

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The Awakening (1899) written by Kate Chopin talks about the resistances of Edna Pontellier in finding her true identity and liberation from the rigid societal norms of 19th-century America. The analysis of this thesis is divided into two aspects, which are intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic analysis focuses on the characters, settings, and conflicts of the story, which is essential in analysing the novel. The extrinsic analysis focuses on the causal mechanisms of patriarchy and mechanisms resistance using Betty Friedan's Liberal Feminism theory.

The findings show that Edna is confined by four specific causal mechanisms of patriarchy: the cultural ideological production (the myth of the "mother-woman" that demands self-effacement), economic dependence on her husband, institutional channeling (which pathologizes her independence through social and medical norms), and the psychological conditioning that led her into a prescribed marriage.

To fight against this system, Edna's resistance operates through a distinct two-step mechanism. It begins with an internal awakening, her confrontation with a vague, deep-seated dissatisfaction recognized as "the problem that has no name." This internal realization subsequently drives her external actions. Edna operationalizes her rebellion by pursuing art as meaningful work, achieving spatial liberation by moving into the pigeon-house, and ultimately rejecting her status as her husband's property. Edna Pontellier's resistance serves as a powerful

literary representation of the necessity of self-definition and the enduring mechanisms of women's struggle against patriarchal ideology.

To conclude, *The Awakening* novel is telling us about the profound journey of a woman claiming her autonomy in a restrictive society. We might as well see Edna Pontellier's resistance as a powerful reminder of the importance of self-definition and the enduring fight for women's freedom against systemic oppression.