



LIBERAL FEMINISM VALUES IN KATE CHOPIN'S *STORY OF AN HOUR*

A THESIS

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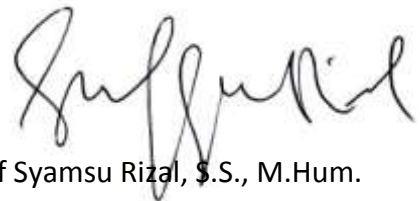


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LIBERAL FEMINISM VALUES IN KATE CHOPIN'S *STORY OF AN HOUR*

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ABSTRACT

The study offers Liberal Feminism Values Reflected on Mrs. Mallard in Kate Chopin's Story of an Hour. The research design of this study is qualitative descriptive, in any case, the source of the data is a text of short story Chopin's Story of an Hour. The writer conducts structural approach in doing this literary research focusing on analyzing the intrinsic elements especially on the main character, conflicts, and the extrinsic element on liberal feminism values by using Tong's framework. The writer tries to answer three problems. First is what is the character and characterization of Louis Mallard? Second is what is the conflict experience done by Louis Mallard? And the last is what are the liberal feminism values found in Chopin's Story of an Hour?

The results of the study are that Louis Mallard, as the main character, is portrayed such as an ordinary and loving stereotyped-kind of wife, independent woman, a stressful woman, as young, with a fair, calm face woman, a loving wife, suffered, frail woman, and a modest widow, that two conflicts appeared through the story; the first is Mrs. Mallard against herself and the second is Mrs. Mallard against environment. The liberal feminism values of Mrs. Mallard in the story can be seen through her feeling after she knew that her husband died.

Keywords: feminism, freedom, liberal feminism values.

Penelitian ini menawarkan nilai liberal feminisme yang tercermin pada Ny. Mallard dalam Story of an Hour oleh Kate Chopin. Desain penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dan sumber data adalah cerita pendek dari Chopin berjudul Story of an Hour. Penulis melakukan pendekatan struktural dalam melakukan penelitian sastra ini yang fokus pada analisis intrinsik elemen khususnya pada tokoh utama, konflik, dan ekstrinsik elemen pada nilai liberal feminisme dengan menggunakan teori Tong. Penulis mencoba menjawab tiga masalah. Pertama adalah apa karakter dan karakterisasi dari Louis Mallard? Kedua adalah apakah konflik yang ditemui oleh Louis Mallard? Dan yang terakhir adalah apakah nilai-nilai liberal feminisme yang ditemukan pada cerita dari Chopin berjudul Story of an Hour?

Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah Louis Mallard sebagai tokoh utama digambarkan sebagai seorang istri biasa dan mencintai suaminya seperti wanita kebanyakan, wanita mandiri, wanita stress, wanita muda dengan wajah tenang dan adil, seorang istri yang penuh kasih, menderita, wanita lemah dan janda sederhana, dan dua konflik muncul dalam cerita; pertama adalah Ny. Mallard dengan dirinya sendiri dan kedua adalah Ny. Mallard dengan lingkungannya. Nilai-nilai liberal feminisme dari Ny. Mallard dalam cerita ini dapat terlihat dari perasaannya setelah dia mengetahui jika suaminya meninggal.

INTRODUCTION

Since France Revolution 1789, the issues of injustice or inequality had begun to the surface to discuss. The issues that always get critics are the distinction of social class, race, and gender. One of the most argued issue up to these days is gender equality. It leads a massive movement called feminism. Approach to 19th century, feminism turns into the movement that gets a lot of attention in Europe especially from white women. Feminist criticizes women's chore in the domestic sphere, irrational, and tyranny; so that women can take apart in the society or public sphere. As Tyson (1980) stated that "... the ways in which literature (and other cultural productions) reinforce or undermine the economic, political, social, and psychological oppression of women". Feminism is principally concerned with the problem how a woman can consider herself a "female" and also a "freeman" at the same time. Because of the fact that women are usually referred to the domestic activities and their roles as a mother and a wife, this feminism tries to lead women to a new vision that they are actually able to do what men can do and they should have more opportunities to express themselves in society without neglecting their natural role as housewives.

Moreover, there is a branch of feminism values to inform. It is called liberal feminism. It argues that the gender inequality is constructed by both society and culture. It is clear that feminists give critics to patriarchy system like a family which does not provide self-improvement freedom to both wife and daughter. This movement becomes a root for another marginal movement such as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) movement. In line with the global era, the feminism also influences the literary works development and the literature criticism. Literary works can be medium for the writer to express feeling, to give critics, or to campaign the writer's believe. Often some writings enable the reader to gain a lot of knowledge, which is beyond expectation and comprehension and sometimes the content is unexpectedly beyond the understanding and acceptance of its era. Such writings are often considered unacceptable, scandalous, or even morally incorrect by the society at its time. Women had been seen and treated more as complements to the men in their lives than as individuals or spiritual entities; they were depicted in literature as womanly, weak, dutiful, and stupid. Most authors continued to write with the misguided perception that women were always inferior to men (Wrenn, 2010: 9).

For centuries, women were defined by men; the world was male-centered and male-dominated. *Story of An Hour* is one of short story that was written by feminist writer named Kate Chopin. It published in 1894. This story is about Louise Mallard that feels so sad after her husband died. The story covers only one hour in Louise Mallard's life that starts from the moment she learns of her husband's death to the moment she unexpectedly returns alive. Here, Chopin suggests that all marriages, even the kindest ones, are inherently oppressive. Louise as the main character, who readily admits that her husband was kind and loving, nonetheless feels joy when she believes that he has died. Her reaction does not show any malice, and Louise knows that she will cry at Brently's funeral. However, the love between husband and wife becomes a

release from oppression after Brently's died. She never names a specific way in which Brently oppressed her, hinting instead that marriage in general stifles both women and men. She even seems to suggest that she oppressed Brently just as much as he oppressed her. Louise thoughts parade through her mind reveals the inherent oppressiveness of all marriages, which by their nature rob people of their independence.

Kate Chopin explores feminine selfhood in a patriarchal society through the heroine's spiritual journey to freedom in "*Story of an Hour*". In this story, Chopin presents us with a picture of a complicated and complex development of Louise Mallard's spiritual awakening triggered by the false news of her husband's death in a train accident. Louise is a pioneering feminist searching for selfhood and freedom, not "an immature egoist and a victim of her own extreme self-assertion" (Berkove, 2000: 152).

Chopin is an American woman writer, who once was considered notorious by her era and forgotten for some time because of her scandalous, unaccepted and unhealthy idea, which she implies in her novel and short stories. She is an example of a writer whose ideas are considered ahead of her time. Her works were condemned to be unsuitable for the society norms and moral, and forgotten for some time until they were resurrected in 1969. Most of Chopin's major characters in her stories are married women. Through a woman's point of view, Chopin tries to capture the women's struggles and presents reality to her reader.

From her writings, one can learn a lot about marriage as well as women's position and condition in her time. In her story, Chopin is believed to attempt to deconstruct the ideas of a wife and a mother, which are previously constructed and assigned by the patriarchal world (Johan, 2008: 39). Her notions and belief can be seen from and represented by her female major characters. Her works really influences the feminism movement in United States and it proves that literary work can be as a medium to show her contribution in feminism movement.

Related to phenomenon above, the writer tries to describe the intrinsic elements on the story only focusing on main character, conflict and liberal feminsm values reflected on the sory through the main character and conflict. Perrine (1993: 66) says that reading for character is more difficult than reading for plot, for character is much more complex, variable, and ambiguous. Anyone can repeat what person has done in a story, but considerable skill may be needed to describe what a person is. Character itself is always followed with characterization. Characterization is wider than character because it includes the following problems: who the character is and how the description in a story so that the readers know about it distinctly.

Holman (1980: 75) defines that characterization is the creation of these imaginary person, so that they exist for the readers as real within the limits of the fiction. According to Sudjiman (1990: 61) characterization is the composition of characters convincingly, so as if the readers are faced with real creatures. The reader has a nature tendency in identifying characters. They will hate antagonist

and on the contrary, they will be sympathetic with protagonist. Characterization uses some ways; the character of an actor can be classified into: his action, his statement, his physical appearance, and what he said or through other about himself.

Moreover, in the book *Aspect of the Short Story*, Foster (1983:25) divides character into two kinds: flat character and round character. Flat character is character that from the beginning of the story does not have many changes in the personality, behaviour, physical appearance and morality until the story ends. On the other hand, round character is a character in the story that has changing personality. The changing could be slowly in the long time, but sometimes it happens suddenly. In addition, according to James L. Potter in *Element of Literature* (1967: 7-17), character in a play or fiction can be divided in two major characters, they are: protagonist that is always the focus point of the action of a story, the character that the story is most obviously about, and antagonist that is the main person or thing or force that opposes the protagonist. Antagonist character is not always human being; in fact it is something that has power to emphasize protagonist character.

Conflict happens to everyone in the daily life. It occurs because of the difference between two opposite things such as aims, principle, opinions, etc. Generally, conflict is well known as a clash between two opposing people or community, or even wills and desires in one person. Conflict cannot be avoided by human. It is natural situation for it is known that human always have problem. Conflict in a literary work can be the centre of a story. Conflict, which becomes the basis of the plot, is the conflict of the protagonist. This situation and condition arouse some events on the story and make the story alive. Usually the central of the theme of a story is a conflict and how to solve or to end that conflict.

Wellek and Werren (1989: 85) say that conflict is; “something dramatic referring to a struggle between two powers and caused action and reaction”. It can be assumed that conflict is something which is dramatic referring to the fight between two balance powers and it has meaning about counter attacks. Based on the category, Stanton (1965: 16) divides conflict into: external conflict (a conflict between a figure and other figures or his or her environment), and internal conflict (a conflict within a figure of a story).

Liberalism suggests that all human being both men and women have an equal position, harmonious and having the same potency of rationality. Wendel in Tong (2009: 18) states that the general purpose of feminism is to create society which is equitable and careful for freedom for the self development, so that women can improve themselves. The concept of liberal feminism reformism and liberalism. Liberal feminism struggles to release women from an oppressive gender role. As stated in Tong (2009: 20), a role which is used as justification for making women inferior and also does not give a chance in education, economic or another systems. However, they do not have any intentions to make women as same as the men.

Moreover, based on the feminism movement, it influences the literary criticism. It is called as feminism approach. According to Ruthven (1984: 24-58), the feminism approach has two purposes. The first purpose is to reveal many subordination and oppression of woman. The second purpose is to reveal the veil that covers the certain message inside the literary works and reclaim the opinions in literature externally.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The research design is stage process which is needed in planning and doing a research. In this thesis the writer uses qualitative descriptive research method which is intended to describe the analysis factually, accurately and systematically. Qualitative research is procedure of research which produces descriptive data in the form of written words or oral words about the object that is observed. Descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describing situations or events. By using such method the writer will use qualitative descriptive research, in which the data are described systematically to get an accurate and factual result.

Source of Data

The data of the study *is a text of short story Chopin's Story of an Hour*. Kate Chopin's *Story of an Hour* is produced in 1894. The story is repackaged in *Anthology: Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing 6th Edition*, and published in 2007. It consists of 2 pages.

Units of Analysis

This study focuses on the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the short story. The former is the main character and conflicts and the latter is liberal feminism values in Chopin's *Story of an Hour*. The writer will discuss the extrinsic element of the short story. It is liberal feminism value by using Tong's framework of feminism.

Technique of Data Collection

The data were taken from the short story Kate Chopin's *Story of an Hour*. The writer uses the method of library research to get more information about this research especially for the main character and the characterization, conflict, setting. Besides, the writer uses this method to get more information about social psychology aspects of the story in the novel.

The writer applied following procedures:

1. Reading Kate Chopin's short story *Story of an Hour*.
2. Identifying sentences that reflect the unit of analysis such as main character and characterization, conflict and liberal feminism values.
3. Quoting the sentences, utterances, and paragraphs reflecting main character and characterization, conflict and liberal feminism values.
4. Classifying the data based on the unit of analysis they belong in such as main character and characterization, conflict and liberal feminism values.

Technique of Data Analysis

The writer collected and analyzed the data as the followings:

1. Using structural approach:
 - a. Close reading the story from the beginning to the end to identify the intrinsic elements focusing main character and conflicts through the story,
 - b. Exploring the the main character and her conflicts,
 - c. Describing the logical conclusion by relating to the theories of literature.
2. Using feminism approach:
 - a. Interrelating the analysis of the intrinsic elements found to the extrinsic element, the liberal feminism values by applying Tong's framework of feminism.
 - b. Describing logical conclusion by interrelated among the main character, her conflicts, and liberal feminism values.

DISCUSSION

Description of Louis Mallard

There are two kinds of characters in *Story of an Hour*. They are the main character and the peripheral character. In this study, the writer focuses on the analysis of the main character, Louis Mallard. She has dominates the whole story in this short story. She always appears from the beginning until the end of story. Louis Mallard as the main character is dynamic character, because her personality is changing in the course of the story. It is based on life journey of Louis Mallard from the beginning until she dies.

Mrs. Mallard is portrayed as a young wife whose husband was reported to be a victim of a train accident. This sad news is brought by one of the family's friends, Richards, who was truly aware of her heart problem. The news was broken very carefully and gently; so, it will not shock her.

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death. (Chopin, 2007:1)

...Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." (Chopin, 2007:1)

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her. (Chopin, 2007:1)

The quotation above concludes that Mrs. Mallard is portrayed as an ordinary and loving stereotyped-kind of wife.

After knowing the news, Mrs. Mallard locks herself in her room, and does not allow anyone to meet her. Mrs. Mallard feels solitude and exhaustion. Then, she is just able to sit and watch the scenery from the open window. Her sadness and confusion of losing someone she loved and depended on seems a normal reaction of someone in a state of grieving.

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. ***Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul. She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life.*** The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which someone was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves.

(Chopin, 2007:1)

The quotation above shows that Mrs. Mallard will have a new life. She can become a new different person. She can be an independent woman.

Mrs. Mallard is a stressful woman. She feels trapped in her marriage. She is never listened when she has an idea. She always follows her husband words. Suddenly, she feels that she will have something that she never feels before. Even, she does not know exactly what the thing is. This condition is proven by the following quotation.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, ***but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought. There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name.*** But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, and the colour that filled the air. (Chopin, 2007:1)

The quotation above concludes that Mrs. Mallard is a young wife and calm face but her face shows that she feels stress because she gets repression from her husband. However, she relieves when she reviews her life and she can feel something different.

Later on the story, Mrs. Mallard realized that she becomes unlucky woman. She feels that she gets oppression during the marriage. She becomes less powerful and looks like not unintelligent person. She waits this time for long time. Suddenly, Mrs. Mallard notes in terms of her marriage and future life.

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. ***She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will--as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.*** When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. ***She said it over and over under the breath: "free, free, free!"*** The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes... (Chopin, 2007:1)

From the quotation above, it is seen that Mrs. Mallard changes from a perfect and loving wife into a happy wife after her husband died. She feels unlucky woman because she is possessed by Mr. Mallard and she cannot do anything. Then, she realizes this condition and she tries to get freedom.

Conflict Experienced by Louise Mallard

There are two conflict experienced by Mrs. Mallard in the story: internal and external conflict. The explanations are:

1. Mrs. Mallard against herself as the internal conflict

Mrs. Mallard is afraid of the feelings of happiness that are coming to her. In the beginning, she feels so sad, and then she feels that she does not know about her feeling. She feels relief. However, this condition changes the personality of Mrs. Mallard. The evidence can be seen below.

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, and the colour that filled the air. (Chopin, 2007:1)

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will--as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been. When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under the breath: "free, free, free!" The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body. (Chopin, 2007:1)

From the quotation above, it is seen that Mrs. Mallard is afraid of her feeling. She is afraid if she wants to get freedom, the society cannot accept it. However, she tries to face her fear and she decides to get freedom.

In this story, Mrs. Mallard gets solution for her internal conflict. She decides to create a new life. She feels free, so she wants to develop herself. This statement is proven by the following quotation.

There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination. (Chopin, 2007:2)

The quotation above shows that Mrs. Mallard has resolved her conflict and has chosen a new life. The new life is she will have a right to do everything and no one can stop her. In addition to it, it becomes her awakened moment.

2. Mrs. Mallard against environment as the external conflict

The second conflict is between Mrs. Mallard and the environment. It is seen that Mrs. Mallard wants to get freedom because she feels much oppressed by her marriage. When her husband died, she feels so happy. It happens because there will be no one limit her right. She must stay at home, do the household and wait her husband coming home. In line with that, the society in that time shows that women must be stay at home and follow the husbands' words. They do not get their whole right. Here, Mrs. Mallard tries to break the patriarchy system that appears in the society.

... She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.

There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. ***There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature.*** A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination. (Chopin, 2007:1-2)

The quotation above shows that Mrs. Mallard shows what happens in the society. There are differences between men and women. The men can go outside, work, study and do everything that they want. In contrast, the women must stay at home, so they cannot study and they become uneducated. She wants to have privacy as the human being. As the result, she tries to break the condition in the society. She tries to get her right as human being such as working, going outside and seeing the world.

Mrs. Mallard dies while her husband turns out to be alive. Mrs. Mallard's death is delivered as 'a joy that kills', because she gets freedom after she dies. This is the solution of the external conflict. The quotation is seen as follows:

Someone was opening the front door with a latchkey. ***It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of the accident, and did not even know there had been one.*** He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at ***Richards' quick motion to screen him from the view of his wife.***

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease--of the joy that kills. (Chopin, 2007:2)

The quotation above concludes that there is an important message of how the society could wrongly interpret things; how the society wrongly perceives woman's position as an individual, a wife and a mother, and how the society has wrongly constructed the idea of a marriage for a woman. Mrs. Mallard death shows that she will get freedom forever. She will not have limitation such as right to move.

Liberal Feminism Value Reflected on Louise Mallard

Chopin presents a different image of a wife. She deconstructs Mrs. Mallard's traits from a perfect and loving wife into unlucky woman. It is seen when Mrs. Mallard is welcoming her husband's death with uncommon feeling of relief and ecstasy. She feels that she is unlucky woman during her marriage but she seems relieved after her husband died. It happened because she must follow Mr. Mallard's wants, she cannot deliver her opinion and she must stay at home. So, she feels like in the prison. She releases the power of her desire and welcomes it. This situation is Mrs. Mallard's awakening moment at the time when she regains her freedom as a woman.

There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination.

And yet she had loved him--sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter! What could love the unsolved mystery, count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

"Free! Body and soul free!" she kept whispering. (Chopin, 2007:2)

The quotation above concludes that Mrs. Mallard has an unusual idea of how a husband's death brings freedom to her life, and how she thinks the marriage as a prison for her. Her right to move and right to speak are limited during the marriage. She wants to get freedom and it shows her awakening moment.

As a devoted wife, a woman is expected to think only about her husband and her children and not to think about herself as an individual. Through Mrs.

Mallard's one-hour freedom, she becomes a different image of a wife. Therefore, in an hour Mrs. Mallard realizes her existence as an individual and forgets about her universality as a wife. After a long time, she can feel her spirit and freedom, and becomes alive. Her marriage has oppressed her, and the death of her husband is a sign to regain her freedom as an individual. This idea really deconstructs the patriarchal idea and stereotype of a wife. Mrs. Mallard shows and emphasizes that a wife is a free individual whose focus is not only on her family (her husband, children and her husband's household) but also on herself.

Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her. ***Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own.*** She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long.

She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister's waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom. (Chopin, 2007:2)

The statement above shows that Mrs. Mallard is not portrayed as a submissive wife who is not sad to her husband's death, but as a wife who sees the death as a great opportunity to have a better life. Her husband's death is not the end of the world for her and she is not losing herself. Regarding to it, she regains her whole self because now she was not only 'a part' of her husband.

The act of Mrs. Mallard as the main character shows liberal feminism since she wants to get the same right with her husband. The society in that time shows that men and women have different right. Here, Mrs. Mallard portrays as a woman who tries to get the same right such as right to move and right to speak after her husband died. It is proven from the quotation below:

There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination. (Chopin, 2007:2)

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of Kate Chopin's *Story of an Hour*, it can be concluded that the main character, Louise Mallard, belongs to dynamic character since she is changing her personality in the course of the story from the beginning until the end of the story. In the beginning, she is described as a young, perfect and loveable wife. She becomes a widow after knowing that her husband dies. Then, she realizes that she is a stressful woman and unlucky woman during her marriage. In the end, she died when she knows that Mr. Mallard still alive.

In the story, there are two conflicts experienced by Mrs. Mallard. The first conflict happens between Mrs. Mallard and herself. It appears when she feels afraid about her feeling. However, she tries to face her fear and she decides to get freedom. Then, she chooses to start a new life. The second conflict happens between Mrs. Mallard and the society. She tries to break the patriarchy system in the society.

The liberal feminism values is seen when Mrs. Mallard wants to get freedom because she is very oppressed by her marriage. When her husband died, it becomes her awakened moment. It happens because there will be no one limit her right. On the other hand, the society in that time shows that women must stay at home and follow the husbands' words. They do not get their whole right. This situation is Mrs. Mallard regains her freedom as a woman. Mrs. Mallard's one-hour freedom, she becomes a different image of a wife. Therefore, in an hour Mrs. Mallard realizes her existence as an individual and forgets about her universality as a wife. Mrs. Mallard dies while her husband turns out to be alive. Mrs. Mallard's death is delivered as 'a joy that kills', because she gets freedom after she dies.

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