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Obsession for Pleasure in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*

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Letter of Recommendation

Sandip Limbu has completed his thesis entitled “Obsession for Pleasure in Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from January 2020 to September 2021. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for Viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Obsession for Pleasure in Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Sandip Limbu has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research committee.

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Sandip Limbu

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Abstract

This research analyses "Obsession for Pleasure in Kate Chopin's "The Awakening" from the perspective of Sigmund Freud structural model psyche. It exposes the behaviors of male and its impact on female psyche to create the obsession for pleasure in their mind and its consequences in the life of women. Obsession means to set the pleasure to get rid from obstacle of her life. She considers that behaviors of male haven't shown to give female any kind of space in society which is succeeded to create several problems such as anxiety disorder, erotic, abnormality psyche, obsession, libido, self-center etc. Thus Edna convinces people to revolt against male dominated society for women's rights. In the novel, mind of Edna is guided by Id which is pleasure principle component of the psyche and developed an Id as infants by her repressed desire to fight with Superego. It means Ego could not balance the pleasure seeking principle impulse in Edna. She does not care about other people and social norms, value and morality in order to obtain pleasure is main reason to end her life even if she has two children and husband. This research paper explores that a person can be mentally healthy when he or she balances Freud structural Id, Ego and Superego. This kind of situation did not appear in her life if she had considered other as social norms, value and morality which help us to determine doing our action is right or wrong.

Key Words: Morality, Libido, Obsession, Female Self, Pleasure, Anxiety disorder, Erotic, Abnormality psyche, Id, Ego, Superego

This research paper analyzes nineteenth century American novelist Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899) as a story of obsession for pleasure seeking of the main character protagonist Edna Pontellier through the Freudian concept of Id, Ego and Super Ego. Edna is a woman of the upper class who has two children with a tolerant husband. Even if she has to spend her all time to utilize her opportunities for entertainments, she could not take satisfaction in her current life. Instead of such kind of feeling as a time goes on, she grows more and more unhappy. She has active sexual desire with Alcee to leave her husband and her children, falls in love with a man younger than her and has an affair with another man. Robert becomes perplex after affair with Edna because he knows that she is married, he leaves her to live in Mexico to forget Edna. She wants to become more and more independent to complete her object as women rights, marginalize and suppressed people by rebellion without objection such as sleeping on the same bed as with her husband. She also neglects her children and her duties as a wife and daughter in law in community when her husband in a way for business. She decides to move to a smaller house to live on her own drawing and selling pictures. She puts the sexual affair with another man called the Alcee Arobin who is known as a philanderer while Robert is absent. Even though Edna has pain, she leaves Mexico and trip forward Grand Isle where she and Robert fell in love with each other. As a result symbolically she drowns herself while she encourages for swim with undress

This research paper shows how obsession helps Edna to search the pleasure in the novel. Edna has already married and two children and tolerate husband even though she did not stop to connect the relationship to other due to the ego is not controlled her id. The id is a pleasure principle component of the psyche as infants which work by providing her with desire for all the types of things. It means that Id

does not care reality and other human which main goal is to provide her satisfaction. Protagonist Edna Pontellier is undergoing such as psychic abnormality that due to not having a strong Ego. The Id is the most primitive part of our personality and operators according to the pleasure principle, and it simply seeks in mediate gratification (delight) Freud asserts that every human had a "life instinct" and "death instinct". Life instinct is called "Eros" while the death instinct is called "Thanatos". Both are the integral part of Id. So that Edna has not controlled or balanced out the demands arousing from her subconscious area. The Id of her mind the structural model of the psyche at abnormality is a model of Id, Ego and Superego are as templates for functioning of the psyche. It is based on the principles that the obsessions comes from repressed emotion and thoughts from experience in the past. So that birth of strong Id in protagonist Edna life has come from her repression emotion and thought, her bitter experience of the past and so on. She was an extravagant female who does not want to stay under the shadow of patriarchal society.

Chopin's *The Awakening* depicts the history from the Victorian age to the era of Modernism. The entire European and American society where suffer from chaotic situation. The social, scientific and cultural paradigms in Europe and across the Atlantic were undergoing radical change due to the theories propounded by scientist and theorists. As Freud's theory on psychoanalysis, Darwin's theories of evolution and natural selection, Marx's theories favor a classless society and Nietzsche's existential thoughts that opposed the Christianity and put forward the idea that "God is dead", the paradigms of the institutions of the society began to be questioned in the favor of individualism. At that time, creole society was ruled by male to rule over female such as strict behaviors and other conventions so that must be adhered to particularly for women. In the paradigm, Edna has made a plan to become

independence and freedom through the contrasting the notion of male according to this essay, think hard about male expectations for women and examine how women are expected to fit it and what happens, if they do or not ? How and who reached to effect to the psyche of Edna? Was there space of the female or not? Behavior of her husband Leonce was justice for her or not? How had behavior of male been effected in female mind? Who and how did obsession create in Edna's mind? Had it really compelled to rebel by women in order to relief from chain of the Creole society? In this context, the problem is raised by custom of society, Patriarchal society, the male which female are suppressed by the male and Edna realizes that society does not allow her the possibility for an autonomous individual human being.

Sigmund Freud who was the father of psychoanalysis, elaborated human psyche which is composed by three parts: Id, Ego and Superego. He asserts that all people are born with their Id, which consists the sexual, aggressive, instincts concerning with immediate fulfillment. The motivating force for the Id is libido or sexual desire. This pleasure principle component of our psyche works by providing us with desire with for all types of things. The main goal of the Id is to satisfy the person's wants and does not care about reality or other human needs. Freud argues that the Id is entirely hidden in unconscious. At the age of three, an ego or reality principle component of the human psyche starts to develop. The ego is the rational part of the mind and is concerned with behaving in a social acceptable way. The ego which is partially hidden in unconscious, must also balance the desires of the Id with control of superego. Around the age of five or six, the child finally develops his or her Superego, the morality principal component of the human psyche. The Super ego acts as an antithesis to the Id by placing moral and ethical restrictions on the human. The Superego is often thought of as human conscience become it to determine what we

believe to right and wrong, Freud would argue that Super ego is partially hidden away in the human preconscious and conscious thus it can be accessed by the human mind. Superego is concerned with moral judgment of guilt.

Edna is an extraordinary female protagonist than her husband and other women according to their attitude and behavior. She tries to come out from the cage and improve her skills as an artist to struggle or rebellion in aspect or unvoiced of voiceless to live with freedom and to get the justice from patriarchal society and also she wants to change in the psyche of the male. She has compelled to rebellion in this context, Id has a more covered mind than Ego and Superego due to the lack of the female space. Which Edna could not controlled her Id as a result her life is ending with tragic.

Living in own house as an independent household, Edna Pontellier attempts to oppose patriarchal society by having different lovers. This unusual and abnormal action Edna behaviors could be easily justified since she is just acting according to Id in order to fulfill her desire. Tas believes that sections are rooted in her impulsive feeling or in the other word, her Id, stating that she” rather marks efforts to fulfill her amoral desires. She is enthusiastic to push away all her matrimonial, familiar and societal bounds for the sake of her impulsive feelings” (Tas 415). Edna’s Id leads her to betray her husband by loving Robert and having a sexual affair with Arbin. It also pushes Edna to leave her responsibilities as a mother and wife in order to be too free to follow her own her desires. Her desire does not consider anything just its desire even if they are immoral. Patriarchal society plays the role of Superego in Edna’s psychological existence always prevents her from following her desire. The society defines the role of women as a sexual unwanted wife and a selfless mother. However, Edna’s Id rejects all of these norms.

In the first chapter of *The Awakening*, "a green and yellow parrot which hung in a cage outside the door kept repeating over and over; *Allozvous-en! Allozvous-en! Sprite!* that is all right "(1). Edna is initially symbolized by the cage green-and - yellow parrot of the opening scene, parrot is telling everyone to "go away for God's sake" unable to leave the cage, parrot must asks everyone to leave when it would to simply fly. Edna begins to desire to solitude, pushing away her husband and former friends to achieve times alone in which she can work on her art or engage in self-reflection. The end of the 19th century is recognized as a transition period from the Victorian age to the era of modernism while the Europe and the United States late nineteenth century was a chaotic and tumultuous period such as difficulties are radical changed due to several theories propounded by scientist and theorist like a Freud. Psychoanalysis, the paradigms of the institution of society began to be questioned in favorer of individualism.

Edna Pontellier attempts to enter patriarchal society by taking on multiple lovers, moving into her own house, refusing to her husband's house to visitors. It means that Edna starts to rebel against rule over the female by male such as a concept of her husband as "you are burn beyond recognition he added, looking at his wife as one looks at valuable piece personal property which has suffered some damage"(3). Leonce is insensitivity, selfishness, reproach voice, in monotonous, insistent way is ostensibly sensible , given that they have divided up family support duties, with Leonce working outside the home in the brokerage business while Edna assumes full responsibility for all domestic areas including childcare. There was no option of division of labor to choose for Edna but the default choice of her society and culture. Such a situation gives the birth of Id in the mind of Edna Pontellier which comes from suppressed desire.

Human behaviors and actions are motivated by internal and psychological forces such as Id, Ego and Superego and abnormality is caused by an imbalance in these forces. Some of the imbalance is having too powerful Superego, weak Ego and unchecked Id impulse. For instance, if a person has too powerful Ego he will be too harsh rash morality causes him to restrict his id to such extent that he would deprive himself of even socially accepted pleasure. According to Freud, this person would suffer from neurosis and would have the symptoms of anxiety disorder such as phobias and obsession.

The obsession for pleasure in Edna's mind is appeared while her mind is fully covered by Id which comes from the suppressed desire. In the following extract Edna talks herself about husband. As Freud states:

It was eleven o'clock that night when Mr. Pontellier returns from Kelen's hotel. He was an excellent human in high spirits and very talkative. His entrance awoke his wife, who was in bed and fast asleep when he came in. He talked to her while he undressed, telling her anecdotes and bits of news and gossip that he had gathered during the day. (8)

Given quotation is explaining the Leonce's behaviors often returning home and his perception of his wife as more of an amusement than partner. When he arrives at home possibly drunk and awakens Edna from sound sleep but expects her to chatter back at him. He is displeased that his wife evinced so little interest things which concerned him and valued so little his conservation.

However, it seems that Edna's abnormality is due two reasons: her weak Ego and unchecked Id impulse. Well balanced people have a strong Ego which is able to balance the demand of both Id and the Superego by permitting each to express it in appropriate times. However, if the Ego is not strong enough to make balance between

Id and Superego than either dominant personality, therefore abnormality occurs. Tas narrated in the story, Edna's abnormality is rooted in her weak ego. Tas writes:

It is obvious that according to Freud's structural mode of the psyche, Chopin's protagonist Edna Pontellier is undergoing such a psyche abnormality that due to not having a strong "Ego" she cannot balance out the demand arising from her subconscious area the Id of her mind of the psyche or the psychodynamic model of abnormality is a model which Freud introduced the Id, Ego, and Superego as templates for the functioning of the psyche. It is the base at the principles that psychological illness comes about from repressed emotion and thoughts experience in the past. If the ego is not strong it could not balance the demands of the id and superego, then abnormality will occur. (Tas 416)

Obsession for pleasure has replaced the place of the reality principle and the morality principle component of human psyche. It means that Edna does not care either right or wrong way. The main goal of Edna is to spend her time to take entertainment, enjoy, party and gathering with friends while the mind is covered by Id. Id comes from suppressed desire of the psyche which is stored in the unconscious mind. As Freud mentions:

Mrs. Pontellier finally lit a cigar and began to smoke, letting the paper drag idly from his hand. He fixed his gaze upon a white sunshade that was advancing at snail's the pace from the beach. He could see it plainly between the gaunt trunks of the water oaks and across the stretch of yellow chamomile. The sunshade continued to approach slowly. Beneath its pink link lined shelter was his wife. Mrs. Pontellier, and young Robert Lebrun, when they reached the cottage, two seated themselves with some appearance of fatigue upon the

upper step of the porch, facing each other each leaning against a supporting post(3).

Even if she is already married with Leonce, has two children and as a daughter in law and lives in society, Edna does not care about her responsibilities neither she follows the norms and value of society nor rears her children and supports husband. She lost totally herself in the realm of Id. According to the psychoanalysis, “the unconscious is the store house where painful experience and emotions, wound, fears, guilty desire and unsolved conflict that one does not know about because one feels overwhelmed by them” (Tyson 12). It is a dynamic entity that engages at the deepest level of being. The Id is the part of the psyche that contains one true, prohibited, desire psychological reservoir of repressed aggressive desire. It contains “one’s instincts and devotes itself to the pursuit and fulfillment of desire without regard for any consequence punishments” (Tyson 25). The desires are considered prohibited due to social restrictions but Id does not know “no” and seeks to overwhelm the part of the psyche that takes social restrictions into account the Superego.

Fear of abandonment takes place when one believes, even without reason to, that one’s friend, family, or acquaintance will abandon them. The abandonic form fear of abandonment feels terrorized by the threat of “conflict, rapture, separation, isolation, solitude, lack of love” and as “hunted by the fear of losing love” (23). Abandonment can be physical, in the sense of being physically left alone, or emotional, in the sense of believing that one is not truly cared about. A characteristic of fear of abandonment is that it develops during infancy and into a chronic debilitation that “noticeably disrupts character and behavior” (Guex2). Guex writes that the main reason for the development of fear of abandonment is privation of love infancy.

The mention above, the present paper start to analyze main character Edna Pontellier's Id argues that the character reveals characteristics of those who experience fear of abandonment. The Id largely rules Edna's behaviors with few instances her goal and ultimate desire or dream, that of being with Robert Lebrun which can be seen as a personification. Edna's id engages itself if the larger part of the novel invest her time to take enjoy that she throws in hope in attracting with Robert Lebrun and her openly adulterous pursuit him. The force of Edna's Id such as it drowns out the Ego rendering the latter for a largest part of the novel. Which also show as previously mentioned the id fuels and fuelled by one's dream.

In the concept of Freud's "The Ego and Id and Superego" Id represents the impulsive aspect of human nature. Id is the pleasure seeking principle and Ego deals with reality, the Superego is the opposite of the Id which forced by father and the social cultural institution. Ego is a mediator between the Id and Superego evaluating whether the impulses conflict with the Superego or not. Freud says that abnormality psyche occurs in the Edna because Ego is not strong enough to balances out the demands of Edna as Id and Super ego. Seyerst states, "Think nothing of his regarding her traditional duties toward her husband and challenging the sacred concept of matrimony"(149). Edna has willingly accepted a marriage and given birth to two sons, has loving and caring husband and enviable economic and asocial condition, but nevertheless she has an illegitimate love affair with Robert Lebrun and while logging for that illegitimate love she find no fault in having a sexual affair with Alcee Arobin. Considering the psychodynamic model of abnormality, it is likely propounded that Edna's illegitimate is an affirmation that her Ego is not strong to control to act in such kind of manner which their customs of society do not accept.

Furthermore, she finds no mistakes in sending her children to stay with their grandmother while she uses the time to pursue her defiant and adulterous acts. Here, her Ego seems to be null to realize nature to take care the children. George Arm asserts that, "Mrs Chopin regards freedom from children as a necessary basis for complete freedom" (Kulley 150). It is another indication that for Edna Completely freedom means to be completely free of Ego and Superego, and to live a life driven by instinctive pleasure, namely by Id. Similarly, another critic walker stresses that Edna "resembles a sleep walker much of the time not aware in intellectual level of what she is doing" (walker 68). The awakening of Edna is an instinctively Sexual and process to lead the lack of command over her own feeling and action, As Culley states;

It cannot be admitted that the women who has willingly accepted the love and devotion of the men, Even without equal love on her part who has become his wife and mother of his children has not incurred a moral obligation which peremptorily for bids her from wantonly severing her relations with him, and entering openly upon the independent existence of an unmarried woman. (150)

Women have compelled to remain the issue of social, economic, and political due to the suppressed by their custom and patriarchal society. Their struggle on equality and having a space in the social stratum is something essential that must be propounded by both women and men. Women lacked a voice not only society but also in everyday life. Being of the opinion that women and men should have equal rights. It is difficult to consider Kate Chopin is as the women in pursuit of women's rights, and her protagonist as a prototype feminist character. "A certain light was beginning to dawn dimly within her light which is showing the way forbids it" (21), in *The Awakening* according her needs and her desire human being and recognize her relation as an individual to the world within and about her. Freud also asserts that every person has

an unconscious wish to die for those, who live a painful life death promises realize from this struggle.

The Id is the part that is controlled by the pleasure principle, an important element that is innate. It enable individual to acquire their basic need. It pushes them to seek pleasure which can be negative, to fulfill their desires without thinking of the consequence. In the Mohamed Suleiman's Kiu novel, Bahati is a main character which mind is controlled by the pleasure principle. Because of her desire for love and material wealth, she finds herself facing great temptation. The pleasure principle makes her lose her sense of self while the Id pushes her to fulfill her desires for her love of Idi. The Id self makes her weak in her actions. Such a capacity of thinking is incapable of differentiating right and wrong in her action. It plunges in to a lot of trouble. It makes her accept doing evil thing because of the pleasure of her love for Idi and her greed for material wealth. Bahati falls in love with a man who is incapable of reciprocating love and her greed catches up with her. Suleiman writes:

Bahati looked a Idi, in hardly expecting something bad to happen. She was scared and shuddered because she had never seen Idi so hassled. Was it the pain of wounds already inflected on her or was it a sign for something yet to happen? However, she troubled herself for nothing, she would not consent, she would never in. to go and make love to that old man with disheveled beard? If indeed Idi really loved her, he would not take her there no matter what. She thought in her mind. (Mohamed 17)

Bahati's psychological conflicts clearly demonstrate how her Id and Superego are conflicted. Even if Bahati comes from a poor family, she is compelled to accept social norms and value. However, the pleasure principle pushes her so much that she wants material riches and at the same time she desire Idi's love. She wants security and

satiety in order to acquire the she craves, she has to give in to *Idi's* demands. Yet everything goes against the moral of her society and her religious beliefs. This thought put her in conflict with her inner self. This conflict between her pleasure principle and the reality principle prevents her from making the rational decisions. Her thought shows the reality but desire and the yearning for love and wealth overwhelm her. She finds herself engulfed in gloom that leads her to destruction abyss.

After studying the history of human civilization, Freud concluded that the death instinct motivates man to go for destruction. In this novel *Edna* raises the self-destructive behavior both in individual and whole society. After her initial bold progress in the gulf, she soon finds that she has swum farther out than she can actually swim back. She has made more progress than she could not handle as a result her dead is shadow when she is struck by "a quick vision of death" (44) that terrifies her. *Leonce* fails to appreciate her terror, painting out that was watching you" as if his placid observation from shore could prevent her from drawing or from later having an affair with *Alcee Arobin*. Kate Chopin did not have any feministic thought when she wrote the book in concealed in her response to the reaction saying "I never dreamed of *Mrs. Pontellier* mess of things and working out her own domination as she did. If I had the slightest intimation of such a thing I would have excluded her from my company. But when I found out what she was up to the play was half over, and it was already too late" (Culley139) It claims that Chapin's smatter is not the women's rights. The subject matter is purely sexual with him and from this standpoint which is beyond its time. It means that the main theme is generally a married women's struggle to fulfill her sexual freedom which seems an extramarital sexual encounter without a slightest hint of moral censure in the awakening's protagonist *Edna*. Its object matter

is the illegitimate sexual affair between married women called Calixta, who has a son and caring husband and a man called Alcee.

Another reason for Edna's abnormality might be "unchecked id impulsive." If Id impulses are unchecked they may be expressed in self-destructive and immoral behavior. This is exactly what has happened to Edna. She has not checked Id impulses whether they are logical or Id impulses lead her to a self-destructive action committing suicide at the end of the novel. Edna who has children and a husband, decide to end her life in order to satisfy her pleasure. Yet this act does not take into consideration the happiness of her family that she chooses to leave behind perfect an example of the Id. Freud also believed that repressed desire of human being would be problematic in their future. Through the novel, there would be lots of hints which represent that Edna is suppressed by social norms and value. Women in those days were their husband's property, the men looked often their views as object women, certainly were not allowed to have sexual needs. In that case they were considered as "bad girl" as Tyson point out that good women were accepted to sex fighting and disgusting"(Tyson 89). This makes her sexual needs.

Edna has become a sexual psycho evaluation heroine with having identified the symbol of the father, experience the pre oedipal imaginary as she awakening. Unable to resolve the dilemma of her conflicting symbolic, imaginary identifies. Then she chooses to return to the imaginary of the sea due to the isolated from historical, cultural, contexts. Elizabeth Fox-Gneves adopts more materialistic tone, setting the novelist's own individualism as articulated in the novella against a background of t concurrent course to women's movement. Chopin, argues Fox-Genovese takes the opposite course to that of the women's movement by the women's independence in a personal more than a social manner.

In her view of the American female literary tradition, Showalter calls attention to the profusion of household spatial image in the works of the female sentimentalist: the kitchen, the garden, the birdcage, etc. such spaces, she observes, are invested with “mythological meanings” in the story of the local colorists “the mother’s garden has become a paradisaal sanctuary, the house an emblem of the female body with kitchen as its womb”. The same spatial images appear repeatedly in *The Awakening* such spatial images have also received other feminist scholars. Halen Taylar and Janet Beer both discuss the heroine’s image as a female flaneur wondering the urban streets. Stressing the performativity and fictitiousness of the city space, Taylor defines the obsession for pleasure in Edna seems to quest for the meaning of femininity. On the other hand, interprets it as a form of the limited expression and materialization of sexual awakening in the city space. Elisabeth Le Blac also pointed out that on Edna’s cultural space through the employing the concept “metaphorical lesbian” of Lesbian Theory, she examines Edna’s challenge to the heterosexual and patriarchal institution by the means of spatial construction, arguing that “Edna’s revaluation results in a gradual construction of spaces physical, cultural, psychological that allows her to establish an identity separate from her social world. She also tries to establish a position, a space within her culture from which she can question its norms and constitute herself as an active subject.

Another reason of birth of Id in Edna is that the women on the Island are ideological bound by Creole tradition. The geographical Grand Isle is presented as a metaphor of the enclosed space of female existence which is far from the mainland on the surface. It is also proves that from the Madame Lebrum resorts refers another metaphor of the patriarchal control over the women. Madame Lebrum’s room is “situated at the top of the house having two broad dormer windows looked out toward

the gulf and so far across it as man's eyes might reach the furnishing rooms were light, cool and practical"(33). The cottage and the coastal water all are under surveillance of the dormer windows as were the case of the Benthamianpanopticon. The matriarch dwelling is such a dominant space, who admire the more intelligent and higher patriarchal order and propagates patriarchal laws as she issues her commands in a high tone. Edna begins this process by abandoning her Tuesday reception day, with simple but disturbing excuse: "I was out, that was all" (70). After an unpleasant dinner with her husband she goes to room and takes off her wedding ring and strives to crush it with her heel then smashes a vase upon the tiles of the hearth which are highly symbolic conducts. As Freud remarks:

The "pigeon house" pleased her. It at once assumed the intimate character of a home, while she invested it with a charm which it reflected like a warm glow.

Every step which she look toward relieving herself from obligations added to her own eyes; to see and to apprehend the deeper undercurrent of life. (149)

Obsession for pleasure of Edna is also known as to seek such a space which allows her to enjoy the freedom of action and thought due to the birth of Id through the suppressed desire. Id is a pleasure principle and dose work antithesis of Superego. Edna has been played the role of Id while Creole society related with the superego. Therefore, Edna does not follow norms and value of society, prestige, and her responsibilities of son of mother in the family. She dates Arobin for imprisoned sexuality, and a space which she eventually invites Robert to share. Most significantly, she plays the dominant role here in all her interaction with the male. Arobin gets invited and dismissed precisely as it pleases her. Robert gives his confession of love under her guidance.

The women's right movement had been in progress since the first women rights conferences which was held in 1848. As Cully states, "women from all level of society were active in attempts to better their lot, and the new women the late nineteenth century equivalent of the liberated women was much on the public mind" (Culley 117). But the women's right activists were in secret of having the same right with men as regards the property and suffrage rights. They were not in search of complete freedom of their impulsive feelings. The women's right the movement of the second half of the 19th century is known to be the first wave of the feminist that mainly struggled for equality in property women's right to vote. Considering the characteristics of this first wave feminist struggle for rights and Chopin's protagonist Edna's behaviors, it is difficult to say that Edna longs for women's freedom so that she should be regarded as a prototype for feminism.

Edna Pontellier regarded as feminism and Kate Chopin as a feminist creator both of their behavior seems to be same within the field of feminism because, dictionaries such as Merriam Webster, Cambridge, Encarta, and Oxford defines feminism as an organized activity of behalf of women's right and also as the theory political and social equality of the sexes. Feminism is generally broken up in to three waves: the first wave feminism, which spans from the mid nineteenth century to the early twentieth century was mainly engaged in equality property rights and in women's suffrage or women's right to vote. The second wave, which spans from the early 1960s through the late 1980s, focused on discrimination and on cultural, social, and political issues and this wave feminists broadened the scope from the early quest for political rights to right for greater equality in education, in work place, and at home. The third wave which emerged in the early 1990s was a reaction due to race, class, nationality, and religion. Bell Hooks, on that account, argues that:

Feminism, as liberation struggle must exist apart from and as a part of the larger struggle to eradicate domination in all its forms. We must understand that patriarchal domination shares and ideological foundation through racism and other forms of group oppression, and that there is no hope that it can be eradicated while these systems remain in fact. This knowledge should consistently inform the direction of feminist theory and practice. (Hooks 22)

On hooks account, the defining characteristic that distinguishes feminism from other liberation struggles is its concern with sexism. The Hooks regards feminism as “a movement to end sexism and sexist oppression” (Ibid. 23), not as a movement to dismantle and dismiss social institutions such as motherhood and marriage, it is obvious that feminism is regarded as a liberation struggle against patriarchy. But this struggle is exerted to construct an equality of both the man and women in social, economic and cultural sphere. It is not regarded as a luxury of the beautiful one’s all intrinsic desires, be it emotional or sexual. In this regard, Chopin’s protagonist Edna Pontellier does not employ any exertion in pursuit of women’s rights. She makes effort to fulfill her amoral desires. She is enthusiastic to push away all the matrimonial, familial and societal bonds, for the sake of her impulsive feeling.

According to the Walker, there is in Chopin’s novel, no stance about women’s liberation or equality; indeed, the other married women in the novel are presented as happy in condition” (Walker 256). In fact Edna has no association with the feminist group in the novel; Loince denies any such association when Dr. Mandelate asks, “is she has been associating of late with a circle of pseudo-intellectual women super spiritual, super being?” (64). The Creole life style of liberality across the sexes, shown by the participation of the risqué conversations, rouses Edna’s sexual awakening. Rather than the struggle of the sexes, Walker argues that Edna is not behaving in the

shocking, inexplicable manner, the novel. By the succumbing to the sensuality of the Creoles, she is denying what she has been raised to believe, so that in the same ways the novel deals with the clash of the two cultures” (Walker 254). Edna appears to be a transformation sensual 59 Creole women, which opposes the Protestant farm life of her childhood.

The fact that men frame her sexual awakening shows that Edna makes no attempt to move beyond patriarchal constructs. Robert spurs the desire for curiosity about sensuality, Arobin consummates the desire and he rejects her proposal of an affair. In *Kate Chopin: a Critical Biography*, Per Seyersted argues that “what dominates her imagination during this period is not so much a feminist revolt as the idea of transcended passion for Robert” (141). In her relationship with men, Edna evidently remains in a dream world of passivity guided by the men as her awakening is one of the self-identity like individual, regardless of gender. According to Seyersted, Edna is captured by the romanticism of Robert’s fairytales and ghost stories. Edna moves from her own slumber and devil of her attachment to Arobin centers on her slumber. Chopin depicts the Creole culture as one of the exaggeration and insincerity. Dr. Mandelate exposes this indifference nature of Edna’s own values and temperament. “And nature takes no account of moral consequence of arbitrary to maintain at any cost” (Sullivan 105). Edna therefore, cannot help but react to her environment in kind. In “Narrative Stance in Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening*” Sullivan and Smith argue that Edna’s characterization reflects the richness of the culture through which she must navigate to her own self-awareness to rebel the extravagant Creole culture, “temperance, sanity, and rationality not for Edna, who wants to explore the unknown and forbidden. Her passivity is still unavoidable, as she is

ignorant for the changes that lead to her eventual move from her husband and toward self-reflection.

Foucault defines power as “power is what prohibits, what prevents, people doing something” (Qt in Kritzman 102). This definition of the term totally explains what is done for the confinement of women. Men as the group who rules and has the power brings bans or prohibitions according to what they want. In this perspective, Foucault emphasizes that “to say that sex is not far repressed, or rather that the relationship between sex and power is not characterized by repression is to risk falling into a sterile paradox” (Foucault 8). In addition to that “sexuality in so far as it is, in every society is a good area to test what the mechanisms of power actually are” (Qtd in Kritzman 102) he points out the relation between sex and power emphasizes that sex and sexuality are areas where the power of hegemony is tested. But he states that the outcome of resistance against the power by saying that “I am just saying as soon as there is power relation, there is possibility of resistance” (Q td in Kritzan 103). Women resistance comes out whenever the power of the ruling class comes against them as it happens in *the Awakening* Edna is the main female protagonist who is recognized as a position of motherhood and her feminine perspective about the location of women in a male dominated society which Creole patriarchy society rules in southern part of the United State of America.

By such patriarchal society’s definition of women is consider to be at home and be womanly as manners, and definitions of men who are as considered to be outside for business, the mobility of men expands while women shrink. This situation is portrayed even from the beginning of the novel. “A green and yellow parrot which hung in a cage outside the door, kept repeating over and over” (1). This parrot actually symbolizes Edna, primarily the protagonist the story as Elz states that

protagonist's struggle against the confines of her society. Chopin's *The Awakening* and Cather's *Lost Lady* employ birds as a metaphor for the entrapment of the protagonist experience" (Elz 13). Even from the beginning space is a cage which refers the confinement of the women. Like a bird in the cage, Edna who seems to standing outside is the cage of the female dominated by Creole society which determines rules of living for women. She is unconventional women whose life style does not suit the norms and value of Creole society. She is not interested in children and the marriage when her husband as a representative of the dominant society thinks her place is home with her children as it can be entered from this sentence of the story.

He reproached his wife with intention, her habitual neglect of the children. "if it was not a mother's place to look after the children, who's on earth was it? Hehad hide hands full with his brokerage business. He could not be in two places of one making a living for his family on the street and staying at home to see that no harm befell them. (9)

Leonce thinks that she is required to be at home looking after children and he had to do business outside. Such ideas reflect the space of women how she will live and male society becomes the determiner of all these. Such situation shows that the difference between man and women in order to continue empowerment of male dominant society till nineteen century. Leonce has free to go out and not come back for dinner where the wife is supposed to be at home. But Edna has to resist this power and this happen by noticing her power as a resistance to get pleasure. Here pleasure refers to relief from the chain of iron. So, she "wanted to swim far where no women had swum before"(43). In her ability to swim, which she symbolizes the blossoming of her desire to leave behind social constraints. As she realizes the ease which she can

collect power through the water, and grew daring and reckless overestimating conventions and obey her own desire. She does not want to only swim but also refuse follow certain social conventions. It means that she wanted to recognize by other through advocating about women justice during the time of the Victorian Era, which is known as male society.

Here sea is presented as a source of symbol where Edna put her expectation is to get freedom and knowledge. She manages to service in the sea by her learning swimming. She goes in to the sea, such a space to make her wings strong to fly. The male Creole society suppressed that all kind of desire of the women according to Freud says that birth of Id comes from the suppressed desire which is stored in unconscious. Due to such a reason has success to give the birth of Id in Edna's mind. In this case society has played the role of the Superego and Edna mind is full of Id which is not well controlled by Ego due to power full Superego.

Marria Gudmundsson, finds the relationship between Edna's Awakening and Freudian term of Eros and Thanatos as she wrote:

Edna's recurring dives in to the water is significant for her awakening by connecting them to what Freud termed "oceanic feeling" a concept connected to the more widely known Freudian term unconscious as well his concept of Eros, the sex drive and Thanatos death drives both are hidden in the unconscious triggered by her bathing. (Gudmundsson 3)

Gudmundsson believes that the ocean is the symbol of Edna's unconscious writing that "the ocean become metaphor for her unconscious: no one has ever been there" (Gudmundsson 8). By going to swim the ocean, she gradually comes to know her unconsciousness which is full of prohibited desire. The first time Edna swims she starts to defy her husband. Gudmundsson believes that this the beginning of Edna's

awakening, the more time she goes into the ocean to become more rebellious she becomes. The next time she goes for swimming and does not see any fault to have a sexual affair with Arobin or to be in love with Robert. Going it to the ocean is equal with going in to the unconscious, make Edna aware of her Eros or sexual desire and her suppressed emotions as Gudmandsson states that “it is Edna’s swimming that causes the gradual steps toward her awakening i. e. becoming partly aware of what is suppressed on her unconscious” (Gudmandsson 12).

According to Lois Tyson “ the unconscious as the store house of those painful experience and emotion, those wounds, fears, guilty, desires, unresolved conflict we do not want to know about it because our feel will be overwhelmed by them” Tyson 15). Edna is completely awakened at Edna of the novel, but she is dissatisfied where she realizes that she can’t satisfy all of her desire as Gudmondsson says that Edna has awakened, but she discovers that she will never be fully satisfied due to the her Eros drive always hunt her. She, therefore gradually submits to darkness and death. At this movement Edna’s changes to Thanatoes or death drive which leads her to the decision of the committing suicide in order to escape from the lightness of being aware of her unconscious to the darkness of not being aware of it. According to the definition of unconscious given by Tyson Edna does not like to know more about her suppressed desire.

Psychological realism is concerned to be character driven rather than the plot driven and places and emphasis on the interior life of the protagonist. Such types of writing often go in to the mind of a character. So it can be called a novel of the inner man, the stream of consciousness could be employed to illustrate the inner thought of the character’s mind used by Shakespeare in Hamlet but it is said that the first

psychological is Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*. As a modern movement, psychological realism started with the emergence of psychology as formal study.

Chopin was a local color writer, but Fusco believes that realizing Maupassant's works lead her to writing a psychological novel. As a psychological novel, *The Awakening* mainly puts the emphasis on Edna's inner motivations and thoughts Chopin wanted to show that inner Edna is more important than outer Edna, which means that it is Edna's inner motivation guide her what to do as she even as a child she had lived her own small life all within herself. At a very early period she had apprehended instinctively the dual life that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions. These two Edna do not match up. The outer Edna conforms to social rules, while the inner Edna questions her actions. This is the inner Edna which dominant the outer one and command what to do.

The obsession for pleasure leads her to destroy Creole society by use Alcee Arobin and Robert Lebrun as tools in order to relief from the chain of iron of Creole society, while the male had been ruled over female. The Alcee Arobin seems to awaken the sexual desire of Edna where Robert Lebrun appeals to her loving, less lust full emotions. Her relationship with both of these men ultimately represents a form of penis envy which Freud would argue, system from her repressed sexual desires that developed as her Id was forming as an infant. Edna jealousy of Robert letters to Madame Lebrun can interpret as an example of the Electra complex, Edna wishes to destroy the mother who Id relieving attention from the male that she desires. This conscious desire for Robert and unconscious hatred of Madame Lebrun can link to the pleasure seeking the principle of the Id. Also, Edna's perception of Adele's newborn baby as well as Edna's removal of her cloths before stepping in to the ocean represents the womb, the stripping her clothes represent the nakedness of being born.

This regression to infancy in order to attain security can also be applied to the id.

Edna who has children and a husband, decides to end her life in order to satisfy her pleasure, yet this act does not take into consideration the happiness of her family that she chooses to leave behind, a perfect example of the Id.

This paper has proved that how women had struggled to run away from the cage during the time of the Victorian era. At that time women had been suppressed by the manner of male as a Creole society in different sectors like, social, political, economic, education, entertainment, and so on. Such behaviors of Creole society have succeeded to give the birth of Id in Edna's mind due to such better painful experience, emotions, such wound, fears, guilty desire, and unresolved conflict are stored in our psyche. It means that birth of the Id comes from the strong suppressed of Super ego while Ego could not control the Id. She thinks that we have to give up one in order to take another one. It means that she does not abandon only her husband and son also give up her life in order to equality, freedom, women rights, unvoiced through the name of quest for pleasure

In conclusion, she has confronted with a dilemma whether to stay in this world and act according to social norms or to commit suicide in order to escape from all limitations, which are imposed on her. She decides to commit suicide because she could neither act according to her own desire, which are not socially accepted nor tolerate the entrapment social conformism. Throughout the novel, Edna undergoes a significant change in attitude, behavior, thought and overall character as she became aware of and examines the private unvoiced thoughts that constitute her true self. Her rebellion seems to be motivated by her self-centered desire to fulfill her whims and wishes which qualities make *The Awakening* protagonist.

The research paper provides us such a message that a person should not think oneself but man should think about other. After the birth of people as human beings in the world everyone has bounded through their culture, norms, value and morality to adjust in the community. It means that we do not forget others as well as social norm, value, culture in order to take pleasure. This work has justified that Id oriented mind push toward dark way as a result Edna has compelled to end her life in the process of seeking pleasure. She does not want to find out her mistake because her mind is fully controlled by Id due to the weak Ego who could not balance Id. It means that her mind is not related with Ego and Superego so that she does not think other. Edna should not end her life if she tries to find out her mistake or adjust also Ego and Superego in her mind.

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