

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing four of Kate Chopin's selected short stories "Désirée's Baby", "A Respectable Woman", "Her Letters", and "A Pair of Silk Stockings" The writer concludes that Kate Chopin criticizes the patriarchal society in the mid- to late nineteenth century America through the struggle of four women in the selected short stories.

The writer found that there are three issues of women's struggle that can be seen in four of Kate Chopin's selected short stories related to Politics, Economy, and marriage system in patriarchal society.

The first is the issue of women's voice that portrays the political struggle in the story where women unable to express their voice in patriarchal society. The second is Self Assertion that portrays the economic struggle where women need to conceal their own needs and self assertion to give up everything for the husband and their family. The third is the issue of conscience that portrays the women's struggle in marriage. The writer found that this refers to the struggle of a woman to follow their own feelings that they need to conceal because of the social judgments they may get if they decide to follow their true self.

The writer also found Kate Chopin's criticism of patriarchal society by relating it to her personal experience, from the analysis the writer found that Chopin criticize the social stereotypes towards women because she was struggling with the social bias

that dictates women on how to behave and what a woman should be in society that reflected from Desiree in “Desiree’s baby”, and Mrs. Baroda in “A Respectable woman” both of these women needs to sacrifice their true self to be accepted in society or to fits social expectations towards women at that time, Chopin also shows the quality of women from the unnamed woman in “Her Letters” where she describes her as smart, intelligent but the social stereotypes burdens her to express her true self.

Chopin also criticizes marriage as the economic arrangement, the writer found that Chopin criticizes this by showing the effects of the woman who marry a rich man, that women becoming subordinate and need to follow the husband and it is also reflected in her life. The writer found Chopin criticizes that marriage also bring difficulties for woman economically and she shows that women also have abilities to be the financial support of the family or even better than men.

Moreover, by using *Patriarchal Binary thought* by Helene Cixous that shows how men relate to Head / Activity / Intelligible / Strong / Confident / Brave/ Superior and women described with Emotions / Passivity / soft / cautious / shy / dependent / fearful/ Inferior

. In this binary men would be on the left side which refers to superior side while women on the right side which refer to inferior.

In the result of the analysis, the writer found that at the beginning Chopin shows women were on the right side of the binary when they relates to their struggle in politics, economy, and marriage in patriarchal society and men would be on the left side, but the writer found that at the end, once women able to escape from these

struggles and being their true self, their position in *Patriarchal Binary* is moved to the left side that relates with Independent / Aggressive / Confident / Brave and in opposite men would be on the right side, this shows that Chopin wants to criticize patriarchal society and shows women capability in the society.

