

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion derived from the analysis of *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, focusing on the image of women and the unfair treatment they experience. Additionally, this chapter provides recommendations for further research and discussions on feminist literary studies.

5.1 Conclusion

According to Simone de Beauvoir's feminist theory, Kate Chopin's examination of *The Awakening* shows an in-depth examination of women's identities and experiences. The numerous obstacles women encounter in establishing independence, rebellious, bravery, and care in a patriarchal culture are depicted throughout Edna Pontellier's journey. Her transformation from a reliant mother and wife to a self-aware person emphasizes how crucial autonomy is to reaching transcendence. Edna defies social norms and rebels against the restrictive constraints that are placed on women. Her experience also emphasizes the consequences to society of this kind of resistance, as she encounters emotional difficulties, loneliness, and criticism that highlight the structural obstacles women confront.

There are several women's image portrayed in the novel. There are 16 data of image of woman, there are 4 data for image of independent woman, there are 4 data of image of rebellious woman, there are 4 data of image of brave woman, and there are 4 data for image of caring woman. The limited restrictions imposed by a

patriarchal society where women are expected to show self-sacrificing motherhood and unwavering love to their husbands are reflected in the image of women in *The Awakening*. The notion of the "mother-woman" through Edna Pontellier's character, showing how cultural norms rather than individual preferences define women's identities. According to Simone de Beauvoir, Edna's increasing self-awareness and rejection of conventional positions underscore the fight for independence in a society that expects women to fit into predetermined categories. She experiences social alienation as a result of her disobedience, though, which serves to further the notion that women who want independence are viewed as rebellious and disruptive of the status quo. Chopin challenges these expectations by showing a woman who aspires to transcendence but is ultimately limited.

Apart from image of woman, there are unfair treatment faced by woman in the novel. There are 9 data of unfair treatment experienced by woman; 5 data of unfair treatment from family, there are 4 data of unfair treatment from society. In the novel, women are treated unfairly in both the home and society at large, which serves to further solidify their dependency and subjugation. Edna is treated as her husband's property in the family and is supposed to focus solely on taking care of the house, with no respect for her unique personality. Women are subjected to strict expectations and emotional manipulation, as demonstrated by Léonce's comments and society's disapproval of her decisions. Outside the home, Edna is severely criticized by society for standing up for her rights, illustrating the unfair discrimination that favors men while limiting women's independence. It is clear

from using de Beauvoir's theory that Edna's oppression is systemic rather than just personal, stemming from deeply embedded social systems that deprive women of their right to self-determination.

5.2 Recommendations

Education must be a key component in addressing the systemic problems that *The Awakening* brought to light. Academic curriculum that include feminist literature can promote critical understanding of historical injustices and gender roles, leading to important discussions on equality and autonomy. Dismantling the patriarchal systems that sustain economic reliance also requires policies that support women's financial freedom, such as equal pay programs and increased employment prospects. By taking these steps, women would be free to follow their dreams without being constrained by conventional norms of caring for others or being domesticated.

The Awakening presents substantial opportunities for further scholarly analysis for future researchers. Examining the intersection of race and gender in the portrayal of secondary characters, could provide insights into how different forms of oppression overlap in Chopin's work. Researchers might also investigate the role of symbolism, as a representation of freedom and self-discovery. Additionally, applying psychological or existentialist frameworks beyond Beauvoir, could yield new interpretations of Edna's journey. These alternative approaches would deepen the understanding of the novel's themes and its critique of societal constraints on women.