

**THE MAIN CHARACTER IN DEALING WITH CREOLE'S SOCIETY  
PERSPECTIVE ON WOMEN IN NOVEL THE AWAKENING**

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**POST GRADUATE PROGRAM OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES**

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PERSPECTIVE ON WOMEN IN THE AWAKENING NOVEL**

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**THESIS**

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**RAISA MURNI ANANDA M**

## ABSTRACT

**RAISA MURNI ANANDA M.** *The Main Character in Dealing with Creola's Society Perspective on Women in The Awakening Novel* (Supervised by Fathu Rahman and M. Amir P).

This research delves into the intricate social dynamics of Creole society as portrayed in Kate Chopin's novel, "The Awakening," with a specific focus on the role and treatment of women. The research pursues two primary objectives: firstly, to unravel the prevailing social perspective of Creole society towards women, and secondly, to explore Edna Pontellier's relentless struggle in navigating this societal outlook. Employing a descriptive qualitative method, this research employs Berger's theory of social perspective to dissect the nuances within the novel. The findings illuminate Creole society's deeply ingrained beliefs, portraying women as fragile beings expected to maintain silence, unquestionably submit to their husbands' authority, and fulfill the role of devoted mothers. Furthermore, Edna Pontellier, the novel's protagonist, finds herself ensnared within the confines of this oppressive social construct. Edna's journey unfolds as she grapples with the challenges of establishing her Creole identity while bearing the brunt of discrimination. Over time, Edna's response to the suffocating patriarchy becomes evident as she defies Creole norms by pursuing a passionate love affair with Robert Lebrun, sending her children to live with their grandmother, leaving her husband's home, and engaging in a purely physical relationship with Alcee Arobin before ultimately meeting a tragic end through suicide. The implications of this study underscore the importance of preserving one's core principles while striving for personal freedom. It highlights the necessity for individuals to cultivate a resilient mindset when confronted with societal constraints. In conclusion, this research emphasizes the significance of advocating for women's independence and their right to shape their own destinies. It also underscores the limitations of Edna's character portrayal in the novel, which fails to exhibit substantial progressiveness. Consequently, this portrayal serves as a poignant reminder of the entrapment experienced by women during the era, underscoring the dire need for genuine freedom. Thus, the pursuit of personal freedom should never compromise the values and principles that form the foundation of one's identity.

**Keywords:** The main character, Creola society, social perspective, the Awakening.



## ABSTRAK

**RAISA MURNI ANANDA M.** *Karakter Utama Dalam Menghadapi Perspektif Masyarakat Kreola Terhadap Perempuan dalam Novel The Awakening.* (Di bimbing oleh Fathu Rahman dan M. Amir P).

Penelitian ini menggali dinamika sosial yang rumit dalam masyarakat Creole seperti yang digambarkan dalam novel Kate Chopin, "The Awakening," dengan fokus khusus pada peran dan perlakuan terhadap perempuan. Penelitian ini memiliki dua tujuan utama: pertama, untuk mengungkap perspektif sosial yang dominan dalam masyarakat Creole terhadap perempuan, dan kedua, untuk mengeksplorasi perjuangan tak kenal lelah Edna Pontellier dalam menghadapi pandangan masyarakat ini. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini mengadopsi teori perspektif sosial Berger untuk mengurai nuansa dalam novel tersebut. Temuan penelitian ini menerangi keyakinan yang sangat melekat dalam masyarakat Creole, yang menggambarkan perempuan sebagai makhluk yang rapuh yang diharapkan untuk tetap berdiam diri, tunduk tanpa ragu kepada otoritas suami mereka, dan memenuhi peran ibu yang tulus. Selain itu, Edna Pontellier, protagonis novel ini, mendapati dirinya terjebak dalam batasan konstruksi sosial yang membelenggunya. Perjalanan Edna terungkap ketika dia berjuang dengan tantangan dalam membangun identitas Creole-nya sambil memikul diskriminasi. Seiring berjalannya waktu, respon Edna terhadap patriarki yang membelenggunya menjadi jelas saat dia menentang norma-norma Creole dengan menjalani hubungan cinta yang penuh gairah dengan Robert Lebrun, mengirimkan anak-anaknya tinggal bersama nenek mereka, meninggalkan rumah suaminya, dan terlibat dalam hubungan fisik semata dengan Alcee Arobin sebelum akhirnya mengalami akhir yang tragis dengan bunuh diri. Implikasi penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya menjaga prinsip-prinsip inti sambil berjuang untuk kebebasan pribadi. Ini menyoroti perlunya individu untuk mengembangkan pola pikir yang tangguh ketika dihadapkan pada batasan-batasan sosial. Sebagai kesimpulan, penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya advokasi untuk kemandirian perempuan dan hak mereka untuk membentuk takdir mereka sendiri. Oleh karena itu, penampilan ini menjadi pengingat yang mengharukan tentang perasaan terperangkap yang dialami perempuan pada masa itu, yang menekankan perlunya kebebasan yang sejati. Oleh karena itu, perjuangan menuju kebebasan pribadi seharusnya tidak pernah mengorbankan nilai dan prinsip yang menjadi dasar identitas seseorang.

Kata Kunci: Tokoh utama, masyarakat Creola, perspektif sosial, novel Awakening.

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## **BAB I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Research**

The sociology of literature is a specialized area of study that focuses its attention on the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created. It reveals that the existence of literary creation has determined social situations. As there is a reciprocal relationship between a literary phenomenon and social structure, the sociological study of literature proves very useful to understanding the socio-economic situations, political issues, the worldview and creativity of the researchers, the system of the social and political organizations the relations between certain thoughts and cultural configurations in which they occur and determinants of a literary work.

Generally, sociology is defined as the scientific study of society, specifically human society. As the major concern of sociology is society, it is popularly known as the science of society (Shankar Rao: 17). Like all other social sciences, it is concerned with the life and activities of man. It also scientifically examines the origin, structure, development, and functions of human society. It also tries to determine the relationship between different elements of social life and discovers the fundamental conditions of social stability and social change. It analyses the influences

of economic, political, cultural, artistic, aesthetic, geographical, scientific, and other forces and factors on man and his life and throws more light on the various social problems like poverty, education, social class, religion, and others. Taking into account all these aspects, Alan Swingewood (1972:11) states "Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question how society is possible, how it works, why it persists". He further points out that the social structure is constituted through the rigorous examination of the social, political, religious, and economic institutions in the society. Lucien Goldmann & Boelhower (1980) admit "Sociology is a science based on an aggregation of categories forming an intellectual structure, then these categories and this structure are themselves social facts that sociology brings into relief.

The perspective of sociology involves seeing through the outside appearances of people's actions and organizations (Berger, 1963). The sociological perspective is one that observes society through a lens without personal opinions. It generalizes the causes and actions of individuals into patterns and categories. However, it not only observes these patterns of society but also tries to explain such patterns or behaviors. Sociologists are not concerned with personal characteristics; instead, they aim to find common attitudes and features as well as hidden patterns in those characteristics and behaviors across millions of people. One of the main objectives of the sociological perspective is to find and

understand patterns behind recurring features of social interaction, as well as to examine the social impacts of these. Social perspective view of social words as a widespread, significant phenomenon, nor have we developed a program for studying them systematically (Strauss, A. 1978). The researcher explores the problems using a sociological perspective. Through the novels, the researcher described the situation in which the Creola's society conducts oppression with the women that they are considered weak and women should obey their husband's rules and women should keep silent.

In the 19th century in the United States, the role and position of women experienced many changes and challenges. In the early 19th century, women in America were often confined to the domestic role of mother and wife. They were expected to run the household, educate the children, and support their husbands in their work. Throughout the 19th century, however, social and reform movements emerged that sought to expand women's rights and social roles. One of the most fundamental movements was the suffrage movement, which fought for women's suffrage.

In the mid-19th century, the abolitionist movement against slavery also played an essential role in changing views on the role of women. Many women involved in this movement realized the injustice and oppression they experienced as women and started to fight for women's rights. However, despite the struggles and progress, women in the 19th

century still faced discrimination and obstacles. They were confronted with legal constraints, such as the right to own property or child custody, and are also confronted with solid gender stereotypes.

Overall, in the 19th century in the United States, women underwent a significant shift from a domestic role to the emergence of movements fighting for gender equality and women's rights. Despite the persistence of many challenges and discrimination, the struggle paved the way for further progress in the struggle for gender equality.

According to Beecher (2008), women are brought to equality with the other sex in America alone. men belonged to the public world of economic struggle, political wrangling, and social competition. In contrast, women belonged to the private world of seclusion, family, and morality.

Furthermore, the narrative begins with the Pontellier family vacationing on Grand Isle at a resort on the Gulf of Mexico managed by Madame Lebrun and her sons Robert and Victor. Léonce is a New Orleans businessman of Louisiana Creole origin, with his wife Edna and their sons Etienne and Raoul. Adèle Ratignolle, a close friend of Edna's, often reminds Edna of her responsibilities as a wife and mother in a boisterous and animated manner. Edna soon befriends Robert Lebrun in Grand Isle, a lovely and sincere young man who passionately pursues Edna's attention and devotion. When they fall in love, Robert realizes that their relationship is doomed and runs to Mexico, pretending to be involved in some unspecified company. As Edna balances her mother's



responsibilities with her yearning for social independence and Robert, the story shifts its attention to her changing emotions. The Pontelliers return to New Orleans after their summer vacation. Gradually changing her perspective, Edna decides to contribute to her happiness actively. She begins to distance herself from New Orleans culture and stops engaging in some of the responsibilities of being a mother. Eventually, Léonce consults a physician because he is worried that his wife may be losing her mental capacity and seeks a diagnosis. The doctor tells Léonce to leave her alone and reassures him that everything will be well. Léonce leaves the boys to his mother as he prepares to take a business trip to New York City. Edna has the opportunity to physically and emotionally recuperate during her extended solitude, allowing her to reflect on various aspects of her life. She relocates from their house to a modest cottage nearby while her husband is still abroad, has an affair with Alcée Arobin, a persistent suitor known for being frank with his love, and moves out of their house. The work is the first to depict Edna as a sexual person, but the relationship is uncomfortable and emotionally challenging.

Additionally, Edna contacts Mademoiselle Reisz, a talented pianist with a well-known style who leads a leads a reclusive life. Her playing inspired Edna earlier in the book, symbolizing Edna's desire for independence. Mademoiselle Reisz opposes Adèle Ratignolle, who pushes Edna to fit in by putting her life's priorities music and herself ahead of society's expectations. Robert writes to Reisz often while he is in

Mexico, maintaining their communication. Reisz complies with Edna's request and tells her what they contain, demonstrating to Edna that Robert is considering her. Robert eventually makes his way back to New Orleans. After seeming distant at first and making reasons to avoid Edna, he ultimately declares his intense love for her. He acknowledges that the business trip to Mexico was an excuse for leaving a failed relationship. Edna is called away to assist Adèle with difficult labour and delivery. Adèle urges Edna to consider her children and what she would give up if she misbehaved. When Edna gets home, she discovers a message from Robert explaining that he has parted ways with her permanently because he loves her too much to put her in the wrong by dating a married lady. Edna returns to Grand Isle, where she first meets Robert Lebrun in a state of profound shock. Edna attempts suicide by drowning herself in the waves of the Gulf of Mexico in a desperate bid to escape.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher analyses the Creole community in the novel *The Awakening* using a social analysis perspective based on Berger's theory in 1963. The purpose of this research is to examine the Creole community's perspective on women as portrayed in this novel towards women because the novel tells the views of the Creole community, men are considered of higher social status than women, and she lost their freedom and independence to determine their destiny.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the introduction above, some research questions emerged and will be answered in this research. Those research questions are:

1. How does Creole society perceive women?
2. How does Edna address the perspective of Creole society toward women in 'The Awakening'?

## **C. Research Objective**

From the research questions specified above, this research is formulated to fulfil two objectives, as follows:

1. To explain the societal views of women in Creole society in 'The Awakening' by Kate Chopin
2. To explore how Edna addresses the perspective of Creole society in 'The Awakening' by Kate Chopin.

## **D. Scope of the Research**

Based on research objectives, the scope of the research are the societal view of women in Creole society, and the way the main character named Edna Pontellier deals in The Awakening by Kate Chopin. This research will use Berger's theory in the sociology of literature, especially the social perspective. In analyzing the data, the researcher conducted data reduction and taking notes. Furthermore, this research carries out to

be easier to understand, and also to avoid broadening the discussion, the research makes scope for this research. Then, the scope of this research is all about women and their social lives which are reflected in the novel.

### **E. Identification of the Research**

Based on the Scope of the Problem, the identification of the problems of the research are:

1. Creola society perspective.
2. How does the main character deal with the societal perspective of Creole society?

### **F. Significance of the Research**

There are some significances in writing this research. The first significance of the analysis is to make the researcher understand about literary works, which focus on Kate Chopin's works. Furthermore, this research provides information about sociology literature. The main interest of this theory is to explore the point of social perspective in sociology literature, especially to explore the forms of social discrimination against women.

Second, the researcher wants to convey some lessons about feminist literary criticism from this novel through the character, so that readers can find lessons about feminist literary criticism as a guide to living our lives correctly.

Practically, the research is supposed to be a reference for the next similar research, yet who will decide to use the same approach in the analysis. Moreover, it is expected that this research can help readers to understand about Edna Pontellier's character in dealing with Creola's society's perspective on woman in *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.

## **BAB II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **A. Previous Related Study**

A research needs some relevant researches in order to support the main character of the further research. Some data can be obtained from the relevant or some data can be obtained from research that is relevant to or closely related to the previous research.

The first, Dewi and Lusia (2016) this entitled Analysis of Women's Contestation in Chopin's *The Awakening*. The depiction of four women in Creole community is the main focus of the researcher. Besides, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method as research design. By carefully reading, the research uses Pierre Bourdieu's concepts to discover the problem formulation through the sociological view which influences the way of thinking from four Creole women.

The second, XIONG, Y. Q. (2019) titled 'Analysis on the Death of Edna in *The Awakening*. This research focuses analysis on the causes for the failure of Edna's fighting for herself. This research show that Edna has experienced the fiery and confusing interior journey. Through close reading, this paper, starting with the moral and ethical restrictions of a patriarchal society. The difference in this research is the analysis of the

causes of Edna's failure to fight, and the similarity is the use of 'The Awakening' novel.

The third, Hellystia, D. (2021) the research entitle Edna Pontellier's Endeavor as the main character in Kate Chopin's" The Awakening" in the nineteenth-century liberal feminism. This research focuses on analyzing of the struggle of Edna Pontellier in the 19th -century liberal feminism in the novel entitled The Awakening written by Kate Chopin. The results of this research show Edna's struggles to pursue her desires through Mill and Taylor's 19th - century the theory of liberal feminism. The difference is used liberal feminism theory and the similarity is that explaining the main character, Edna Pontellier.

After reviewing the previous related research above, the researcher draws similarities and differences between the previous research and the current research regarding the topic investigated. After reviewing all the studies above that share the same research object as the researcher, the researcher identifies differences in each study above which have the same research object as the researcher, the researcher finds differences in each study, namely the first and second researcher discussed the main roles that exist in the same novel as the author but with different problems. On the other hand, the third researcher focuses more on discussing the main depiction of four women in the Creole community, while the researcher focuses on how to view the Creole society of women because Creole society has a different perspective.

## **B. Theoretical Background**

Literary theory is the collection of concepts and methodologies used in the actual reading of literature. By literary theory, we do not imply the interpretation of a literary work, but rather the ideas that help us understand what literature can mean. Literary theory is an explanation of the fundamental concepts, or instruments, by which we seek to comprehend literature. All literary interpretation is grounded on theory, yet it may serve as a justification for a wide variety of critical endeavor. The link between researcher and work is established by literary theory; literary theory.

Theory highlights the importance of race, class, and gender for literary research, both from the perspective of the author's biography and an examination of their thematic presence in works.

Literary theory provides a variety of methods for understanding the role of historical context in interpretation as well as the significance of unconscious textual aspects. Literary theorists analyse the history and development of the many genres (narrative, dramatic, lyric) as well as the more recent emergence of the book and the short story, while also examining the formal features of literary structure. In recent years, literary theory has worked to explain the extent to which a book is more the



product of a culture than a single author, as well as how works contribute to the formation of culture.

## **1. Sociology**

Sociology is essentially an objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions, and social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists. In literary works, sociological approaches are beneficial. Sociology relates to family or kinship relationships as well as class struggle between inferior and superior classes, but it is self-evident that literature relates to and focuses on man within society. Sociology aims to show the mechanism by which societies change. The effects of societal change on social structure.

Ahmadi.R.(2021) states that sociology literature is the representation of society in literary texts and the relationship between literature and other social structures, and theorizes that literature is part of the social system of its time, a structure that cannot be properly analyzed and worked out without the knowledge of certain institutions and groups. As portrayed in literary society, sociology literature is associated with astronomy and social structures. Hence, literature is inseparably connected with the social life represented by it. Written and created by the author so that ideas, experiences, and messages can be conveyed to the reader with the purpose of allowing readers to engage with and critique

literary works, making them both exciting and valuable for the advancement of future sciences.

## **2. Literature**

Meanwhile, Literature is a form of written expression that encompasses elements of entertainment, education, and information. It is an author's creative work poured in beautiful language. Literature stimulates the emotions of its readers. It presents various aspects of life and often serves as a reflection of life. Literature has existed since humans first inhabited the earth. Even since before humans developed writing systems, literature has already become the part of human life. Literary works are a part of the culture. As a cultural product, literature develops in line with the development of human life. Human history has witnessed the evolution of literary forms and media. One of them is the birth of the internet as one of the media of information and science development, which in turn is also being used as a medium for promoting literary works (Rahman, F. 2017).

Literature depicts human existence, conveys social issues occurring in society, and reflects social culture, history, and spirit of the age. In literary application, the mirror must be handled with caution. Under this instance, the researcher is responsible for describing social settings and for forming characters in artificial conditions to establish impartiality.

The objective of literature is to identify values and significance in the social world. The conception of the mirror, then, must be treated with great care in the sociological analysis of literature. Above all else, it ignores the researcher himself, his awareness, and intention. Great writers do not set out simply to depict the social world in largely descriptive terms; it might be suggested that the researcher by definition has a more critical task, of setting his characters in motion within artificially contrived situations to seek their own private 'destiny' to discover values and meaning in the social world (Swingewood, 1972: 15).

According to Selden (1985:28), Literary works as reflections of an unfolding system. A realist work must reveal the underlying pattern of contradictions in social order. Literature reflects a developing system. It must expose the fundamental structure of social order's inconsistencies.

### **3. Sociology of Literature**

Nowadays, sociological literature has garnered significant attention for its role in helping people understand human life (Saraswati, 2003:). This is because literature, as a microcosm of human existence, contains many reflections of real-world events and occurrences. Sociology as terminology firstly stated by Auguste Comte in 1839 is known for its study of general society (Santosa, WH & Wahyuningtyas, S: 2011) In addition, writing that serves the life narrative tends to employ humans and society as the story's subject. Therefore, sociology and literature can be blended as one discipline of science because both of them have the same

object of the study that is human (Endraswara, 2011). In addition, Endraswara & Damono stated that sociology can be blended with literature because they have the same object of analysis: Humans in society. Since people are the most important thing to study in society, a sociological literature discussion of a piece of literature will not look into or explain anything other than the social aspects of the piece.

Soemarjo (1979) in Santosa and Wahyuningtyas (2011) stated that the study will be about how the relation among people in society and how that relation can be created. Thus, certain sociological literature authorities, such as Wellek & Warren and Ian Watt, defined the sociological literature issue as follows:

First, Wellek & Warren (1963) classified sociological literature into three:

1. The sociological author, which discussed the social aspects of the author as the creator of literary work.
2. The sociological literary work, which discussed about the aspects inside the literary work itself.
3. The sociological reader, which discussed about the reader and the influence of the literary work toward the readers (Santosa & Wahyuningtyas, 2011).

Second, Ian Watt (1964) classified sociological literature as:

1. The social context of the author, which discusses the author's position in society including author's job, author's professionalism and what kind of reader that purposed by the author.
2. Literature as the reflection of society, which discussed about how the reflection of the society pictured by the author in the literary work represents the reality in certain period.
3. The social function of literature, which discussed about the social values that is contributing the literary values in literary work and how those values contribute the social changes in society (Kurniawan, 2012)

Based on the categorization by these individuals of sociological literature, we can conclude that the notion of sociological literature will focus on three key components: the author, the literary work, and the reader. But in this study, the researcher will focus on the literary work itself, the three qualities listed above.

Sociological literature which focuses only on the analysis of literary work is called objective-sociological literature paradigm which tells about sociological analysis of the literary work "that is related to social life and society (Kurniawan, 2012).

In its application to literary work study, Objective-Sociological Literature would first evaluate the significant structures of literary works, such as story, characters, and locations. Then, by connecting those structures the real social structures of society can be understood (Kurniawan, 2012).

Furthermore, Kurniawan (2012) explains in his book *Theories, methods, and literary sociology applications* in terms of its relationship to the life of society as the primary subject of its study. Consequently, the investigative study has three aspects, which are the social structure of the literary work, the social structure of the literary work, and the social relationship between literary work and social reality.

The social structure of a literary work is explored in terms of its essential elements, such as characters, places, and storyline. As the topic of the narrative, people live in a society that may be analyzed sociologically in terms of their social relationships. The examination next proceeds to the story's location to determine the author's depiction of social actuality.

After evaluating the fundamental aspects and locating the social condition or phenomenon in the literary work, the researcher can determine the author's underlying topic, which is the social condition. The primary topic might be one of the social fact, social definition, and social conduct. Consequently, the researcher must function as an authority on the issue being researched.

For example, if a researcher investigated social conflict as the societal context alluded to in a literary work, he or she must provide relevant explanations and facts about social conflict. The perspective of sociology involves seeing through the outside appearances of people's actions and organizations (Berger, 1963).

As a consequence of comprehending and using the aforementioned two characteristics, the researcher will recognize or relate both of these features to the actual state of society. In this section, the relationship between the social situation (phenomenon) in the book and the social reality in the actual world will be determined.

#### **4. Social Life**

The word "Social Life" is also known as the social system. The term "Social" refers to a group of individuals who reside in the exact location. It is the basic unit of study in the social sciences, and it defines any voluntary or involuntary interpersonal contact between two or more persons within and between groups. The group may consist of a linguistic or family group, a social institution or organization, an economic class, a country, or a gender. Social life derives from human behavioral ecology and, as a whole, forms a cohesive social structure whose component pieces are best understood with one another and the ecosystem as a whole. Damsar (2013) said that Social life is related to a position or condition that is socially regulated and a person in a certain position in the social structure of society. The assignment of positions will be accompanied by a set of obligations and rights that must be fulfilled by the status bearer.

On the other hand, we might also argue that existence in a community requires mutually influential social contact. This encounter

happened for the first time in a home where the children and the father connected. The interactions between family members will lead to the formation of relationships with others. The surrounding environment will influence community connection patterns. In rural communities, interactions are more interwoven than in cities.

Moreover, Handinoto (1992) says that social life is generally more strengthened by work or position possessed and bound by status that is what happened to people living in the city. This leads to the formation of social stratification in society. Having a high-paying job and prestige will increase one's prestige. Alternatively, if low-paying employment does not guarantee honor, distinction, fascinating work, or promotion chances, there may be alternative incentives.

#### a. Family

In sociology, the family has gained many studies during the last few decades. Most of us live in families, and the majority reside in single-family houses. To comprehend the term 'family,' it is necessary to distinguish it from 'household'. Frequently, many family activities are household-based, resulting from connection and participation with individuals who share a home.

However, Allan and Crow (2001) explained that students at university or young children at boarding school who share a home, often without much adult supervision, cannot be considered a family in the conventional sense of the term. In contrast, there remains some variation



in understanding what is meant by the term family. McConnell and Wilson (2007) defined family as —a married or cohabiting couple with or without their never married child or children (of any age), including couples with no children and lone parents with their never married child or children. In addition, they specify that children within a family may be dependent (under 16 or between 16 and 18 and in full-time study) or independent (older than 16 and living with their parents). To support the statement above, Allan and Crow (2001) argued that unlike a household, the family is usually one in which partnership and parenthood was given greater priority than other kinship relationships and, while family obligations extended to wider kin, they were most significant where family members lived in the same household. What binds these definitions of 'family' together is the concept of kinship; that family is fundamentally about the solidarity among individuals connected via blood or marital bonds.

However, this and comparable conceptions of 'family' have restrictions. For instance, they often exclude families living apart in several residences and rely only on co-resident relatives. Illman and Nam (2008) argued that we are constrained in our ability to fully examine patterns of exchange and support. Illman and Nam (2008) argued that we are constrained in our ability to fully examine patterns of exchange and support. The standard definition of the family (used in many censuses and demographic surveys) defines the family unit as to persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption living in the same residence. Thus, to better

understand the structure and function of families in the future, we must develop definitions of family that better reflect the everyday experiences of family members.

#### b. Neighborhood

A neighborhood is an area where people reside and interact. Based on the people who reside there and the neighboring locations, neighborhoods often have a distinct personality or "feel." Residents may have comparable family structures, incomes, and levels of education. There may be restaurants, bookshops, and parks in a neighborhood. Frequently, neighborhoods have indistinct, making it difficult to determine where one begins, and another ends. Major roadways often serve as natural borders, but a neighborhood is typically defined by its features. Neighborhoods are often associated with large cities, although they exist in suburban and rural places. Suburban communities feature bigger houses and more families than urban communities. Residents in a neighborhood share comparable salaries and social features such as education level, housing choice, and community cohesion.

According to Soekanto (1985), his perspective about Neighborhood which can be defined as territorial group with certain social characteristics residing in an area with distinct physical features. This thing is considered as entity that have fundamental role in social life.

### c. Community

A community is a social unit that shares characteristics such as location, norms, religion, values, practices, or identity. Communities may share a sense of place in a particular geographical location (e.g., a nation, hamlet, town, or neighborhood) or virtual space through communication platforms. Fessler (1976) defined a community as an area where people share common interests and thoughts. Strong and lasting relationships beyond direct genealogical ties also define a sense of community which play a crucial role in shaping their identity and roles in various social institutions, including family, work, government, and society. Although communities are usually small relative to personal social ties, "community" may also refer to diverse group affiliations such as national, international, and virtual communities.

### **5. Definition of Main Character**

Koesnosobroto in (Meinawati, 2017, p. 67) says, —Characters can be divided into two kind of major or main character and minor character. A major character is the most important character in a story. Basically, the story is about this character, but He cannot stand on his own; he needs other characters to make the story more convincing and lifelike. In other words, A character is an intrinsic element that is important in a story that is first explored by the researcher, people in the work of fiction. The main character requires supporting roles to enhance the story's conveyance and engage the audience, but the main character needs a supporting role to

make the story easier to convey and attract people to enjoy the story. Based on Stanton in (Meinawati, 2017, p. 67) says, —The main character is commonly used in two ways. The first is that character designates the individuals who appear in the story. The second is that character refers to the mixture of interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles that make up each of these individuals. The researcher assumes that characters can be considered successful when the main character effectively conveys the story's purpose to the audience. According to (Burhan, 1998, p. 176-177) The main character is a character who dominates the story in the novel. He is the central figure, both as the one responsible for the incidents and as their focus.

So the main character is the most widely told and widely present in every event. From some definition by an expert, the researcher concludes that the main character is the player who has an important role in the character of the story and one of character that presents the scene to the people who enjoy every storyline. So the audience can enjoy and feel immersed in the story.

**Definition of Character** Another essential story element is a character. A character is any person, animal, or figure represented in a literary work. Various experts have provided different definitions of character. The following are definitions of character: as stated by Baldick in (Nuraeni, 2016, p. 47), —Character is a personage in a narrative or dramatic work, also a kind of sketch briefly describing some recognizable

type of person. This means that characters are created to distinguish the roles of individuals in a drama. According to Tough (Roeder & Harcourt, n.d., 2012, p. 3), —Character can be taught not just by parents but by schools, coaches, and mentors as well. Character formation is influenced not only by parental roles but also by the environment, particularly in the case of children. —Characters are familiar tropes because they are conveyed by diverse media, both fictional and nonfictional. Narratives, rhetoric, ideologies, frames, and the like shape our understandings largely through the characters they create quoted by (Bergstrand & Jasper, 2018,

p. 230). That means, everyone understands their respective characters through narratives conveyed by various forms of media. As stated by Shaffer in (Rachman et al., 2014, p. 30), —a character is a person (or being given the characteristics of a person) who appears in, acts and/or speak in, narrators or is referred to in a literary work. This means that a character is someone or something with human-like qualities who plays a role in the story, whether by taking action, speaking, narrating, or being referred to.

12 Based on the statements above, the researcher concludes that Individual character traits develop over time, but everyone has a variety of characters. Character is formed not only taught from parents but also support from the surrounding environment, whereas in a narrative or dramatic work, characters are made for performances conveyed by diverse media.

## **6. Types of Character**

#### a. Protagonist

The role of the protagonist is a role that should represent positive things in the needs of the story (Wang, D. 2012). This role is likely to be the most hurt and suffering that will cause sympathy for the audience. The role of the protagonist is usually the central figure, the figure that determines the motion scenes.

According to Baranowski, T. (2008), the protagonist is the main character or player who supports the principal idea in the story and The protagonist usually has a specific plan and purpose, determining the overall plot to align with the audience's expectations and viewpoints. Compared to other characters, the time used to narrate the protagonist's experiences is longer. This character represents goodness and commendability, which is why the protagonist typically garners sympathy from the audience or readers.

#### b. Antagonist

The role of antagonist is the opposite of the role of the protagonist. This role should represent that should represent the negative things in the needs of the story. This role is likely to be the most antagonistic toward the protagonist. This figure is an evil character that elicit hatred from the audience. This research aligns with what Pløger, J. (2004), states that Antagonist refers to the role of the opponent or the secondary character who typically opposes or attempts to thwart the plans and desires of the primary character who usually opposes or tries to thwart the plans and

wishes of the first player. The antagonist usually represents the negative or opposing side. Therefore, the antagonist is often seen as the source of conflict and tension in a story. The antagonist can be seen as opposing the protagonist, whether directly or indirectly, both physically and mentally.

### c. Tritagonist

According to Alvinindyta (2018), Tritagonist role is the role of a companion" is redundant. You can simply say, "The tritagonist role serves as a companion to both the protagonist and antagonist. It can either be a supporter or an opponent of the central character or serve as a mediator or intermediary central figure. This position became the defender of figures that they accompany. This role is the primary supporting role. The concept of a tritagonist first appeared in ancient Greek dramas. The tritagonist is introduced to further develop the characterization of both the protagonist and antagonist in a story. The characters in the story can be divided into some categories based on the point of view taken major and minor character, protagonist and antagonist character, round and flat character, dynamic and static character, typical and neutral character (Nurgiyantoro, 2007:176).

#### 1) Major and Minor Character

The major characters are the actors which appear the most in the story and always have connection with other actors. The major characters are the most prominently featured in the story and often take significant actions. Main characters really determine the development of plot. In a

novel, there can be more than one major character, each with distinct qualities. In this research the major characters are Alif, Baso, Raja, Said, Atang, and Dulmajid. Minor characters are the characters who play supporting roles in the story. The presence of the peripheral characters in whole story is smaller. In other 20 words, minor characters in the whole story are limited and they are usually only related to the main characters.

## 2) Protagonist and Antagonist Character

The protagonist is synonymous with the virtuous characters portrayed by the actors, carefully chosen and crafted by the author. According to Altenberd and Lewis (1966: 59), a protagonist is a character admired by readers, often referred to as a hero because they consistently embody ideal roles and adhere to societal rules and values. Readers frequently sympathize with protagonist characters. A character that embodies hope and values can be considered a protagonist. However, there are times when a character does not convey moral values. LLuxemburg (1992: 145) asserts that an antagonist is a character who serves as the opposite of the protagonist, both physically and psychologically. The antagonist character typically instigates conflicts for the protagonist. While various factors like disasters, accidents, the environment, society, social rules, moral values, authority, and so on can lead to conflicts, when these conflicts do not originate from a character, they are referred to as external antagonist forces.

## 3) Round and Flat Characters



The first distinction between round and flat characters comes from Foster's book 'Aspects of the Novel,' first published in 1927. Forster (as cited in Nurgiyantoro, 2007:181) distinguishes the characters into round and flat. The round character is the complex fully developed, and unpredictable that we may not be able to predict action and reaction. Usually, this character is dynamic and undergoes changes. On the other hand, a flat character is a simple character with a single, unchanging nature. The attitude and behavior of the character are entirely flat and monotonous. There are no surprising actions designed to impress the reader. This character is always static and does not change in surprising ways. This character remains predictable and can be summed up in a few traits.

#### 4) Dynamic and Static Character

Another classification of character is dynamic (active) or static character. An active character is one who changes due to events in the plot. Static characters, however, remain unchanged; their character remains the same at the end of the story as it was at the beginning. The second classification is based on change; there are dynamic and static characters. Dynamic character is one who changes in the course of the action. The character may change from being shy to becoming poised. The character may demonstrate a new realization about himself or herself, or about his or her personal value. A static character is one who does not change throughout the story; they remain the same at the end as they

were at the beginning because the story's conflict does not influence this character.

#### 5) Typical and Neutral Character

Altenbenrnd and Lewis (in Nurgiyantoro, 2007: 190) state that the typical character is a character with less individuality, prioritizing the quality of the work and nationality. This character reflects, describes, or indicates the person or group who has worked in a department. In contrast, the neutral character describes an imaginary character that only exists within the fiction. This character is only presented to set up the story itself.

### **7. Females 19 Century**

During the early nineteenth century, the country was swept by the evangelical flames of the Second Great Awakening. During the Second Great Awakening, which saw the birth of a more active and positive religious sensibility, portraits depicted wealthy ladies carrying lace fans. During the same decades, the roles of women in the United States evolved. These two critical developments in the social and cultural history of the United States—evangelical Protestantism and the alteration of women's ways of thinking and living—were interconnected. During revivals, the average convert was a young woman, and it was often through these early converts that other family members were converted. The theological and moral authority supplied by such an experience contributed to the

redefinition of being a woman. The Market Revolution refers to the commercialization of economic life and the collapse of subsistence agriculture as the predominant way of life in the United States. In the beginning, factories arose. With the increasing production of textiles in mills like Lowell, Massachusetts, middle-class women spent much less time spinning and weaving fabric.

As women's domestic productivity decreased and their traditional economic roles diminished, the 'home' became a subject of discussion and an ideal to be admired. Not merely a workplace, but rather a spiritually sanctified sanctuary from the bustle of economic life, the home was where women raised men and children to become morally superior individuals. It can be asserted that what we now regard as the typical 'house' was an innovation of nineteenth-century America.

In colonial America, males were seen as superior to women in every manner, including morals. In a society governed by a rigid patriarchal hierarchy, males controlled not just money and political power, but also the upbringing of their children, religious issues, and all problems of good and evil. However, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, many Americans witnessed a gender revolution. What we now consider archaic and potentially repressive was innovative and possibly liberating at the time.

The concept of 'separate spheres' held that a woman's sphere consisted of the realms of privacy, family, and morality, while a man's

sphere consisted of the realms of economic struggle, political maneuvering, and social rivalry. Catherine Beecher asserted that each sex was superior within its own realm, achieving a kind of equality. Beecher thought that "women are elevated to equality with the other sexes only in America." This influential woman, the daughter of the renowned clergyman Lyman Beecher and the sister of the novelist Harriet Beecher Stowe, wrote the following in her 'Treatise on Domestic Economy': 'Group of women. "Group of women." "In civil and political affairs, American women have no interest or concern, except insofar as they sympathize with their family and personal friends; however, in all cases in which they do feel a concern, their opinions and feelings are given equal or even greater weight than those of the other sex.

Many social reform initiatives arose from the idea of the family as a locus of moral purity. In conjunction with the theological optimism of the Second Great Awakening, the worship of the power of the home led to the transformation of established institutions and the establishment of new ones. Penitentiaries, asylums, temperance groups, and schools all aimed to reform individuals within environments modeled after the middle-class American households of the North.

Since women ruled the house owing to their "natural" moral superiority, they had a unique voice in these changes, if not actual political authority. Among the middle class, womanhood symbolized moral power; therefore, the lives of real women were changed. The career of Dorothea

Dix, for example, would have been inconceivable without this new attribution of moral authority and the asylum movement, which was predicated on the assumption that a home-like atmosphere could nurture individuals back to psychological health.

### **C. Background of the Novel**

The creole In general, the term 'Creole' was first used between the 16th and 18th centuries to refer to white people born in Spanish America to Spanish parents who were residents of the Americas. Creole can also refer to a person who was born in Spain. In Louisiana in the United States it refers, in some context, to French-speaking white descendants of early French and Spanish settlers and in the other contexts, to mulattos speaking a form of French and Spanish (Warren

E. Preece (Ed.), 1984: 233). Furthermore, Creole society is distinct from any other in the United States. Residing in the southern regions of Louisiana, parts of Alabama, and eastern Missouri, the Creoles are descendants of French and Spanish colonists of the eighteenth century (Walker, 1979: 60).

Walker notes in her book that some of them (Creoles) become extremely rich as sugar cane growers, while others are less successful monetarily. Nevertheless, they collectively constitute a cultural group bound together by Catholicism, strong family ties, and the French language. Clement Eaton (in Walker, 1979: 61) states that —the Creoles, to a greater degree than the AngloAmerica, lived a life of sensations and

careless enjoyment. They enjoyed dancing, gambling, fishing, feasting, playing the fiddle, and living without much regard for the future.

Thus, Walker explains various explanations for the Creoles' reputation for their laid-back demeanor. One is Christianity. Most of them are Catholic and celebrate Mardi Gras before Lent. New Orland is known as Southern Babylon because Creole men openly supported quadroon and octoroon mistresses. Quadroons have one-fourth Negro blood, which was often considered to be equivalent to full Negro heritage. The mothers of quadroon females would be pleased if their daughters married wealthy white men.

Creoles did not go westward in quest of extensive land tracts, as did most colonists. In 1860, they comprised around one-third of the population of New Orland, where they were pleased to stay. (Around 45 percent of the state's white population resided in New Orleans, which was the capital state until recently.) This demeanor often bewilders tourists or foreigners who have not yet grasped the uniqueness of this culture, leading to frequent clashes between Creoles and Anglo-American society. In the Creole family the father is dominant. The men like to go to the cafes to discuss business, play dominoes, and have a drink while women should spend their time to make sure the house becomes comfortable for the family (Walker, 1979: 60). Creole men hold a high social status because their families rely on them to earn money for daily necessities. This is why they exert significant influence in Creole society (Bauman, 2002: part 13).

## 1. Synopsis

The Awakening opens in the late 1800s in Grand Isle, a summer holiday resort popular with the wealthy inhabitants of nearby New Orleans. Edna Pontellier's is vacationing with her husband, Léonce, and their two sons at the cottages of Madame Lebrun, which house affluent Creoles from the French Quarter. Léonce is kind and loving but preoccupied with his work. His frequent business-related absences mar his domestic life with Edna. As a result, Edna spends most of her time with her friend Adèle Ratignolle, a married Creole who epitomizes feminine elegance and charm. Through her relationship with Adèle, Edna learns a great deal about freedom of expression. As Creole women were expected to be chaste, they were able to behave in a forthright and unreserved manner. Exposure to such openness liberates Edna from her previously prudish behavior and repressed emotions and desires.

Edna's relationship with Adèle begins Edna's process of —awakeningll and self-discovery, which constitutes the focus of the book. The process accelerates as Edna comes to know Robert Lebrun, the elder, single son of Madame Lebrun. Robert is known among the Grand Isle vacationers as a man who chooses one woman each year often a married woman to whom he then plays —attendantll all summer long. During this summer, he dedicates himself to Edna, and the two spend their days lounging and conversing by the shore. Adèle Ratignolle often accompanies them.

At first, the relationship between Robert and Edna is innocent. They mostly bathe in the sea or engage in idle talk. As the summer progresses, however, Edna and Robert grow closer, and Robert's affections and attention inspire in Edna several internal revelations. She feels more alive than ever before, and she starts to paint again as she did in her youth. She also learns to swim and becomes aware of her independence and sexuality. Edna and Robert never openly discuss their love for one another, but the time they spend alone together kindles memories in Edna of the dreams and desires of her youth. She becomes inexplicably depressed at night with her husband and profoundly joyful during her moments of freedom, whether alone or with Robert. Recognizing how intense the relationship between him and Edna has become, Robert honorably removes himself from Grand Isle to avoid consummating his forbidden love. Edna returns to New Orleans a changed woman.

Back in New Orleans, Edna actively pursues her painting and ignores all of her social responsibilities. Worried about the changing attitude and increasing disobedience of his wife, Léonce seeks the guidance of the family physician, Doctor Mandelet. A wise and enlightened man, Doctor Mandelet suspects that Edna's transformation is the result of an affair, but he hides his suspicions from Léonce. Instead, Doctor Mandelet suggests that Léonce let Edna's defiance run its course, since attempts to control her would only fuel her rebellion. Léonce heeds the



doctor's advice, allowing Edna to remain home alone while he is away on business. With her husband gone and her children away as well, Edna wholly rejects her former lifestyle. She moves into a home of her own and declares herself independent the possession of no one. With her love for Robert still intense, Edna engages in an affair with the town seducer, Alcée Arobin, who satisfies her sexual needs. Never emotionally attached to Arobin, Edna maintains control throughout their affair, satisfying her animalistic urges but retaining her freedom from male domination.

At this point, the self-sufficient and unconventional old pianist Mademoiselle Reisz adopts Edna as a sort of protégé, warning Edna of the sacrifices required of an artist. Edna is moved by Mademoiselle Reisz's piano playing and visits her often. She is also eager to read the letters from abroad that Robert sends the woman. As a woman who devotes her life entirely to her art, Mademoiselle serves as an inspiration and role model to Edna, who continues her process of awakening and independence. Mademoiselle Reisz is the only person who knows of Robert and Edna's secret love for one another and she encourages Edna to admit to, and act upon, her feelings.

Unable to stay away, Robert returns to New Orleans, finally expressing openly his feelings for Edna. He admits his love but reminds her that they cannot possibly be together, since she is the wife of another man. Edna explains to him her newly established independence, denying the rights of her husband over her and explaining how she and Robert can

live together happily, ignoring everything extraneous to their relationship. But despite his love for Edna, Robert feels unable to enter into the adulterous affair.

When Adèle undergoes a difficult and dangerous childbirth, Edna leaves Robert's arms to go to her friend. She pleads with him to wait for her return. From the time she spends with Edna, Adèle senses that Edna is becoming increasingly distant, and she understands that Edna's relationship with Robert has intensified. She reminds Edna to think of her children and advocates the socially acceptable lifestyle Edna abandoned so long ago. Doctor Mandelet, while walking Edna home from Adèle's, urges her to come see him because he is worried about the outcome of her passionate but confused actions. Already overwhelmed by Adèle's admonishment, Edna starts to see herself as having acted selfishly.

Edna returns to her house to find Robert gone, a note of farewell left in his place. Robert's inability to escape the ties of society now prompts Edna's most devastating awakening. Haunted by thoughts of her children and realizing that she would have eventually found even Robert unable to fulfill her desires and dreams, Edna feels an overwhelming sense of solitude. Alone in a world where she has discovered no sense of belonging, she can only find one answer to the inevitable and heartrending constraints of society. She returns to Grand Isle, the site of her first moments of emotional, sexual, and intellectual awareness, and, in a final escape, gives herself to the sea. As she swims through the soft,

embracing water, she thinks about her freedom from her husband and children, as well as Robert's failure to understand her, Doctor Mandelet's words of wisdom, and Mademoiselle Reisz's courage. The text leaves the question open as to whether the suicide represents a cowardly surrender or a liberating triumph.

#### **D. Conceptual Framework**

A framework is the structure of a research concept or idea and how it is constructed. A conceptual framework elucidates the research topic in the context of relevant literature. Miles and Huberman state in Latham, as stated by Miles and Huberman (2012). "A conceptual framework illustrates, either visually or in narrative style [both are recommended] the primary objects to be researched - the essential aspects, constructions, or variables - as well as their hypothesized connections." This section may offer a summary of the study's most crucial variables (both dependent and independent)

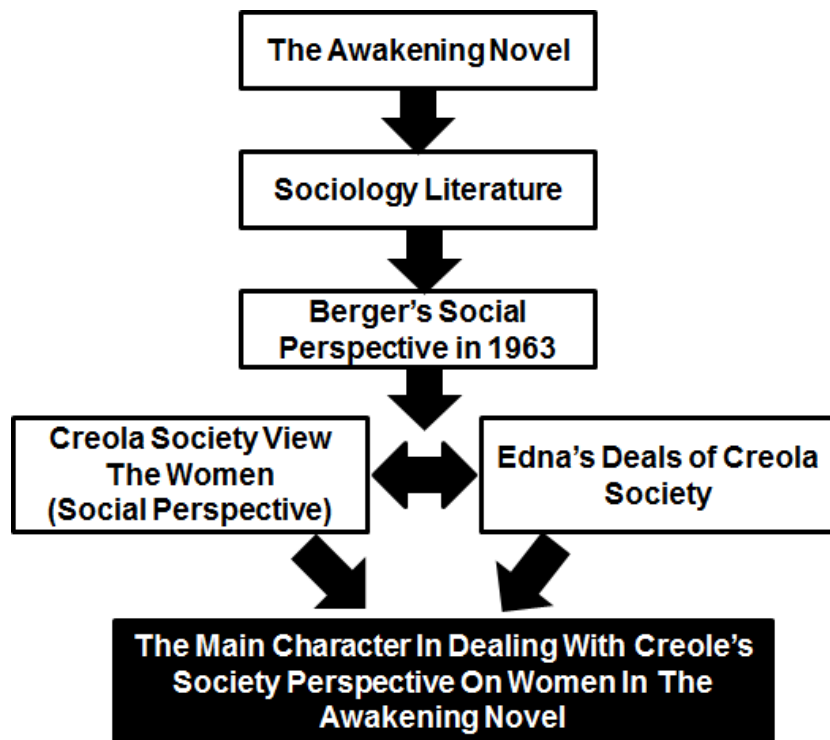


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework