

CHAPTER V
THE ANALYSIS OF EMMA BOVARY'S CHARACTERS
DEVELOPMENT

The reason of adultery that Emma Bovary committed can be traced from psychological insight that she developed. Her childhood, educational background, and her relations with other characters can be the key in interpreting the characters she possessed that had caused her to commit suicide.

A. The Background of Emma Bovary's Life

Emma Bovary, formerly Emma Rouault, was the only child of a country farmer. She was a middle class woman who strove to gain higher position. She considered herself different from the society around her.

Since her mother died when she was very young, she was sent by her father to a convent. Her father wanted her to have a proper education. Her characteristics began to appear in the convent. She always seemed to strive an unusual achievement. Later in this analysis, it will be shown that her actions caused her to suffer from neurotic pattern and denial toward her reality.

The need to gain higher position is the ultimate cause of her tragedy. Firstly, Flaubert depicts her physical appearance from indirect point, a distant point that is we hear about her from other person. The analysis of her physical appearance is needed because it can help to analyse the adultery she commits later. In Charles Bovary's opinion, she was very beautiful, compared to his first wife, Heloise Dubuc. Charles depicted her beauty in a way such as :

Charles was surprised at the whiteness of her nails. They were shiny, delicate at the tips, more polished than the ivory of Dieppe, and almond-shaped. Yet her hand was not beautiful, perhaps not white enough, and a little hard at the knuckles; besides it was too long, with no soft inflections in the outlines. Her real beauty was in her eyes. Although brown, they seemed black because of the lashes, and her look encountered you frankly, with a candid boldness. (p. 10)

While Heloise Dubuc, expressed by Flaubert such as :

...the widow of a bailiff at Dieppe, who was forty five and had income of twelve hundred francs. Though she was ugly, as dry as a bone, her face with as many as the spring has buds, Madame Dubuc had no lack of suitor (p. 7).

and :

And then the widow was thin; she had long teeth; wore in all weathers a little black shawl, the edge of which hung down between her shoulder-blades; her bony figure was sheathed in her clothes as if they were a scabbard; they were too short, and displayed her ankles with the laces of her large boots crossed over the grey stocking (p. 13).

Basically, Charles was charmed by Emma's appearance; the way she talked, her manner, everything about her. He could not find any fault in her. This view toward Emma will continue during his entire married life, making it easier for Emma to commit her unfaithfulness.

B. The Neurotic Pattern and The Reality Denial of Emma Bovary

As the sign of her neurotic pattern she had, she always longed for many changes. The changes that sometimes is beyond her ability to reach. As a neurotic, she can not adjust the reality and the romantic dreams she had. The sign of her neurotic nature can be seen in the early day of her marriage with Charles. "During the first day she occupied herself in thinking about changes in the house" (p. 24).

Emma's desire to change the house should be seen as her constant desire to change; thinking that in every change she would find the happiness

that she was seeking. In fact, she never got enough with the changes at the house. Rather than making herself useful in somewhere, she wasted her energy by the longing for another life. In waiting for something to happen, she became a pathetic (almost tragic) case of a woman who force herself in the longing until she is physically sick. In other words, she made herself in her own misery until her misery cause her sickness. Soon, she thought that she has been mistaken. As a romantic dreamer, she read many novels with idealised novel. She imagined herself precisely the same way as the characters in the novels. She could not find the bliss, passion, and ecstasy that she had read in the novel. Before marriage she thought herself in love, she thought that Charles was such a man who could fulfil her longing for the romantic love, a passionate and ecstasy of love; but the happiness that should have followed this love not having come. The more she got close to Charles, the more she could find the dullness of Charles.

But as the intimacy of their life became deeper, the greater became the gulf that separated her from him.

Charles's conversation was commonplace as a street pavement and everyone's ideas trooped through it in their everyday gab, without exciting emotion, laughter, or thought. He had never had curiosity, he said, while he lived at Rouen, to go to the theatre to see the actors from Paris. He could neither swim, nor fence, nor shoot, and

one day he could not explain some term of horsemanship to her that she had come across in a novel (p. 30)

So that the boredom comes over her. She kept repeating to herself, why did she marry him. All she ever knew that Charles was very dull, boring, and so placid. She imagined a man that was very handsome, witty, gentlemanly like husbands when her schoolfellows no doubt had married and lived in Paris among the modest fashion. Emma saw her husband as a man with commonplace conversations, without exciting emotion, laughter or thought. He never had curiosity, He could never swim, nor shoot, and things that she had read in the novel.

Her life at the convent was also another proof of her constant need for a change. Emma was at once a dreamer and sentimentalist. She was also incurable romantic, a person who lives in a dream world of fiction rather than in the real world. When she was young, she was sent by her father, old Rouault in the convent, she read *Paul and Virginia*, a highly sentimental and romantic view of life and love. The novel contributed to Emma's dreamy sentimentalism. While being in the convent, at first she enjoyed to talk with the good sisters, and enjoyed answering the questions correctly. Then she took pleasure to the atmosphere of the convent and admiring the beauty of the chapel rather than listening to the lessons. When her mother died, Emma wrote to her father that when she died she would like to be buried in

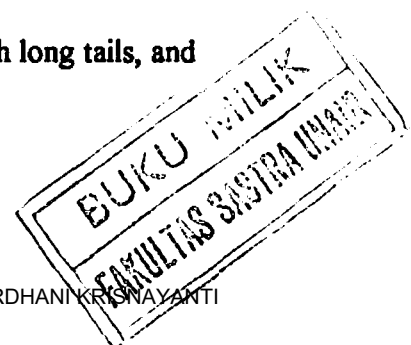
the same grave. She gave her time to read romantic, sentimental poetry, and while enjoying the mysteries of the church, she rebelled against discipline. When her father took her out of the convent, then she enjoyed managing the servants for a while, but soon tired of it and longed for the convent again. Thus, in her entire life, Emma always began one project and drop it only to begin another, always in the constant search for something new and exciting. She also tried to improve her mind with history and philosophy, starting one deep book after reading another and left it unfinished. She often visited library and borrowed many books that mocked to the religion and church. For this unusual habit of women at the time, her mother-in-law declared that it was against the law for circulating the libraries to supply people with novels and books against the religion, that mocked at priests in speeches taken from Voltaire.

As a dreamer, she constantly compared her real environment and surroundings with those she pictured in her dreams. In her dreams, new and exciting things happen every day, but in her real life in Tostes, the same things happen over and over again, so that the whole of her immediate environment - dull countryside, imbecile bourgeoisie, life in its ordinariness. Therefore, she tries to introduce some elegance into her life; she hired a fourteen-year-old girl and tried to teach her to become a lady's maid.

Unfortunately, all she did for the house had brought no good. She still felt the emptiness. Finally, she got bored and got seriously ill. Charles Bovary did not have any idea how to cure her and what to do to please her. He took Emma to consult Emma's health to his colleague doctor. He was suggested to take Emma to a new atmosphere if she did not get any better. For that reason, he planned to move to Yonville l'Abayye. After corresponding with Homais, an apothecary, he was told that there was not a doctor there. Indeed, when Emma's health got worse, Charles took her to move to Yonville. He sacrificed his prosperous practice in Tostes for unpredictable future in the new town for the sake of Emma's health.

Her neurotic pattern to take something just to drop it appeared again after she recovered from her illness. This time was religion. She gave herself entirely to religion. She began to do charity work, even her own household needed more attention.

However, Yonville brought no change in her; she thought that the new town was the same as one they had just left. Yonville was as dull as Tostess for the dullness of its people, and environment. She expected something more exciting such as : gorgeous building in Swiss, Scotch cottage, and a neighbourhood in which the men wore a black velvet coat with long tails, and thin shoes, and a pointed hat and frills.



The constant change she had done indicated the denial of reality as well as the neurotic pattern she had. The nature of her denial towards reality also appears when she was pregnant. Firstly as someone who always looking for something new, she thought that the pregnancy could be a new experience for her, could fill the empty life with excitement, especially if it were a boy. She would rather have a boy instead of a girl; it came from the idea that man would have more freedom, and strength to overcome the constraints that had always frustrated her. When her baby girl was born, she soon lost interest in it. Again, this shows Emma;'s nature of denial, her inability to maintain an interest in any aspect of life.

C. Emma Bovary's Adultery

Finally, we come to the analysis of her infidelity; the adultery she committed. The sign of her infidelity appeared when she had a strange feeling while she was near Leon. He was a shy young man who was the town lawyer's clerk. Emma's first meeting with Leon was an exciting event for her. For the first time in her life, she who was a person with never ending desire of something exciting, met a person who shares the same interest in literature, music, and related subjects. Their conversation actually was common and conventional, but they both interpreted as sensitive and profound conversations.

"My wife prefers always sitting in her room reading."

"Like me," replied Leon.

"And, indeed, what is better than to sit by one's fireside in the evening with a book, while the wind beats against the window and the lamp is burning?"

"What, indeed? she said, fixing her large black eyes wide open upon him.

"One thinks of nothing".

He continued, "the hours slip by. Motionless we traverse countries we fancy we see, and your thought, blending with the fiction, playing with the details, follows the outline of the adventures. It mingles with the characters, and it seems as if it were yourself palpitating beneath their costumes."

"That is true! That is true!" She said (p. 10)

Whatever she felt inside, it grew deeper when she asked Leon to accompany her to visit her baby in the nurse's house. Leon agreed, though it was unusual at that time. By the night falls, rumours had spread at that town. In France at that time, thing like that were not proper to do, especially for a well-known country doctor's wife.

Madame Bovary said she was going to see her baby.

"If- ", said Leon not daring to go on.

" Have you any business to attend to ?" she asked.

And on the clerk's answer, she begged him to accompany her.

That same evening this was known in Yonville, and Madame Tuvache, the mayor's wife, declared in the presence of her servant that Madame Bovary was compromising herself" (p. 70)

They both took a walk along the river. Even they did not say very much to each other, both of them were aware of strange feeling and a deeper communication.

While visiting her baby, she was asked a lot of request by the nurse. She agreed to give the woman more supplies. Emma's relation with the nurse would be one of the signs of the habit taking some debts with many tradesmen. Later, it will be shown that debts she had would be one of the cause of her suicide. Her financial troubles were one of the improperness, and her failure to decide the importance of her needs.

As Emma realised her love for Leon, she tried to compensate for her frustrating love affair by being the ideal wife, mother and housekeeper. Again, this emphasized the lack of stability. The unstable mood foreshadowed her later sickness. Then Leon found that his situation in

Yonville was intolerable; he adored Emma Bovary, but he also realised that there was no future for their love. He decided to go to Paris to study law. At the departure, he and Emma did not have so much to say, but their eyes and gesture communicated with all emotional meaning. She regretted for not expressing what she felt inside to Leon. Emma's reflections to the love she can not possess, make her more receptive to her next relation. Now, no wonder if she emotionally prepared more openly to the next relationship.

Her melancholy and romanticism over not having closer relationship with Leon caused her to become sick. Then she went to make some spending, she felt that the spending was equal to the faithfulness to Charles. This later will lead her into heavy debts.

Later, she began another liaison with Rudolph Boulanger, when he brought his servant to be cured by Charles Bovary. This time the liaison went deeper. He was a thirty-four year old realistic and practical man who recognised that she disliked her husband and longed for a romantic love.

She is very pretty. Fine teeth, black eyes, a dainty foot, a figure like a Parisian's. Where the devil does she come from?"

" I think he is very stupid. She is tired of him, no doubt. While he is trotting after his patients, she sits there darning socks. And she gets bored ! She would like to live in town and dance polkas every evening. Poor little woman. She is gaping after love....."

(p. 100)

As a good-looking and wealthy landowner, he was an experienced man in a sense of his relationships with many women that had been his mistresses. He was immediately attracted to Emma's beauty and ladylike manner. He made Emma Bovary get more acquainted with him.

Emma, a woman with romantic desire, had been longing for a man who should know about everything, full with activities, full with passion and all its force of passion to live with. She found it all in Rudolphe. While standing with Emma at the Agricultural Show, he took an opportunity to lead her toward the city hall so that they can be alone; she had been told things that she had never heard before; when there was opportunity, he declared his love to Emma.

Shortly, Emma was carried on Rudolphe charms. She gave herself entirely to him. They met to get a deeper intimacy anywhere they could; in the forest where they took a ride, in Rudolphe castle, even in the Charles' practice room early in the morning.

For Emma, Rudolphe was a dream that came true just like the hero of the romantic novel she had read. She believed that her adultery with Rudolphe had all the passion, and ecstasy of the fictitious romantic novel. She never realised that Rudolphe, was simply use her to be one of a brief affair such as any mistresses he had before. As a practical man, he soon

be scared with Emma irrational and impractical related to her position as a wife and mother. Soon, Emma's love became so exhausting. Her ridiculous seductions annoyed him, especially when she asked Rudolphe to take her away and her daughter as well. Now, she was not satisfied only with having affair with Rudolphe. She declared the idea to go away from Yonville and starting a new life with Rudolphe. Rudolphe soon got aware about Emma's irrationality. Emma. Without realising Rudolphe's opinion, she readily prepared the things for their fled. While insisting that they should go away, she went deeper in debt to Lheureux by giving expensive gifts for Rudolphe and the things for the plan.

Ultimately, she was shocked by a letter of cancellation trip from Rudolphe. She was ill; her sickness is simply a result of the betrayal and the loss of her ideal life that brought her to realise that she had to live with empty life just like before her encounter with Rudolphe. In her frustration, she ever thought about suicide. The thinking would foreshadowed her later suicide. To recover Emma's health, Charles took Emma to Rouen. In Rouen her romantic nature came again when they met Leon.

The memory between Emma and Leon then came up again. But from now on they both have experienced that they were suppose no doubt to make an acquaintance anymore. They made a secret rendezvous in the

cathedral. Here, we will see how Emma treated the church. First, actually she tried to pray, but her thoughts were not in religion; her thought concerned to her relationship with Leon. They both were burn by the passion while the cathedral guide showed them the cold ancient church. After the occasion, they met regularly in Rouen; this matter, needed some money which actually she coul not afford. The solution, she took a series of debts. Of course it would make Emma go deeper in debt.

The adultery she committed with Leon was the same as in the beginning of her romance with Rudolphe. As the affair progress, it will be clear that now Emma was experienced partner who introduced the young and inexperienced Leon into love making, the same way in which Rudolphe came to her to teach her about the passionate love. Now it was Emma's turn. This time she was the one who went to Leon. Ultimately, Leon realised that he has become her mistress rather than she is.

The nature of being irresponsible at the time of the adultery with Leon reappeared. She neglected her business and duty as a mother and noble wife; she became more entangled in financial affairs. She became the pathological liar both about her affair with Leon and about the financial debts. As the love affair began to fail, the financial problem confronted her as if it were congruent with her love story.

As a neurotic, soon, she felt that she could not look at Leon realistically. She also realised that she had made him more than he was supposed to be. Though, there were times when she wondered what caused the inadequacy in her life. She began to read romantic novel again, hoping that it could re-awake her passion with Leon. But she realised that she had been tired of him. The discovery then seems to leave Emma more empty than before.

Instead of being unfaithful to her husband Charles, she has a unique characteristic. Eventhough she had committed adulteries, she never prostituted herself. The adulteries she committed was all an attempt to fulfil her dreams, not to get some money like a prostitute. When she got a climax of financial troubles and there was no one who could help her, even Leon and Rudolphe, she rejected to sleep with Monsieur Guillaumin in order to get some money. Knowing that Emma Bovary was in financial trouble for her debt up to neck, Monsieur Guillamin, the lawyer, offered her to give some money, but she was obliged to sleep with him. Emma rejected the idea and left the lawyer in disgust. So, it was the quality of Emma Bovary in taking care of her pure love in her own way. Indeed, she committed adultery, but she never prostituted herself.

He seized her by her waist. Madame Bovary's face flushed purple. She recoiled with a terrible look, crying: "You are taking

shameless advantage of my distress, sir! I am to be pitied - not to be sold" (p. 237).

The scene perhaps indicates that Flaubert wants to show us that Emma actually was capable of being faithful; faithfulness that she saw in her own way.

Actually, to ease her problem concerning the financial trouble, she had been asking for some help to Rudolphe, unfortunately, he told her that he had no money available. Emma who knew that he was lying, lost her temper and left. Once again she felt that it was the betrayal to her love.

D. The Suicide of Emma Bovary

Rudolphe's rejection stresses the assumption that the desire to kill herself not only came from the financial, but largely because of the second betrayal from Rudolphe, as well as from Leon's refusal. To Emma, who has devoted her life to a search for perfect love, this second betrayal of Rudolphe made love not worth living anymore. Her reactions and her state of mind immediately after leaving Rudolphe are practically the same as when he first betrayed her. When she was betrayed for the first time and had been sick for forty-three days, she thought about suicide. This time, it was not only a thinking, but she intended to commit suicide. Emma's suicide was motivated by her sense of betrayal by one man whom she might have

loved. Perhaps, Flaubert was suggesting that actually Emma was capable of a profound love. If she was not really capable, at least she possessed a dream of love which was worth living for and when this dream was betrayed, there was nothing left but suicide.

Finally, her religious side appeared at the last minutes to sensation. The last kiss she gave to the crucifix was not given to God, but more an erotic, a sensual kiss. The final description of Emma was at her uncommon view in looking death for the ultimate sensual desire.

The priest rose to take the crucifix; then she stretched forward her neck as one who is athirst, and gluing her lips to the body of the Man-God, she pressed upon it with all her expiring strength the fullest kiss of love that she had ever given....First, upon the eyes, that had no coveted all wordily pomp; then upon the nostrils, that had been greedy of the warm breeze and amorous odours, then upon the mouth, that had uttered lies, that had groaned with pride and cried out in lewdness; then upon the hands, that had delighted in sensual touches; and finally upon the soles of the feet, so swift of yore, when she was running to satisfy her desires, and that would now walk no more (p. 254)

Thus, she tried to live by her dreams, and when the dreams failed, she died by them without searching the probability of something greater than it.