

EDNA'S BETRAYAL IN KATE CHOPIN'S *THE AWAKENING*

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Abstract

This thesis describes Edna Pontellier's betrayal in Kate Chopin's The Awakening. This thesis is carried out with the aim to find out the cause and effect of Edna's betrayal in The Awakening. The objectives of the study are to find what the cause and effect of doing betrayal on Mr. Pontellier in the novel. The approach used in this study is extrinsic approach. The extrinsic approach can see several manything, such as literary works psychological approach and social problems. Edna is a woman does the betrayal with loving her husband's best friend, namely Robert. The Edna's motives of done betrayal in her household choose a date with a young man. One of them is the story about her husband often of done is rude, is weak of affection, busy with his business. If Edna never get treat is rude and lack of affection, she never has want to betray her husband. Overall the writer is aware that the betrayal that happens is something that must be realized and avoided so that relationship can get benefit freedom for their rights and in relationship is not burdened with a behaviour.

Keyword: *Betrayal, Psychological Approach, Causes of betrayal, Effects of betrayal.*

INTRODUCTION

All of human being ever experience betrayal in their lives. It can makes someone into difficult situation. Someone have to accept the fact that the trust have been lost. It is the sense of being harmed by the intentional actions or omissions of a trusted person (Rachman, 2010). Betrayal can cause and affects to mental contamination. Mental contamination has symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder. Mental contamination exhibits a negative direct effect on help-seeking attitudes, suggesting mental contamination was associated with reduced help-seeking attitudes even after accounting for a positive association between symptoms and help-seeking attitudes. Rachan (2010) in his research *Betrayal: A Psychological Analysis*, said that "*the betrayer commonly becomes a source of contamination. Feelings of mental*

contamination can be aroused in some 'prepetrators' of non-consensual acts involving betrayal." The magnitude of the mental contamination is boosted by the introduction of betrayal themes.

People may troubled with this issue. This issue often found in a household circuntance. It make sense that several novels adopted betrayal issue as their theme. One of those novels is *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin's. The main character is a girl called Edna. She was an ordinary girl, not rich, and wants a better life. One day, she accepts a marriage proposal from Mr. Pontallier, a 40 years old rich man. She really enjoys her life which has lots of money. Her husband had to works hard in order to business survive. Although then he forgets his wife and their children. In the midst of her husband busy life, she cannot express her feeling. One day she meets Robert Lebrum. He is a son of

Lebrum family and Mr. Pontellier's best friend. Starting from their introduction, they have a special relationship. Then the betrayal begins.

This issue may not just be a novel story, but also can happen to anyone. This fact makes this research a crucial matter. It is because betrayal is one of the human problems in their lives. Based on the background above, this research has two objectives for the study, including analyzing causes and effects of Edna's betrayal in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Betrayal is one of the most painful experiences that come from human instincts. Betrayal defines it as an action taken by a relational partner that is contrary to the expectations of the other partner of the relationship and, as a result, causes pain to the individual. Betrayal is related to the amount of emotional pain that cannot be overcome. Betrayal is not just about infidelity but comes in various forms as well as when lying and gossiping. Betrayal will be broken when you feel a strong trust suddenly broken by leaving a painful disappointment. This happens when one or both partners no longer respect the faithful promise.

Betrayal is a common problem that occurs in every couple. The meaning of betrayal is an act that is felt and experienced as a painful betrayal of a trust and threat in a relationship; this action damages the bond of affection and love for a couple (Johnson, 2005). Betrayal contains the meaning of dishonesty, distrust, not

respecting each other with the intention of enjoying relationships with others so that affection-sexuality is needed.

Conscience is a very bad feeling. This reminds people to feel guilty with feelings and a conscience will always fight. Betrayal in any case will bring something very negative to one's personality. Pain of giving someone who is trusted. When trust, secrets give expression between one another, but suddenly the person betrayed, it will be very difficult to recover and start trusting easily. Betrayal can be painful, isolated and can affect one's mind very badly and cannot longer maintain trust.

There are several types of betrayal, those are serial affair, flings, romantic love, and long term. The cause of betrayal is very different and usually not only caused by one thing. Dissatisfaction in marriage is the main cause that is often complained of by the couple, but there are also other factors outside of marriage that affect the entry of a third person in marriage, does not meet the needs of husband and wife in the household. Wife's needs include affection, conversation, honesty and openness, financial commitment, and family commitment. Meanwhile husband's needs include sexual fulfillment, recreational companionship, an attractive spouse, domestic support and admiration.

Betrayal also means an affair of the faithful and presence of other women in a marriage that affects feelings such as anger, deep hurt, depression, anxiety, hatred, and disappointment. There are several types of effects of conflict when in one long condition, consist of anger,

deep hurt, hatred, and disappointed. In general a betrayal increase is very serious problem in marriage. Not a few that later ended in divorce because the wife feel unable to survive after know that their love was betrayed and the husband has shared intimacy with another woman (Werner, 1992).

For couples who decide to continue to maintain marriage, the negative impact of betrayal felt by the wife. As the betrayer, the wife feels various negative emotions intense and often also experiences depression for a long time. Feelings of deep hurt make them is very angry people, has no spirit, feel insecure, especially in the early days after of betrayal. They experience conflicts between survive marriage because they still love their husbands and children and want to get divorce immediately because their actions violate the main principles of their marriage.

The effect of betrayal is vanishing individual trust. People need trust. A trust helps lift resentment and bring pleasure. The more accept and being able to place other people as part of pain means that it will have many of effects on him. Impacts that look like loss, sadness, damage to self confidence. Another feeling that might have a reaction to betrayal is hatred. Betrayal also often brings problems and causes depression. When a person feels that they have been betrayed, they may well seek some form of justice. Putting right (at least for them) what they feel has been wronged, including their sensibilities. From personal view, justice means more than making feel better.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses qualitative research to observe and analysis the data that are obtained in the sentences inside Edna's Betrayal in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. Qualitative inquiry employs data collection and analysis. Qualitative method rely on text (Creswell, 2003). So, qualitative research data used are text or word, involves an indentification and interpretation (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009). The writer uses extrinsic approach. Extrinsic approach is a kind of approach in which the discussion is focuses on the outside aspects of literary work (Wellek and Warren, 1962).

This thesis will apply psychological approach is suitable with the topic because the topic of the study concern with the Causes and Effects of Edna's Betrayal. And then Social psychology is the study of the individual human being as he interacts, lagely symbolically, with his environment (Dewey and Humber, 1966:3).

Because this research using qualitative approach, the consequence is researcher as the instrument his/herself. Data collected from two sources, those are novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin published in 2010 as the primary data and the secondary data are journal article, book, and other sources which relevan with the study. The data analysis procedure using literary theory. Literary theory consist of: 1) describes Edna's characteristics and determines the type of betrayal; 2) apply the theory psychology approach, 3) looks for data Edna's betrayal data and relates the data

with theory that will be discussed, and 4) making conclusion based on the data analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Cause of Edna's Betrayal

Edna is a French-American, a decent person who is usually known as Creole of culture. This emerge an assume that her descent is more honorable than others. The existence of this descent makes bad impact because of her life in the prison. All her life is restrict so she feels depress about her marriage. From this, Edna begins to avoid the fact that she lives in the Creole environment. The shackles tradition that always want to be avoided, she wants to be a free, not bound by the norms prevailing in her of environmental. It is said in the novel statement as "*Mrs. Pontellier, though she has married a Creole was not thoroughly at home in the society of Creoles, never before has she been thrown so intimately among them* (Chopin, 1899: 9)."

At the first time Edna and Mr. Pontellier marriage look very harmonious like other households. She is very loyal woman to her husband. She treats her husband so attentively and affectionately. She is also faithfully waiting for her husband to home from work until late at night. It is said in the novel with these dialogues:

*"Will you stay out here
and wait for Mr. Pontellie?"*

" he asked.

*"I'll stay out here. Good-
night."*

"Shall I get you a pillow?"

"

*"There's one here," she
said, feeling about, for they
were in the shadow.*

*"It must be soiled,
the children have been tu-
mbling it about." (Chopin,
1899: 29).*

Those text above are example of romantic scene in the novel. The dialogue happen between Edna and Robert. It draws that Edna was waiting for Mr. Pontellier return home and reflect how Edna dedicate her role as a lovely wife. But something that have to be pointed out is those dialogues happen between a wife and her affair partner.

Mr. Pontellier is loyal to his wife. He does not want his wife to wait him until late at night. Every day when Mr. Pontellier comes home from work, he never forgets to bring gifts for his children and his wife. He is the ideal head of the household. The novel state it as

*"Both children wanted to follow their
father then saw him starting out. But
kissed them and promised to bring
the back bonbons and peanuts (Chopin,
1899: 3)."*

Edna also tries to give attention to her children as a sign of love and affection. She always fulfills her children wishes and that makes her a successful mother in terms of educating her child. She does not wait for ask to help the other, because she feels she can still overcome it. But, sometimes she feels lonely. For her to lives her lonely life is uncomfortable, even though she is successful mother. For her the family is a place to dedicate herself as the last home. There are some kind of

dedication, desperate, and complaint that Edna said in the novel. One of them is in this dialogue, Edna says:

“I would give up the unessential, I would give my money, I would give my life for my children, but I wouldn't give myself. I can't make it more clear, it's only something which I am beginning to comprehend, which is revealing itself to me (Chopin, 1899: 47).”

After sometime, even though her husband is at home, she still feels lonely. But, especially if he is not at home. Edna takes the opportunity to date a young man who is more energetic than her husband. Edna needs the warmth of a man her age without regard to moral values and ethics in society. When Edna is very obsessed, even her child misses her parents love, but she prefers to look for the warmth and affection from another man. The novel states:

“Mrs. Pontellier was not a woman given to confidences, a characteristic hitherto contrary to her nature. Even as a child she had lived her own small life within herself. At a very period she had apprehended instinctively the dual life that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions.” (Chopin, 1976: 13).

Another reason why Edna wants to betray Mr. Pontellier is because of his nature. Mr. Pontellier often rudes when Edna made a little mistake in care for her

children. Although Mr. Pontellier is also not able to care for his children is well because he is very busy with his business. Mr. Pontellier is busy with his business until he forgets Edna and his family. He is rarely at home and he also often never says goodbye when goes to work. His nature described in the novel as:

“He reproached his wife with her inattention, her habitual neglect of the children. If it was not a mother's place to look after children, whose on earth was it. He himself had his hands full with his brokerage business. He could not be in two places at once, making a living for his family on the street, and staying at home to see that no harm befell them. He talked in a monotonous, insistent way” (Chopin, 1899: 5).

Then, she met Robert. Robert is a best friend of her husband. She begins find a comfortable friend to tell anything. She always tells anything about children in performing arts, wind, trees and even exchanging awards with an advance level of relationship. The novel states that:

“They chatted incessantly, about the things around them, their amusing adventure out in the water it had again assumed its entertaining aspect, about the wind, the trees, the people who had gone to the Cheniere, about the children playing

*croquet under the oaks,
and the Farival twins,
who were now performing
...* (Chopin, 1899: 4).

Robert always gives attention to Edna when she waits for her husband to come home from work. Robert also always helps and keeps before Mr. Pontellier come home from work although until late night.

Beyond Mr. Pontellier's ken, Edna often leaves her house with Robert for a walk and enjoy the fresh air. Edna and Robert like a married couple. This is mentioned in the novel as: *"They all went together up to the quaint little Gothic church of Our Lady of Lourdes, gleaming all brown and yellow with paint in the sun's glare."* (Chopin, 1899: 35)."

The Effect of Edna's Betrayal

Betrayal is a very important issue and takes effect for someone. Her betrayal will damage others trust. Betrayal that happens to someone would emerge bad effect, either for her or the others. In Edna's case, she wants to be free human being from undesirable circumstances. Her husband is rude and not romantic. It is begin when Edna acts to not want to do the tradition event which is celebration marriage every year. Edna prefers get out of all the celebration for unapparent reason. This scene bellow explain it:

"Out!" exclaimed her husband, with something like genuine consternation in his voice as he laid down the vinegar cruet and looked at her through his glasses.

"why, what could have taken you out on Tuesday? What did you have to do?"
"Nothing. I simply felt like going out, and I went out. No, I left no excuse."
(Chopin, 1899:51).

At that time Edna feels lonely because her husband does not figure out. Her husband prefers to hangout and dinner with his friends, while her children prefer in the bedroom. So Edna was lonely without her family. She chooses to act happy because she does not want to explain. She also feels sad to them who even cannot understand. Sometime she is very tough in this life and chooses to smile because she does not want to tell, she feels sad. Edna seems empty life without anyone.

Edna always think about her behavior. She feels the betrayal is complicated. Edna feels depress until she hurts herself by throwing her wedding ring and attempt to crush it with the heel the her foot. She also vented her disappointment by throwing a vase of flowers. It hurts, but sometimes it worsen to hold on. Getting is angry actually punishing herself with doing the mistake of other. It explain in the novel into statements:

"She carried in her hands a thin handkerchief, which she tore into ribbons, rolled into a ball, and flung from her. Once she stopped, and taking off her wedding ring, flung it upon the carpet. When she saw it lying there, she stamped her heel upon it,

striving to crush it. In a sweeping passion she seized a glass vase from the table and flung it upon the tiles of the hearth. She wanted to destroy something”
(Chopin, 1899: 52).

Edna thinks about Robert continuously even though she tries to forget it. But she cannot forget that imagination easily. Her brain always think a yearning with a very strong desire. She does not care about anyone who is the block her to meet a Robert. The story is very dramatic. When she falling in love even though with to betray her husband but she looks is happy when Robert gives affection. Meanwhile the story does not long last because Robert choose to leave and to discard Edna. Edna is depress after Robert of her leave. Every day Edna always to thinks and a hope Robert's return.

“As Edna walked along the street she was thinking of Robert. She was still under the spell of her infatuation. She had tried to forget him, realizing the inutility of remembering. But the thought of him was like an obsession, ever pressing itself upon her. It was not that she dwelt upon details of their acquaintance, or recalled in any special or peculiar way his personality, it was his being, his existence, which dominated her thought, fading sometimes as if it

would melt into the mist of the forgotten, reviving again with an intensity which filled her with an incomprehensible longing”
(Chopin, 1899: 54).

She begin feels depress after she decides to leave her family. She feels that there is not harmony or yearning in her family. She sees that everything is terrible without hope. Her life with her family has the end. Even her love story with Robert has also the end. That makes her feels depress because has everything of the end. Indeed, she often forgets the time because too enjoy visiting place that has never been visit. She can forgets her life even though only temporary. Edna has a thousand reasons to survive. However, she has a thousand reason to leave. Edna begins to do something that she like. Even leave home without a planning. Often leave the house without saying goodbye, come back home late at night. She also does not care about herself appearance, the looks when she wears the clothes.

“Edna felt depressed rather than soothed after leaving them. The little glimpse of domestic harmony which had been offered to her, gave her no regret, no longing. It was not a condition of life which fitted her, And she could see in it but an appalling and hopeless ennui. She was visited by no more outbursts, moving her to such futile expedients. She began to do as she liked and to feel as she li

ked. She completely abandoned her Tuesdays at home, and did not return from visits of those who had called upon her. She made no ineffectual efforts to conduct her household going and coming as it suited her fancy”(Chopin, 1899: 56).

Her minds cannot controlled well. Her mood swing swiftly. Sometimes she is happy, sometimes she is not. She cannot understands the meaning of feels happy and unhappy. The situation is unpredictable in her life. She feels down at the moment. She feels on inside unconscious. When so much sorrow and scar, when she never come backs and goes so far. Sometimes feels alone better because nobody alone can hurt.

Edna’s behavior changes dramatically. She ignored the responsibility as a mother and a wife. She is cannot caring about her child. Edna always wants to be alone without any disturbance. Even she often forgets if she has a children and a husband. She wants to be the head of the household so she can control everyone. When her husband is rude, she becomes brave. Her attitude show that Edna uncomfortable when someone else disturb her even though he is her own a husband. With the rude treatment done by her husband, Edna prefers to be alone even though she knows that the betrayal that has to makes bad impact for her relationship. Edna’s chane of behavior explained as: *“But her new and unexpected line of conduct completely bewildered him. It shocked him. Then her absolute disregard for her duties as a wife anger*

ed him. When Mr. Pontellier became rude, Edna grew insolent”(Chopin, 1899: 57).

Her mood swing is one of symptoms that reference to mental illness. Psychological approach explain it as abnormality. Other symptoms that Edna been feeling were depressed, loneliness, and insolent. She desires to control everyone and want a ultimate power to make everybody not to disturb her. She also does not want anyone to prevent her from wander and doing vacation. The novel describe it at this statement bellow:

“She liked then to wander alone into strange and unfamiliar places. She discovered many a sunny, sleepy corner, fashioned to dream in. And she found it good to dream and to be alone and unmolested (Chopin, 1899: 58).”

Not long after it, Mr. Pontellier doing bussiness trip for long time. Mr. Pontellier cannot accept that his wife has changed. Because of this, Edna once again experiences lost her closest one besides Robert. Then, Edna decide to gets rid of her lifes burden by committing suicide.

“She though of Leonce and the children. They were a part of her life. But they need not have th ought that they could possess her, body and soul. How Mademoiselle Reisz would have laughed, perhaps sneered, if she knew! “And you call yourself an artist! What pretensions, Madame! The artist must possess the courageous soul that dares

and defies.
*She looked into the distance, and the old terror flame
 dup for an instant, then sank again. Edna heard her
 father's voice and her sister Margaret's. She heard the
 barking of an old dog that was chained to the sycamore
 tree. The spurs of the cavalry officer clanged as he
 walked across the porch. There was the hum of bees,
 and the musky odor of pinks filled the air"*
 (Chopin, 1899: 116).

CONCLUSION

The analysis regarding the reasons motive Edna to betrayed her husband. She looks for affection that does not given by her husband. There are several causes and consequences that encourage Edna to doing betrayal by establish love. That reason that motive Edna to doing betrayal in her household and choose to date a young man is her husband behavior. He often doing rude, he gives weak affection, and always busy with his business.

Edna's betrayal does not motive her to better life. There are several consequences that she has to bear and furthermore called as effects. The effects of Edna's betrayal are regret, lost of love from husband and children, abandon her children, depressed, mental illness, and then lost her life. In the end of *The Awakening* novel, Edna committed suicide because she cannot bear to be lonely without her family.

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