

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of intrinsic elements above it can be inferred that Mrs. Edna Pontellier is characterized as egocentric or selfcentred woman who is willing to neglect family and violete aocial value for the sake of her interest fulfilment. She refuses restrictions and demands unlimited freedom in achieving wishes. She thinks that one's life should be for one's own sake and should not be sacrificed for other people's interest. She thinks that only by this way the meaning and the purpose of life will come to emerge. She perceives that institutions such as marriage religion and norms determining how most people should conduct prevent each individual from being freedom. As a result, they dehumanize people since freedom is a most distinguishing feature of human being. She perceive that social institution gives a misleading guidance and should be overruled.

This thesis tries to place Mrs. Edna's freedom with consideration of its appropriatness. This freedom can be regarded as a demand of women that society should care more about them as inherent members of society from which men has long enjoyed. This inequality is always considered as biased character of any traditional society which is mostly

patriachal rather than matriachal. The word 'traditional' here implies the fact that the more modern a society is, it will relatively result in a bigger possibility for equal treatment between men and women (Giddens, 1984, p. 21). But the duration needed by any society to arrive at this point is variable. It explains why the realization of men and women equality is different in degree in any different societies. In this sense, it can be inferred that the rebellion of Mrs. Edna against social value reflects the slowness of her society to consider this matter of equality as a key factor that made women remain in a subordinate or backward position. So far it has been noted of society's task and responsibility to facilitate its member demand and need, including women's need for freedom. Along with this, the demand for freedom implied in Mrs. Edna's character deserves an appreciation.

The conception about women's freedom implied in Mrs. Edna's character, however, has some weakness and need to be further criticized. It, for example, prescribes freedom without limit in the sense that there are not established and shared social institutions can prevent women from getting unusual freedom enabling them to optimally actualize their life which is fundamental and necessary for normal human being. What is missed by this framework about freedom first-

ly is that freedom of any individual living in a society or group of people has always had some limitation. There is not even a single individual living in the earth has unlimited freedom as long as she or he lives in a human community. There should be adjustments among individuals involved and between individual(s) and shared values whose existence signifies the recognition of all socially and culturally-related individuals and of ties among them and which are manifested into well-established institution such as marriage, religions and right-wrong determining norms (Lloyd, 1989, p. 455). The second mistake made is that transition will obviously not permit drastic changes. Transition itself implies that the changes are in the process in which the old patterns are not wholly detached, or even the opposite can be possibly true that the old patterns still have powerful grip dictating how people should conduct like society background implied in *The Awakening*. Arriving at intended total changes will require long and complicated process. This conception of unlimited freedom implied in Mrs. Edna 's character should, therefore, obtain society agreement before it becomes the objective or the effect of all changes. Basically, there are the demands of individual and of society itself. They are most commonly not in conflict , rather are

complementary in character. They fulfill and claim demands each other in the sense there is a convergence between the two within , of course, each capacity to comply with those demands. This convergence is importance to create a harmonious and cohesive relationship and thus stability. It implies that there is commonly undestanding of each other lackness or limited capacity in fulfilling emerging demands. It then explains why *The Awakening* at its first publication with its conspicuosness on women unlimited freedom reflected in the character of Mrs. Edna gained negative reactions from literary critics, in particular, and community, in general at that time.

The demand for women freedom, nevertheless, has been increasingly important issue should be continuously voiced and echoed even to date. In this case *The Awakening* 's contribution, by means of the efficacy of art works, to women emancipation and liberation is indisputably immense. It promotes the sense that freedom is needed by all human, including womankind. They should fight for it since without this freedom they can not live as common normal human beings.