

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

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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