

**GENDER INEQUALITY EXPERIENCED BY THE MAIN  
CHARACTER IN KATE CHOPIN'S *THE AWAKENING* (1899):  
A FEMINISM STUDY**



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**20.03.52.0015**

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**UNIVERSITAS STIKUBANK (UNISBANK) SEMARANG**

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**GENDER INEQUALITY EXPERIENCED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER  
IN KATE CHOPIN'S *THE AWAKENING* (1899): A FEMINISM STUDY**



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By

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**2024**

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled '**Gender Inequality Experienced by The Main Character in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899): a Feminism Study**' is my work and has never been submitted for any degree award elsewhere. Ideas, findings, and works of others cited here in have fully credited and acknowledged in compliance with the tradition of academic writing.

Semarang, 24 Juli 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nuril Hidayatul Ahyani', enclosed within a hand-drawn, irregular rectangular border.

Nuril Hidayatul Ahyani

**PAGE OF APPROVAL**

A research paper entitled '**Gender Inequality Experienced by The Main Character in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899): a Feminism Study**' written by Nuril Hidayatul Ahyan 20.03.52.0015 has been accepted for approval by the Board of Examiners, FHB University of Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang upon presentation and oral examination.

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### SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL

This is to certify that a Research Paper entitled '**Gender Inequality Experienced by The Main Character in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899): a Feminism Study**' met the necessary requirements for further examination and approval by the Board of Examiners, FHB Stikubank University (UNISBANK) Semarang.

Semarang, 24 Juli 2024

Supervisor,



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**PAGE OF MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

*“Cogito ergo sum”*

*(I think, therefor I am)*

*-Descartes-*

Dedicated to:

My family, myself

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah, all praise and gratitude go to Allah SWT who has given His grace and guidance so that I can complete this thesis with the title “Gender Inequality Experienced by the Main Character in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899): a Feminism Study”. This thesis was prepared as one of the requirements to obtain a Bachelor of Literature degree at the Faculty of Law and Language, University of Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang.

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Finally, I hope that this thesis can provide benefits and meaningful contributions to the development of knowledge, especially in the field of literary studies and feminism. I realize that this thesis is far from perfect, therefore, I am open to constructive criticism and suggestions for future improvements.

Semarang, 24 Juli 2024

Nuril Hidayatul Ahyan

## Abstract

Ahyan, Nuril Hidayatul. 2024. *Gender Inequality Experienced by The Main Character in Kate Chopin's The Awakening (1899): a Feminism Study*. A research Paper, Faculty of Law and Language. University of Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang. Supervisor: Endang Yuliani Rahayu, S.S., M.Pd.

This research uses a qualitative analysis method with a descriptive approach. Data were collected through literature review and text analysis of the novel "*The Awakening*" by Kate Chopin (1899) as the main technique to explore the themes of gender inequality that appear in the narrative, with an emphasis on analyzing patriarchal power and systemic oppression of women. This research aims to examine the gender inequality experienced by the female protagonist in the novel "*The Awakening*" through the perspective of feminism studies, particularly the radical feminist theory proposed by Kate Millett. The novel "*The Awakening*" describes the struggle of a woman, Edna Pontellier, in facing social norms that limit her freedom and identity as an individual. This research finds that the main character, Edna Pontellier, experiences various forms of gender inequality reflected in the social, economic, and cultural restrictions imposed on her as a woman in the late 19th century. Using Millet's radical feminist theoretical framework, this research explores how the patriarchal structure in the novel affects Edna's life and decisions. This analysis provides an in-depth understanding of women's struggle against gender injustice and the relevance of these themes in today's social and cultural context. Through the characterization of Edna, Chopin expresses a critique of patriarchal norms that limit women's freedom and identity. Kate Millett's radical feminist theory is used to analyze how patriarchal power structures affect Edna's life and decisions, as well as how she struggles to achieve independence and liberation from the gender norms that constrain her.

*Keywords: gender inequality, feminism, radical feminism, characterization, The Awakening*

### Abstrak

Ahyan, Nuril Hidayatul. 2024. *Gender Inequality Experienced by The Main Character in Kate Copin's The Awakening (1899): a Feminism Study*. A research Paper, Faculty of Law and Language. University of Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang. Supervisor: Endang Yuliani Rahayu, S.S., M.Pd.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode analisis kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif. Data dikumpulkan melalui telaah pustaka dan analisis teks terhadap novel "*The Awakening*" karya Kate Chopin (1899) sebagai teknik utama untuk menggali tema-tema ketidaksetaraan gender yang muncul dalam narasi, dengan menekankan pada analisis kekuasaan patriarkal dan penindasan sistemik terhadap perempuan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji ketidaksetaraan gender yang dialami oleh tokoh utama perempuan dalam novel "*The Awakening*" melalui perspektif studi feminisme, khususnya teori feminis radikal yang dikemukakan oleh Kate Millett. Novel "*The Awakening*" menggambarkan perjuangan seorang perempuan, Edna Pontellier, dalam menghadapi norma-norma sosial yang membatasi kebebasan dan identitas dirinya sebagai individu. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa tokoh utama, Edna Pontellier, mengalami berbagai bentuk ketidaksetaraan gender yang tercermin dalam batasan sosial, ekonomi, dan budaya yang dikenakan padanya sebagai seorang perempuan pada akhir abad ke-19. Dengan menggunakan kerangka teori radikal feminis dari Millet, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana struktur patriarki dalam novel tersebut mempengaruhi kehidupan dan keputusan Edna. Analisis ini memberikan pemahaman mendalam tentang perjuangan perempuan melawan ketidakadilan gender dan relevansi tema-tema tersebut dalam konteks sosial dan budaya saat ini. Melalui karakterisasi Edna, Chopin mengungkapkan kritik terhadap norma-norma patriarkal yang membatasi kebebasan dan identitas perempuan. Teori feminis radikal Kate Millett digunakan untuk menganalisis bagaimana struktur kekuasaan patriarkal mempengaruhi kehidupan dan keputusan Edna, serta bagaimana perjuangannya untuk mencapai kemandirian dan pembebasan diri dari norma-norma gender yang mengekangnya.

*Kata Kunci: gender inequality, feminism, radical feminism, characterization, The Awakening*

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