

FRUSTRATED CHARACTER IN CHOPIN'S THE AWAKENING: A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

KARAKTER FRUSTRASI DALAM NOVEL THE AWAKENING KARYA KATE CHOPIN: PENDEKATAN PSIKOLOGI

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Abstrak

Makalah ini meneliti novel *The Awakening* karya Kate Chopin. Fokus utama dari penelitian ini adalah tokoh utama di novel yaitu Edna Pontellier. Skripsi ini menerapkan pendekatan psikologis. Teori psikologi yang digunakan adalah teori frustrasi. Teori ini terdiri dari definisi dari frustrasi tersebut, sumber dari mana frustrasi itu timbul, dan reaksi seseorang ketika frustrasi. Fokus dari penelitian ini adalah frustrasi yang dialami oleh tokoh utama Edna Pontellier. Analisis dalam makalah ini menjelaskan proses Edna mengalami frustrasi. Proses Edna mengalami frustrasi di representasikan dengan sebuah bagan. Bagan tersebut menggambarkan langkah-langkah bagaimana Edna menjadi orang yang mengalami frustrasi. Dari pembahasan tampak pada awalnya Edna adalah seorang Ibu yang peduli terhadap keluarganya. Namun, setelah liburan musim panas dia mulai memiliki ambisi-ambisi. Ambisi Edna adalah untuk mendapatkan kebebasan dalam kehidupan, percintaan, dan seksual. Akan tetapi, dia gagal dalam mewujudkan ambisinya. Kegagalan ini yang membawa dia menjadi frustrasi. Edna termasuk orang yang frustrasi dilihat dari reaksi-reaksi yang dia lakukan dalam menghadapi masalah dalam mewujudkan kebebasannya. Jika reaksi Edna dalam menghadapi masalah sesuai dengan reaksi yang ada dalam teori frustrasi maka hal itu membuat dia termasuk frustrasi.

Kata kunci: frustrasi, Edna, Chopin, pendekatan psikologi

Abstract

This paper studied the famous work of Kate Chopin, The Awakening. The core of the study was the main character, Edna Pontellier. The physiological approach was applied in this paper. It used psychological theory of frustration. The theory consisted of the definition and sources of frustration and reactions to frustration. The analysis focused on the frustration happened on the main character, Edna. It explained the process of frustration represented on a sketch. It illustrated the steps how Edna became a frustrated person. From the analysis, it could be seen that Edna at the beginning of the story was an ordinary mother who took care of her family. Then, she changed herself after summer vacation with new ambitions. Her ambitions could be divided into three parts, such as getting independence in life, sex, and love. Later, she failed in gaining her ambitions. This failure led her to frustration. She belonged to a frustrated person due to her reaction in facing problems to reach her independence.

Keywords: frustration, Edna, Chopin, psychological approach

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INTRODUCTION

One nature of literature is the truth. It has the capacity of being “true” although it is fictional. It can be faithful to reality as in descriptive prose and poetry. It interprets the real world and can present the experience of reality (Griffith, 1986). Even though a character in a novel is a tool used by the author to build the whole story to attract reader’s appreciation, a character in a novel can depict a real character like in a human being. As human being, everyone can sometimes feel unconsciously frustrated, e.g. when somebody wanted to get an apple but the apple was too high to be reached, and then he or she would say that the apple was not good enough because they could not get it. The lack of ambition then can lead to a frustration. (Floyd, 1970)

Kate Chopin (1850-1904), is American writer, known for her depictions of culture in New Orleans, Louisiana, and of women’s struggles for freedom. Chopin was born Katherine O’Flaherty in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1884 Chopin returned to St. Louis with her six children. There she maintained a literary salon and began her writing career. Her famous writing are the novel *At Fault* (1890), *Bayou Folk* (1894), *The Story of an Hour* and *A Night in Acadie* (1897), (Microsoft Encarta 2008). The elaborate depiction of Creole Society in her works has made her known as “local color” writer, writer who exploits the speech, dress, mannerisms, habits of thought and topography peculiar to a certain region, (Hugh, 1980).

The Awakening (1899), the novel now considered her masterpiece, is a story about Edna Pontellier, a woman who want to explore her independence. She is bored by her condition like under control by her husband, social activities, and life activities. Many problems block her ambition. Use Creole society in Louisiana as the setting of place and 1800s setting time. Because of the

negative criticism and social ostracism that followed *The Awakening*, Chopin produced few additional writings, and over the next half-century, her work became obscure. It was rediscovered in the 1960s. (Microsoft Encarta 2008)

Edna Pontellier, the main character in *The Awakening*, was very suitable with the psychological approach especially about the lack of ambition and frustration. According to the novel, the main character’s ambitions were to explore the independence in love, life and sex. The character of Edna Pontellier was analyzed as a character of human being by using the theory of frustration in the course of psychology. I am not an expert in psychology, but the complete information about Edna Pontellier from the novel and the theory of frustration, makes it possible.

The aim of this study was primarily to prove that the main character of the story, Edna Pontellier, was a frustrated person, which was considered by course of psychology. What was meant by frustration? How was Edna’s frustration reflected? What kind of frustration that happened in Edna? These questions were answered in this paper.

I focused the analysis of the main character’s performance, which consists of her way of speaking, thinking, and action which was generally implemented in the main character’s behavior. I needed to identify the explanation of frustration according to psychology, to achieve the objective. Then, I applied it in analyzing Edna Pontellier, the main character in *The Awakening*.

THEORIES

In this study, I applied the psychological approach as the basis for the analysis. According to Siswantoro in his book entitled *Metode Pendekatan Sastra: Analisis Psikologi* (2005), the application of psychological approach toward literature began after

Sigmund Freud, a great German psychiatrist, introduced the theory of psychoanalysis. According to Freud, literature was an unconscious ambition that was not created in reality and then transferred to reality in novel, or another form of literature, fictively.

Psychological approach was defined as a criticism to a literary work through the lens of psychology. It looked either at the psychological motivations of the characters or the author themselves, although the former was generally considered a more respectable approach. The most frequently applied theory was the Freudian psychology approach, but other approaches also exist. (<http://www.literatureclassics.com/ancientpaths/litacrit.html#Psych>).

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in *Theory of Literature* also stated their opinion of using psychological approach in literature:

By 'Psychology of Literature', we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of creative process, or the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology). (1978)

From the quotation above, it was clear that the appearance of psychology in literature was undeniable. The main reason of the strength relationship between psychology and literature was its identical object that was human being. It would be the study of what was in the work itself, and not the psychological aspect of the author. In this journal, I presented one of psychological theory, i.e. theory of frustration, within the main character in the story. I applied the theory of frustration as the main theory to analyze frustration in a character.

Definition of Frustration

When the progress of a goal is hindered and lack of ambition come, it tells about

frustration (Kretch and Crutchfield, 1959). Everyone can sometimes feel unconsciously frustrated, e.g. when somebody is eager to have something but the thing is too high to be reached, and then he or she would say that he or she does not need it because they cannot get it. That lack of ambition then leads to frustration. If someone has a willing then there are obstacles, which block it, then tries to win the obstacles but fail, it means he or she is a frustrated person.

The starting point in understanding frustration is by knowing deeper about ambition. Ambition means desire for success: a strong feeling of wanting to be successful in life and achieve great things; and objective or goal: a goal or objective that somebody is trying to achieve (Microsoft Encarta 2008. 1993-2007 Microsoft Corporation). Having an ambition is a characteristic of human being with its level in each individual. Normally, human has a willing to have something or being success in some cases. Of course, not all ambition can run smoothly. There are many obstacles to win. A failed ambition can lead to frustration.

If someone faces problems in his or her lack of ambition but he or she wins the obstacles, he or she does not belong to the frustrated person. Frustrated person is one who faces obstacles and he or she tries hard to break it out but fail. When he or she fails, he or she would do some action as the reaction of his lack of desire. However, not all the reactions by the frustrated person can solve the problems. In psychological term, frustration means the feelings, thoughts, and behaviors associated with not achieving a particular goal or the belief that a goal has been prematurely interrupted. (<http://allpsych.com/dictionary/f.html>)

A man lost in the desert without water frustrates by the absence of water. Someone who wants to have a car but he has no money, he is frustrated by poverty. Another

complex example, a young girl is tempted to marry an old man for his money whereas she loves someone. Thus, she is frustrated by the choices. From the examples, there are different types of difficulties, which block the ambition. The discussion below discusses the sources of frustration.

Reaction to Frustration

Someone who meets frustrations would react unconsciously to reduce the tension. It is defense mechanism. With its reaction one want to maintain his life from the problems that is faced. Defense mechanism is reaction from frustrated individual to reduce the tension when he knows that the problems are hard to be broken. Psychological forces which prevent undesirable or inappropriate impulses from entering consciousness (e.g. forgetting responsibilities that we really did not want to do, projecting anger onto a spouse as opposed to your boss), also called Defense Mechanism, Defense System, or Ego Defenses (<http://allpsych.com/dictionary/d.html>).

Defense mechanism is reaction to frustration that happens unconsciously through three categories: aggressive, withdrawal and compromise or substitute. (Floyd L. Ruch: 403--404).

Aggressive Reactions

A frustrated person can attack the obstacles that prevent him from achieving the goal or object substitution. Object substitution means an object that has no connection with the problem but being attack merely to reduce the tension. From now on, from the same book, aggressive reaction is divided into two kinds: scapegoating and suicide (Floyd L. Ruch: 481).

a. Scapegoating

Scapegoating means make somebody to take blame. This reaction is a change of the target of problem. The frustrated

person attacks the object substitution not the exact obstacle. For example, a boss in the office reprimands a man, of course, he can not defend himself. Then he needs something to release his anger and he may attack his wife, as object that considered as a weak thing, even though his wife knows nothing about his problem in the office. This type of person just reduces the tension or makes himself relief by his lack of power to win the obstacle.

b. Suicide

Suicide is the act of intentionally terminating one's own life. Suicide is a reaction to frustration by putting himself as an object substitution since he does not brave to break the problem or release his anger then he kill himself. Suicide occurs as one of the effects of lack ambition (Floyd L. Ruch: 484).

Withdrawal Reactions

Another reaction to frustration beside aggressive is withdrawal reactions. Withdrawal reaction is a reaction chosen by the frustrated person that does not want to face the obstacle. They do not want to solve the problem but flee. Withdrawal reaction can be physical or mental act. According to Ruch, There are three kind of withdrawal reactions (a) repression (b) fantasy (c) regression.

a. Repression

Normally human being represses the bad memories that causes pain, shame or guilty. People consider recollecting only good memories. With this reaction, repression, frustrated people want to forget the problem for a while. There are many ways that people do to forget the obstacles that are faced. The frustrated people can remember their happiness in the past or maybe using drugs to sleep just to forget the problem for a while (Krech & Crutchfield: 57).

b. Fantasy
When one's ambition is being stopped by the reality, the fact that happens in the real life, man can flee to fantasy world in man's mind to satisfy his blocked ambition. The level of fantasy is differentiated by the basic motif from the frustrated person. Children have fantasy about hero character in the movie or games; they would imagine that they have power to do something. Teenager imagines more about love or sexual desire. Adult fantasize career or money. All the fantasies, merely, is to satisfy themselves for a while to reduce the tension from the problem that they face (Floyd L. Ruch: 469).

c. Regression
The frustrated persons do regression reaction unconsciously. They would go back to their past when they were children, when they believe that the time is safe and without any problems. By fleeing to the past, the frustrated person would relief from his burden. The reaction that might be shown is childish action; such as crying, breaking things nearby, and driving car in very high speed, these reactions can not solve their lack of ambition.

Regression is one of withdrawal reaction that can happen to frustrated person even though it can not solve the problem. It happens unconsciously (Floyd L. Ruch: 496).

Compromise Reactions

The tension when somebody is frustrated sometimes can not be reduced by aggressive or withdrawal reaction. There is another way, i.e. compromising lack of ambition condition. In this situation, the frustrated person does not surrender totally with the problem that makes him frustrated. They reduce their ambition to make themselves

win the problem. For example, a man frustrates of his inability to buy Honda Odyssey car, so he can reduce his ambition by buying a car can afford, Honda Jazz for example.

According to the Siswantoro from Metode Penelitian compromise reaction can be divided into (a) sublimation, (b) reaction formation, (c) projection, (d) rationalization.

a. Sublimation

The concept of sublimation is substituting the ambition or changing the goal because the goal can not be reached easily. This reaction finds its another way to reach satisfaction. Even though the happiness may not be the same with the main goal, it can reduce the tension. With this reaction, the frustrated person may do something that is acceptable by the society, without any complain by people surround him (Floyd L. Ruch: 480).

b. Reaction Formation

It can be understood that this kind of reaction to frustration happens unconsciously when someone represses his willing which can be reached. Because if the desire can be won, it can be rejected by the society surrounds him. For instance, someone who has sexual problem, which is regarded abnormal by the society, must repress his sexual desire by doing many activities to avoid those negative desires (Floyd L. Ruch: 472).

c. Projection

Sometimes someone knows what he is doing is unacceptable by others. Then, he would blame other people or things to cover his own failure. For instance, a married man who has an affair with another woman, on the contrary, he would accuse his own wife that she is not loyal to him. This reaction is done to keep their pride. They do not want to admit their own failure (Krech & Crutchfield: 58).

d. Rationalization

Rationalization is giving false reasons for one's behavior in order to preserve self-esteem. It is another way of avoiding conflict: such as the conflict between what we actually want and what we think we should want, or the conflict between our actual accomplishments and our high aspirations. Rationalization is a process of finding an alibi unconsciously as a reason to make something failed to reach acceptable by his environment. This reaction is chosen to keep the pride and to save his ability from failure (Floyd L. Ruch: 492).

METHOD

In this study, I used the library research, internet browsing and interview as a method of this research. Since the analysis was to prove that the main character is frustrated, the sources about frustration according to psychology were very important and useful to be used. Some books that functioned as a main source were: "The Awakening" by Kate Chopin, "Teori-Teori Psikologi" by Matt Jarvis, "Metode Penelitian Sastra: Analisis Psikologi" by Siswantoro, "Psychology and Life" by Floyd L. Ruch, "Theory and Problems of Social Psychology" by Kretch and Crutchfield.

ANALYSIS AND RESULT

This analysis is focused on the character of Edna Pontellier. It used the theory of frustration in the course of psychology. The writer analyzed the character of Edna Pontellier as a human being, how her reactions in facing problem were, what her ambition was, and by what her ambition was blocked. The analysis in this paper was to prove or show the frustration in Edna. According to the theory, frustration started by the lack of ambition. Her seeking independence in this

novel was explained in detail. Telling about frustration, of course, the information about Edna's ambition should be explained. In fulfilling the ambition; Edna faced many problems which blocked her ambition that made her frustrated. How we know if this character felt frustrated was by analyzing her reactions when failing to break out the obstacles. In order to know whether her reactions belonged to frustration or not, the writer used the theory of frustration.

Frustration deals with lack of ambitions. Ambition means desire for success: a strong feeling of wanting to be successful in life and to achieve great things; an objective or goal: a goal or objective that somebody is trying to achieve (Microsoft Encarta 2008). In analyzing frustration happened to Edna Pontellier, of course, analyzing about the character and how the way she chose to fulfill the ambitions of Edna Pontellier was needed. Robert Stanton said in his book *An Introduction to Fiction*, character is commonly used to designate the individuals who appear in the story and it refers to the mixture of interest, desires, emotions, and moral principles that makes up each of these individuals (Stanton, 1965).

Edna Pontellier was the protagonist in *The Awakening*. She married to Leonce Pontellier but fell in love with Robert Lebrun and had a brief affair with Alcee Arobin. As a member of New Orleans' upper class, she had artistic leanings. She had two children; Etienne and Raoul. To this character came conflict on the traditional requirements that a wife must fully obeyed her husband. She was a woman who realized that she could not have a life in the bonds of marriage; but like the many downfalls of life, Edna learned these things too late. Unlike the other women by who she was surrounded, she was not a mother woman, one who only does all activities for her husband, children, and household. (<http://www.planetpapers.com/Assets/2132.php>).

Edna Pontellier was the 28-year old (she turned 29 later in the novel), when she gave up trying to be a mother woman in The New Orleans Creole Community, her character developed, liberating her inner emotions and great ambitions.

Edna did a significant change in attitude, behavior, and overall character throughout the course of the novel. From the start, she was different from her husband and all her friends because she was a Presbyterian from Kentucky rather than a Creole Catholic. Physically, she was different from other women with her distinctive face and figure. Although not a particularly strong or rebellious in the past, during her summer on Grand Isle, Edna developed her ambition to gain independence in life, sex and love. Throughout the novel, Edna never considered the consequences of her actions for herself or anyone else. For example, when arranging to rent her own little house, she did not seem to be conscious of the fact that she was leaving her husband, not even thinking that when Leonce returned there would have to be an explanation given. Only at the end of the novel, she considered the effect of her actions on her sons. (<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/wiley/cda/litnote/the-awakening-about-the-novel-literary-limitations.id-25,pagenum-4.html>). Overall, Edna's spirit was strong enough to begin a rebellion but too weak to maintain it. She tried to fulfill what she wanted badly.

1. Edna Pontellier's Ambitions

At the beginning before summer vacation, Edna was still a mother woman of two children and the wife of a successful New Orleans business person. Some influences made her change became real. Her changes occur in her thinking and lifestyle. While the family was vacationing at a resort, Edna became acquainted with Robert Lebrun, a younger man who paid

special attention to her. When she returned to the city, Edna threw off her old life to explore independence in love, life, and sexual fulfillment.

By doing some research, it was found that Edna's ambition generally explored her independence in love, life, and sex. All the ambitions started from her boredom with her role in the life, as a household woman who merely followed the rules of her husband, Leonce. These ambitions drove Edna Pontellier frustrated. Her activities were limited by the rules of mother-woman, so she could not do other activities that she liked, scarifying her life only for her family. In real life, it was very natural if someone wanted to break the rules for gaining some interests, so did Edna. Her seeking in gaining independence in life, love, and sex were her ambitions. The way that she chose to get what she wanted would be defined as the action in fulfilling her ambition.

2. Edna Pontellier's Lack of Ambitions

Theoretically, an individual suffered frustration when he or she was prevented from realizing his or her ambitions. In the case of Edna Pontellier, she failed in achieving her independence in life, sex, and love. All these ambitions started with her boredom of her life because she disagreed with the way her husband treated her, that he handled her like a property. The problems that made Edna had ambitions to get independence in life, love, and sex were started also by the dysfunction in the relationship between she and her husband, it was shown obviously from the beginning of the novel. Leonce Pontellier, her husband, warned Edna to take care of the children.

About frustration, according to the theory, the important part was one's ambition and the way that was chosen to win the ambition. In Edna Pontellier, her ambitions were to gain independence in love, sex, and

life without any problem in her family. To get independence in life, Edna did some actions such as changing her social life, rejecting her Tuesday reception for receiving guests, neglecting the housekeeping and her children, resuming her painting and paints all day in her studio, and finally moving out of Pontellier house. In gaining independence in love, she made an affair with Robert, the one who was considered to fulfill her independence in love. The last one was to reach independence in sex Edna refused to make love with her husband and started a relationship with Alcee Arobin only to fulfill her sexual desire. All of these are in order to win her ambition.

In seeking independence, she sacrificed her family, it resulted in the fact that she suffered from frustration. Her frustration was shown by her reactions. The fact that she loved her husband even made the frustration rose up.

Mrs. Pontellier was always very generous with the contents of such a box; she was quite used to receiving them when away from home. The pates and fruit were brought to the dining-room; the bonbons were passed around. And the ladies, selecting with dainty and discriminating fingers and a little greedily, all declared that Mr. Pontellier was the best husband in the world. Mrs. Pontellier was forced to admit that she knew of none better. (Chopin, 229)

From the excerpt above, it could be seen that she actually loved her husband. The main reasons why she made a change was she just wanted to warn her husband to not to treat her as a property. In the end, she committed suicide in the sea, she just thought about her husband and her children.

She thought of Leonce and the children. They were a part of her life. (Chopin, 311)

Edna ambitions were to gain independence in life, love, and sex, without distur-

bing her family, Leonce, Raoul, and Etienne. Therefore, what made Edna frustration was the failure in keeping her family unity.

Throughout the story, Leonce did not show great concern about his wife. It was the fact, for Leonce did not do much but wrote Edna a letter after she had moved out of the house while he was gone. Because of the lack of affection as well as the bad treatment by her husband, Edna felt that she had to gain independence in life, love, and sex. She found love in the arms of another man, and passion in another man. The first man, in which she sought love, was Robert Lebrun. While on vacation, she met Robert and it was on this vacation when her will to gain independence arose for the first time. Instead of spending time with her husband, she spent most of her time with Robert, swimming with him and even taking a whole day trip with him. Her ambition in gaining independence in love was because she wanted her husband became her love. In the point of view of Edna her husband was not a good husband. The way she sought independence in love by making affair with Robert surely made her frustrated because what she truly needed in love was the love with her husband. She loved Leonce actually. The relationship with Robert that she built herself in the end led her into nothing but frustration.

Then later in the story, she sought independence in sex with the simple desire between herself and a playboy Alcee Arobin. With Arobin, she found the passion that she could not get from her marriage and her love affair, Robert. Caused by the will to get independence in sex of her marriage, Edna found this kind of relationship with Arobin. Due to the passionless relationship that she got from her husband, she found the missing desire in a relationship based on passion and desire only. Again, affair with Arobin in fact led her into frustration

because her ambition was to get independence in sex, but still, she wanted it from her husband not from somebody else.

Edna also sought independence in life by changing her daily activities to others activities she had not been done before. It could be seen in several areas. In particular, the fact that Edna was not a mother-woman was mentioned a number of times. In the path to reach independence in life, she passed the responsibility of taking care of her children to others. In addition, she had very little involvement with her children throughout the story. Edna sent her children away to live with their grandmother. All the way through the story, she only visited them once. And even though she felt regret for leaving them there, she did nothing, not staying with them or brought them home despite the fact that she was ready to do so. This situation led Edna into frustration because she actually loved her children. In this case her habitual, neglecting her children, made her ambition flopped. What she truly wanted was to get independence in life with her children beside her.

Edna escaped from her family through her painting. Edna also found escape in painting. This action was shown by the fact that she started to neglect her responsibilities of the house and of her children. She chose to paint all day. Even when Leonce warned her about the fact that she always painted she simply told him to go away, as if he was nothing but an annoyance to her, and continued to paint. However, in the end, this painting activity led her into frustration.

The rock-solid evidence that showed how badly she was in the state of frustration was her suicide. The implication of suicide was failure. She failed in winning her ambitions. Webster defined suicide as, the act of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally. Throughout the story, the

main character Edna Pontellier struggled to get her independence. With the final realization that she was never being free, Edna took her life. In Edna's mind, suicide was not victory but rather surrendering. Therefore, Edna Pontellier's death was suicide. Frustration caused suicide. It happened when all her effort was blocked. It was part of aggressive reaction to frustration. Some one could be considered as frustration or not by her reaction in facing problems. Suffering from frustration, which was heightened by the failed ambitions, Edna took her life voluntarily and intentionally. Edna admitted,

There were days when she was unhappy, she did not know why, - when it did not seem worth while to be glad or sorry, to be alive or dead; when life appeared to her like a grotesque pandemonium and humanity like worms struggling blindly toward inevitable annihilation" (691).

Her suicide belonged to aggressive reaction. It was kind of reaction to frustration. Another reaction in aggressive reaction was scapegoating. In the way to get independence, she sacrificed her children. Throughout the novel, it could be considered that her children were victims. In that kind of ages, they should get a lot of care by her mother, Edna. Her children was taken care by their grandmother. However, she neglected them. This kind of Edna's reaction belonged to aggressive reaction especially scapegoating. A reaction that belonged to frustration because she thought it was a right way to gain independence in life. Eventhough later, she was wrong and led her to frustration.

Edna was frustrated person. One of her reaction in facing problem was withdrawal reaction. It shows that she did not want to face the obstacle. She did not want to solve the problem but flee. The evidence of her frustration was crying, which was clearly shown the feeling of frustration. Cry

belonged to frustration, according to the frustration theory. It named regression. The reaction that might be shown was childish action, such as crying. Edna's cry here was because her husband accused her for neglecting her children. As a mother, of course, she wanted to be a good mother who cared with the children. The will that was blocked lead her cry belonged to frustration. Another withdrawal reaction by Edna was painting. Painting which was done by Edna as her way to seek independence in life made her belonged to frustrated person. It was repression. This reaction was kind of withdrawal reaction. The key word in repression was "forget". She painted all day long to forget the problem what she faced. Edna wanted to break the rule as mother-woman. Painting all day was not mother-woman duty. It led her to frustration. With painting all day, she could be considered as frustrated person. Then when she moved out from her house could be considered as one of withdrawal reaction. It had similarity with painting. Edna's purpose by moving out from her house was to forget the problem that was faced by her in Pontellier house. With this reaction, Edna hoped that she will gain independence but unfortunately, this reaction fully showed that she belonged to frustrated person.

Evidence that also showed Edna's frustration was her relationship with Robert Lebrun and Alcee Robin. This reaction described a compromise reaction. Edna ambition actually was get love and sex from her husband. Nevertheless, because of Leonce's treatment she sought another man to get satisfaction. She made a compromise goal. She could not find in her husband so she sought in other men. It could be said sublimation, the reducing of the goal. Edna's action in gaining independence in sex and love fully led her to frustration.

For instance, Edna Pontellier used men and avoidance of responsibilities to gain independence in love, sexual and life. But what she did only making her frustration increased. She wanted to get independence but unfortunately, her action in gaining it led her directly to frustration.

Edna's frustration came from her desire to find independence in love, sex, and life. It started from within herself, from her own feeling. According to the story, it happened after she finished her holiday. It was very possible that her environment inspired those desires, but still all the problem came from her own feeling that in the end led her to do suicide. This type of frustration was the difficulties found in the individual. The obstacles were from the person not from her environment. It belonged to personal frustration. Therefore, what happened in Edna was personal frustration. All the obstacles rose from her. Like her suicide for example, her felling of guilty to her husband and children caused it. She did many actions to gain independence in life, sex and love; such as changing in her social life, rejecting her Tuesday reception for receiving guests, neglecting the housekeeping and her children, resuming her painting and paints all day in her studio and finally moving out of Pontellier house and making affair to Robert, then starting a relationship with Alcee Arobin. It could be said that she could not fulfill her wants in reaching independence because at the end of story she committed suicide that was caused by her felling of guilty.

CONCLUSION

If someone has ambitions and face failure in find the goal even though they have already make a good effort, it belongs to frustration. Frustration is a kind of feeling that happens when the ambitions are being

interrupted. If someone faces problems in his or her lack of ambition but he or she wins the obstacles, he or she does not belong to the frustrated person. In telling about frustration, there are ambitions and the failure in reaching it.

A conclusion has been drawn out in which the writer would present in the form of a sketch. The sketch can be seen in the following page.

EDNA → AMBITION → FAILURE → FRUSTRATION

Edna Pontellier, the main character in *The Awakening* by Chopin, suffers frustration. Her frustration belongs to personal frustration. Her ambitions are gain independence in life, love, and sex. The present writer concludes that she belongs to frustration by her reaction in seeking independence. Her efforts to win it fully lead her to frustration. Edna makes the three reactions to frustration. Those are aggressive, withdrawal and compromise reaction. Her deep loves to the family begin the main matter, which leads her to frustration.

Suicide becomes the great evidence that she suffers frustration. It becomes the final realization that she can win her independence. Before suicide, she makes some reactions that show her frustration such crying, painting, neglecting her duties as mother woman, and making affairs. It can be said that after all the paths that she chose to gain independence, suicide becomes her last reaction after amount of failure. What happens in Edna is personal frustration because the case likes in Edna, very possible, can be found in other places or times.

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