



A STUDY ON SYMBOLS IN KATE CHOPIN'S *THE AWAKENING*

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

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Symbolism is one of literary devices that is used by the author to make the idea of the novel more visible. Symbol as a part of symbolism is as important as well in a literary work to represent the idea. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin contains many symbols that can be discussed. In this thesis, the meaning of the symbols that appear in the story becomes the problem to discuss, but it is limited only in social aspect. The analysis is conducted by using deductive method because more than one symbol represent one idea. Library research is also employed to collect data and information to support the analysis. The result shows that the symbols contain meaning that is relevant to the idea that is represented. By interpreting the symbol's connotation, comparing the detail to its context, and also comparing its context to one another, and drawing the meaning beyond its literal meaning, it was found that each symbol is appropriate to emphasize the idea of social rules, the main character's social condition, freedom and independence.

TABLE OF CONTENT

FRONTISPIECEi
APPROVAL SHEETii
DEDICATION PAGE.....	iii
MOTTO	iv
DECLARATIONv
ABSTRACT.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTvii
TABLE OF CONTENTix
CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 The Rationale	1
1.2 The Problem to Discuss	3
1.3 The Scope of the Study	3
1.4 The Goals of the Study.....	4
1.5 The Approaches to Use	4
1.6 The Methods of Analysis	5
1.7 The Organization of the Thesis	5
CHAPTER II : THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND SYNOPSIS OF THE NOVEL.....	6
2.1 The Biography of the Author	6
2.2 The Synopsis of the Novel	9
CHAPTER III : A STUDY ON SYMBOLS IN KATE CHOPIN'S <i>THE AWAKENING</i>	13
3.1 The Meaning of Symbol.....	13
3.1.1 The Meaning in General.....	13
3.1.2 The Meaning in Literature.....	14

3.2 The Study on Symbols in Kate Chopin's <i>The Awakening</i>	17
3.2.1 The Description of The Main Character's Awakening	17
3.2.2 The Significance of Symbols in Kate Chopin's The Awakening	22
a. The Birds as The Symbol of Edna Pontellier	22
b. The Piano-Playing and The Clothes as The Symbol of Social Rules	25
1) The Piano-Playing	25
2) The Clothes	28
c. The Pigeon House and The Sea as The Symbol of Freedom and Independence	32
1) The Pigeon House	32
2) The Sea	37
CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION	43
BIBLIOGRAPHY	

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale

Literature historically has been used to define writing of some significance. It is as Cole (1990:3) says, in the broadest definition; the word 'literature' refers to any body of written material. According to Lowenthal (1961: xii), literature as art is another matter. It is the creation of individuals and it is experienced by individuals, qua individuals. Thus, it can be said that literature is the creation of a person who uses imagination to produce literary works through the experiences and the events of society. It means that literature deals with the author's experience or other people's experiences.

"Literature tells us not only what society was like in a past age, but also what the individual felt about it, what we could hope from it, and how he thought he could change it or escape from it. Like the living man of our own times, the fictional character of the past sees and records not only the reality around him, but his hopes, wishes, dreams, and fantasies as well." (Lowenthal, 1961: xv)

Thus, besides depicts the reality in a certain period, literature also can be a way to express what people feel about the reality and what they expect from the reality.

"Novel as one of literary forms, besides drama and poetry, is not merely a personal play of imagination but it is a manifestation of a certain thought. In addition, literature is an expression of life through the medium of language (Hudson, 1965:10)." Novel has some elements, namely, character, plot, point of view, setting and theme. All of these elements are components that build the structure of the fictional work.

The source of ideas for a novel is unlimited because it is about people and life (Meredith, 1972:1)". The story of a novel can be taken from any form of sources. One