife of wealthy husband. Her mind of not acting as a mother woman motivates her later action/ behavior which develop the plot to be more about her struggle against her society.

Edna's feminist character is showed in her searching to determine what the character of woman she is. The question of herself identity full her mind which made her act more and more different from the women at that time. The thought motivated her to her later actions which build the plot as written in the following quotation:

"I'm going to pull myself together for a while and think - try to determine what character of a woman I am; for, candidly, I don't know. By all the codes which I am acquainted with, I am a devilishly wicked specimen of the sex (Chopin, page 91, ch.27)"; "The years that are gone seem like dreams - if one might go on sleeping and dreaming - but to wake up and find - oh! well! perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one's life... There are periods of despondency and suffering which take possession of me. But I don't want anything but my own way (Chopin, page 123, ch.38)".

The quotations show that she knows that society give her bad judgment but she even does not care it all; she only care about her own self. Her identity searching make the plot changed to her refusal of domestic life; the plot actually changed to be about a women struggle of self autonomy and identity.

She feels trapped on her marriage, her husband's domination so that she wants to move out from her husband house and make her own money to fulfill her needs as written in the following quotations:

"taking off her wedding ring, flung it upon the carpet (Chopin, page 59, ch.17)"; " I am going to move away from my house on Esplanade Street' (Chopin, page 87, ch.26)"; "There was with her a feeling of having

descended in the social scale, with a corresponding sense of having risen in the spiritual. Every step which she took toward relieving herself from obligations added to her strength and expansion as an individual. She began to look with her own eyes; to see and to apprehend the deeper undercurrents of life (Chopin, page 104, ch.32)”; “I have a little money of my own from my mother’s estate...I won a large sum this winter on the races, and I am beginning to sell my sketches... I feel that I have gained in ease and confidence...I know I shall like it, like the feeling of freedom and independence (Chopin, page 88, ch.26)”.

The quotations above show her independence in marriage and financial. She controls her own money, her own home that really belongs to her rather than to her husband. Her feminist character makes her try to increase her independent. The society where she lived rejects her new behavior. It makes her to have little disliking to her marriage and motivates her to break her wedding ring. She feels her social status is decrease but she ignore that, she rather enjoy her new life, her new confidence, and the freedom feeling she is gained. Here, the plot is about her independence rather than about the dependence of a wife to her husband.

Her feminist character seems powerless to her children and her husband society so that she decides to drown to the sea. Her action develops the plot from a rejection to be a failure and powerless women.

“I would give up the unessential; I would give my money, I would give my life for my children; but I wouldn’t give myself (Chopin, page 53, ch.16)”; “The children appeared before her like antagonists who had overcome her; who had overpowered and sought to drag her into the soul’s slavery for the rest of her days. But she knew a way to elude them. She was not thinking of these things when she walked down to the beach (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)”; “I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier’s possessions to dispose of or not. I give myself where I choose. (Chopin, page 119, ch.35)”; “She had said over and over to herself: ‘To-day it is Arobin; to-morrow it will be some one else. It makes no difference to me, it doesn’t matter about Leonce Pontellier - but Raoul and Etienne!’ (Chopin, page 126, ch.39)”; “She did not look back now, but went on and on, ...believing that it had no beginning and no end (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)”.

The quotations show that she suddenly realize her powerless to the society. She cannot sacrifice her children for her own happiness. Her individual characteristic turns weak and she thinks of suicide, because she never want to let go all of her struggle and the freedom she has been gained. She never thinks of back to her husband again. Her action affects to the plot. Here the plot is about her powerless but also herself freedom rather than about her returning to her marriage and children.

In analyzing the feminist characters behavior and action, the following table is made to present the type of feminist characters based on the indicator, which are: patriarchy, gender, liberal feminism, radical feminism, cultural feminism, and socialist feminism:

No.	Feminist Characters	Quotations	Type of Feminist Characters
1.	Edna Pontellier	<p>a) "She produced the roll of sketches and started to unfold them. 'I believe I ought to work again. I feel as if I wanted to be doing something...I might study for a while with Laidpore' (Chopin, page 61, ch.18)".</p> <p>b) "In short, Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman. The mother-women seemed...women who idolized their children, worshiped their husbands, and esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals and grow wings as ministering angels (Chopin, page 10, ch.4)".</p> <p>c) "all declare that Mr. Pontellier was the best husband in the world (Chopin, page 9, ch.3)"; "Mr. Pontellier was a great favourite, and ladies, men, children, even nurses, were always on hand to say good-bye to him (Chopin, page 9, ch.3)"</p> <p>d) "looking at his wife as one looks at a valuable piece of personal which has suffered some damage (Chopin, page 4, ch.1)"</p> <p>e) "He thought it very discouraging that his wife, who was the sole object of his existence, evidence so little interest in things which concerned him, and valued so little his conversation (Chopin, page 7, ch.3)".</p> <p>f) "She's got some sort of notion in her head concerning the eternal rights of women(Chopin, page 73, ch.22)".</p>	<p>a) liberal feminism</p> <p>b) cultural feminism</p> <p>c) patriarchy</p> <p>d) patriarchy</p> <p>e) patriarchy</p> <p>f) liberal feminism</p>

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- g) “She was fond of her children in an uneven, impulsive way. She would sometimes gather them passionately to her heart; she would sometimes forget them...Their absence was a sort of relief, though she did not admit this, even to herself. It seemed to free her of a responsibility which she had blindly assumed and for which Fate had not fitted her (Chopin, page 21, ch.7)” g) gender
- h) “I would give up the unessential; I would give my money, I would give my life for my children; but I wouldn’t give myself (Chopin, page 53, ch.16)” h) liberal feminism, gender
- i) “In short, Mrs. Pontellier was beginning to realize her position in the universe as a human being, and to recognize her relations as an individual to the world within and about her (Chopin, page 16, ch.6)” i) liberal feminism
- j) “A feeling of exultation overtook her, as if some power of significant import had been given her to control the working of her body and her soul. She grew daring and reckless, overestimating her strength. She wanted to swim far out, where no woman had swum before (Chopin, page 31, ch.10)” j) liberal feminism
- k) “She began to do as she liked and to feel as she liked...She made no ineffectual efforts to conduct her household (Chopin, page 63, ch.19)”. “She has abandoned her Tuesdays at home, has thrown over all her acquaintances, and goes tramping about by herself, moping in the street-cars, getting in after dark (Chopin, page 73, ch.22)” k) liberal feminism
- l) “taking off her wedding ring, flung it upon the carpet...she stamped her heel upon it, striving to crush it. But her small boot heel did not make an indenture, not a mark upon the little glittering circlet (Chopin, page 59, ch.17)” l) radical feminism
- m) “I’m going to pull myself together for a while and think - try to determine what character of a woman I am...By all the codes which I am acquainted with, I am a devilishly wicked specimen of the sex (Chopin, page 91, ch.27)” m) cultural feminism
- n) “I am going to move away from my house on Esplanade Street’. ‘Just two steps away’,
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- laughed Edna, 'in a little four-room house around the corner. It looks so cozy, so inviting and restful, whenever I pass by; and it's for rent. I'm tired looking after that big house. It never seemed like mine, anyway - like home. It's too much trouble. I have to keep too many servants. I am tired bothering with them' (Chopin, page 87, ch.26)".
- n) liberal feminism, cultural feminism
- o) "I have a little money of my own from my mother's estate, which my father sends me by driblets. I won a large sum this winter on the races, and I am beginning to sell my sketches.... I cannot judge of that myself, but I feel that I have gained in ease and confidence... I know I shall like it, like the feeling of freedom and independence (Chopin, page 88, ch.26)".
- o) liberal feminism
- p) I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier's possessions to dispose of or not. I give myself where I choose (Chopin, page 119, ch.35)".
- p) radical feminism, patriarchy
- q) "The children appeared before her like antagonists who had overcome her; who had overpowered and sought to drag her into the soul's slavery for the rest of her days (Chopin, page 127, ch.39)".
- q) cultural feminism, gender
- r) "The years that are gone seem like dreams - if one might go on sleeping and dreaming - but to wake up and find - oh! well! perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one's life... There are periods of despondency and suffering which take possession of me. But I don't want anything but my own way (Chopin, page 123, ch.38)".
- r) liberal feminism
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4. Conclusions

The researcher concludes that there is one character who considered being feminist character that is Edna Pontellier. She becomes feminist as a result of social expectation and men domination toward her. She wishes to represent herself as a woman, an individual, not simply as a wife of a man and a mother of children. Her feminist behavior and action presented points about gender, patriarchy, liberal feminism, radical feminism, and cultural feminism. It also shows that her feminist characters have contribution to the development of plot in the stories. Her feminist characteristics play important effect in changing the mood of

the characters' thought and action so that making the plot developed and changed. Edna feminist character made her to choose suicide rather than come back to her before life with her husband and children.

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