



**CAUSAL AND RESISTANT MECHANISMS AGAINST
PATRIARCHY PORTRAYED IN THE MAIN
CHARACTER EDNA PONTELLIER IN KATE
CHOPIN'S NOVEL *THE AWAKENING***

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring Literature in the English
Department Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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2026

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer sincerely declares that she compiled this thesis entitled “Causal and Resistant Mechanisms Against Patriarchy Portrayed in the Main Character Edna Pontellier in Kate Chopin’s Novel *The Awakening*” entirely on her own. She has not used the results of other researchers submitted for any degree at any university. Furthermore, the writer guarantees that she has not quoted material from anyone else’s papers or publications, other than the sources cited in the references.

Semarang, 20th February 2026

Valencia Putri Yuliana

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

If you can't beat fear,

Just do it scared.

~ Glennon Doyle Melton

“Do not lose hope, not be sad.

You will surely be victorious

If you are true believers.”

~ Ali ‘Imran (3): 139

This thesis is dedicated to

My beloved parents, grandma, husband, siblings

And also to people in my life who supported, prayed, through all my journeys.

I love you all so much

With Love, The Writer

APPROVAL

**CAUSAL AND RESISTANT MECHANISMS AGAINST THE
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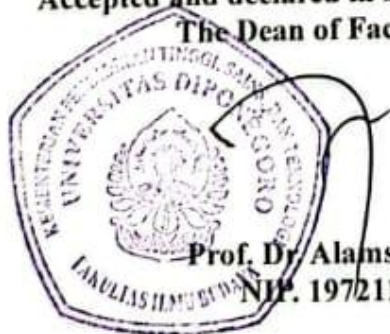
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PORTRAYED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER EDNA PONTELLIER IN
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Valencia Putri Yuliana

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ABSTRACT

This research thesis discusses causal and resistant mechanisms against patriarchy portrayed in the main character in Kate Chopin's novel *The Awakening*. This narrative remains significant as it mirrors the enduring conflict between individual autonomy and societal expectations of motherhood. While previous scholarship has explored the main character, Edna Pontellier, through various feminist lenses, there is a lack of research specifically applying Betty Friedan's concept of the *feminine mystique* to examine the systemic roots of her oppression. Therefore, this study aims to identify the specific causal mechanisms of patriarchy Edna encounters and to describe her resistances against them. The writer employs a library research method, utilizing Friedan's Liberal Feminism theory as an analytical tool to examine the novel. The findings reveal that Edna faces distinct patriarchal barriers categorized into four causal mechanisms: cultural ideological production, economic dependence, institutional channeling, and psychologization. Her resistance operates through a mechanism of internal awakening, recognizing *the problem that has no name* which evolves into an external rebellion through her art and spatial independence. Ultimately, this research underscores that Edna's journey is a profound struggle for self-definition against a system designed to limit female identity.

Keywords: *The Awakening, Kate Chopin, Liberal Feminism, Betty Friedan, Patriarchy.*