



## WOMEN'S LIBERATION: THE EFFECTS OF PATRIARCHAL OPPRESSION ON WOMEN'S MIND

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### ABSTRACT

*The present paper analyzed the sufferings of female characters in *The Awakening* and *The Yellow Wall Paper*. It attempts to examine the effects of suppression on women mental health which drive them to commit suicide in order to liberate themselves from male dominance society and the role of suppression in madness which also a one way of liberation for women. Olaussen (1992) Three Types of Feminist Criticism and the French philosopher Foucault (1964) Madness and Civilization theory concepts nominated as a guideline for this study. A similar thread runs through *The Awakening* and *The Yellow Wallpaper*, 'women's mental illness. Both protagonists of the two texts struggle for their liberty and freedom. Edna is bolder and more expressive while the narrator of *The Yellow Wallpaper* is submissive. Ultimately both married women manage to secure a different ground for themselves.*

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**Keywords:** Sufferings, Oppressed, Identity, Patriarchy, Madness.

### Contribution/ Originality

This study contributes in the literature branch Women's writing. This study uses methodology of Qualitative comparative literature method with feminist approach. This study originates formula between women's madness and patriarchal oppression. This study investigates the patriarchal. The paper's primary finding is that there is link between madness and patriarchal oppression.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper attempted to study novel *The Awakening* by Chopin (1976) and one short story *The Yellow Wall Paper* by Gilman (1963). Both authors lived through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and became first-hand witnesses of the role of women. It attempts to examine the effects of suppression on women mental health which drive them to commit suicide in order to liberate themselves from male dominance society and the role of suppression in madness which also a one way of liberation for

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women. In this essay researcher focused on the themes of patriarchy and madness. In this paper researcher focused that the patriarchal husband deliberately drives both text wives “mad” by oppressing her with his patriarchal male superiority and dominance.

God has shaped human with many differences and distinguished human based on faith. But, people always see those differences as distinguish factor to humiliate others. It makes some different right and position for women; women always have lower position than men. The assumed norm in society is for women to be in charge of domestic labor and childrearing while men engage in public concerns. It attracts men as the owner of authority to oppress women. The oppression to women is a phenomenon in women’s life and in literature. Women are oppressed by men in many aspects of their life. It happens in their education, economy, family, etc. Such as how men determine women to be good wife and to be domestic labor. They get physical and verbal violence. In sexual, they are the object to satisfy men sexual satisfaction while their satisfaction is ignored. Then they still limited in education (Olaussen, 1992). Moreover, the most terrible thing is that they receive the oppression as women’s nature. They make struggles to resist oppression, such as get divorce and kill her husband. Since there are two women characters, they show different reactions toward their oppression, these female characters suffered the effects of isolation due to oppression and they turned in to insane and mad women and committed suicide in order to liberate themselves. Tyson (1999) explains that “patriarchy continually exerts forces that undermine women’s self-confidence and assertiveness, then points to the absence of these qualities as proof that women are naturally, and therefore correctly, self-effacing and submissive” (p. 85).

The history of oppression is going on from many ages and with diverse advancement oppression took new shape and become more powerful. The word ‘Oppression’ in Latin, means related with both physical and mental distress. Oppression is present in the form of armed struggle, economic disparity, slavery, caste, religious intolerance, racism, lynching and other societal reservations, including gender bias.

### 1.1. Past Study Related Women Oppression

Different writers in literature raised their voice against women oppression such as Wollstonecraft (1792) she defended the rights of women and encouraged women to free themselves from men and society oppression. As she said “*I do not wish them [women] to have power over men; but over themselves*”(p.68). She wrote about patriarchal education systems in her *Vindications of the Rights of Woman*, questioned why only men were geared up for professions and not women. She believed this was the reason for women’s need for marriage; they had to marry in order to be economically supported (Wollstonecraft, 1792). Wollstonecraft criticizes Rousseau for naturalizing the inequalities between men and women in the field of knowledge; in a patriarchy the man is the superior and educated being who tutors his ignorant wife and not the other way around. Friedan (1963) also penned down about women liberation from men and society oppression. Friedan (1963) explores the unhappiness of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century women. She describes women’s unhappiness as “*the problem that has no name.*” Women felt this sense of depression because they were forced to be subservient to men financially, mentally, physically, and intellectually. The feminine “mystique”

was the idealized image to which women tried to conform despite their lack of fulfillment (Ketty, 2010).

“Our variants of socio-biology, genetic makeup, evolutionary psychology, genes that determine our sexual behavior, oppression against women, seem to justify systems of exploitation, oppression, domination, class hatred and the like as something inescapable, unchangeable, and inevitable.” (Brewer, 1984).

### 1.2. Patriarchal System & Women Madness

Cooper (1978) writes that “one does not go mad but is driven mad by others” (p. 51). What does anyone think of madness? For each and every individual concept of madness is different. But madness is something related to depression. But who can distinguish between sanity and madness? Throughout history different scholars define madness in a different way. Medically we can limit the definition of madness but socially we cannot put madness definition in to one specific frame. Madness is often associated with those who refuse to follow the set societal norms. It is used as a weapon to control dissidents by discouraging nonconformity and by separating and thus neutralizing the nonconformists so that society as a whole is shielded from their bad influence. Thus, it is not a surprise that a society so absorbed with female submissiveness to the patriarchal system and with such a narrow view of proper female behavior should associate madness primarily with women. In fact, it can be argued that because women in this period were expected to function under such narrower behavioral constraints than men, they were more likely and had more opportunity to actually commit the offense of "madness" (Koscher, 2006).

## 2. CENTRAL THEORETICAL CONCEPTS: PATRIARCHY, OPPRESSION AND MADNESS

Olaussen (1992) explains in her work *Three Types of Feminist Criticism* how woman, through cultural constructions, has been considered as “the other” in relation to man. The focus on ideology as the main reason behind women’s oppression leads to a distinction between sex as a biological category and gender, which is a social construction. The word “patriarchy” comes from Greek; *patria* means father and *arché* means rule, and thus patriarchy means rule of the father. The anthropological definition of patriarchy is that men tend to dominate in society through their positions of power; the majority of higher economic, political, industrial, financial, religious and social positions are governed by men. Olaussen (1992) uses in her work the definition of patriarchy from the Webster Dictionary: “Patriarchy is a social organization marked by the supremacy of the father in class of family in both domestic and religious functions, the legal dependence of wife or wives and children and the reckoning of descent and inheritance in the male line” (P.102). Researcher discussed the theory from the French philosopher Foucault (1996) *Madness and Civilization*. Foucault is known for his critiques of various social institutions: psychiatry, medicine and the prison. The English edition of *Madness and Civilization* is an abridged version of *Folie et déraison*, which was originally published in 1961. Foucault (1964) demonstrates in his work that madness is a social phenomenon. Foucault discusses in *Madness and Civilization* how madness has been looked upon in different historical eras. He begins with the Middle Ages when lepers were

excluded from society. Foucault argues that leprosy was replaced by madness. He goes on to discuss “The ship of fools” in the fifteenth century when mad people were sent away in ships. He further discusses the Great Confinement of seventeenth century Europe, when “unreasonable” members of society were locked up and institutionalized. In the eighteenth century madness came to be seen as the opposite of reason and later with Freud as a mental illness. Foucault believes that madness is an invented disease; it is a disease of our civilization. Those who act outside the dominant norm of society are often thought of as “madmen” since they do not act and behave like the mainstream. “Foucault questions the normative frameworks of society and discusses how madness is considered to diverge from the norm. Foucault does not deal with gender issues. However, since women are considered to be a deviation from the patriarchal norm of society (where man is the norm), female “madness” is a double deviation from the norms. Women are not part of patriarchal power structures and are therefore more vulnerable than men” (Kella, 2005). Foucault draws attention to how the men of reason (the “sane”) experienced and treated the men of unreason (the “madmen”). Madness is a kind of reaction against set norms of society when any one crossed this boundary then civilized members of society who follow the norms of society considered this man or women mentally ill or mad, but from century to century mentally ill women are more in large number as compare to men.

In *The Awakening* and *Yellow Wall Paper* the both women mental illness can be interpreted as a social phenomenon. They both suffered from mental illness due to their patriarchal husband. The *Yellow Wall Paper* protagonist “madness” and *The Awakening* protagonist mental illness is a consequence of their husband oppression in a diseased patriarchal society, a society that allows and accepts cruelties towards women. It believes that madness is a made-up disease; it is a disease of our civilization.

Women also have passionate feelings, and desires which in most cases are suppressed. A woman who was doing each and every thing according to the determination of her husband and society then she was called “perfect women” on the other hand women seeking their own passionate pleasures, sexual freedom and their own identity she was not accepted by society. She was oppressed by society and husband in a different way. If a woman seeks her own freedom and independence then society would raise a lot of questions. It is almost like a dilemma from a woman's part when she cannot go beyond the conventional norms and regulations in a marriage, also cannot suppress her inner feelings. Ultimately, the women become insane or commit suicide. The both women in above mentioned work passed from the same inner conflict situation which derived them to madness and death.

### **3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The study is designed to ascertain the extent to which patriarchal oppression drive women towards madness and death.

### **4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To find out the relation between madness and oppression

2. To trace out the reasons and circumstances due to which women drive towards madness and death

## 5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Why a combined analysis of madness and oppression?

What were the reactions of women characters toward their oppression?

What were the circumstances in a woman's life that drive her out of her mind?

## 6. AIM OF THE STUDY

This study is aimed at to discover that how women are passing from mental oppression due to patriarchal oppression, and what are the effects of this oppression on their mental health.

## 7. DELIMITATION OF THE RESEARCH

The researcher selected and analyzed only two female writers 19<sup>th</sup> century works "The Awakening" by Kate Chopin & "The Yellow Wall Paper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

## 8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 8.1. Research Design

In this literary study researcher compared the above mentioned works. This research employed Qualitative comparative literature method with feminist approach. In doing the comparative study, this study elaborated four points of comparisons. The first point was to elaborate that how oppression affected women mental health and drive them towards madness, mental illness and death. The second point what was the reaction of women toward their oppression and how reaction considered as a mental illness? The third point what was the connection between madness and oppression? And the fourth point that how they liberate themselves from oppression in the shape of death and madness when there was no other way to get freedom from male supremacy oppression. .

## 9. DATA ANALYSES

### 9.1. Patriarchal Structures in "The Awakening"

Chopin (1976) deals centrally with the theme of mental illness which researcher discussed with the help of theory by French philosopher Foucault (1964) *Madness and Civilization*. Chopin (1976) wrote *The Awakening* in the 19th century, a transition period from the Victorian age to the era of Modernism. Chopin opens her novel with description of parrot in a cage that was repeating the same sentence or phrase again and again. The parrot looks pretty but when speaks it is very irritating. "Allez vous-en! Allez vous-en! Sapristi! That's all right!" (p.1).

The Awakening," the role of the parrot was symbolized with the role of oppressed women in early American Society by author. This is the way women were portrayed in the English society. Women were looked pretty but it was irritating for male dominance society when they speak, so women were considered to speak over and over the things which they were allowed by men to speak. In Patriarchy dominant society women were bound to the domestic sphere, while men were free to move between spaces: the domestic and the public spheres (Morgan, 2007). The domestic

sphere bound women to engage in household management and caring for the children. The main role of every nineteenth century woman was the role of a mother and a home-maker, in which those roles were believed to be congenital to them (Danielová and Moore, 2009).

Gilbert (1983) in *The Second Coming of Aphrodite: Kate Chopin's Fantasy of Desire*, considers Edna as a heroine who is "journeying not just toward rebirth but toward a regenerative and revisionary genre, a genre that intends to propose new realities for women by providing new mythic paradigms through which women's lives can be understood" (p.59). Edna is a woman in search of her female identity. She is uncomfortable in her role as the "patriarchal woman"

Eble (1956) states that there is "reason for her affair in the kind of romantic desire escape a middle class existence which binds her to husband and family" (p.148). Mari (1982), in an essay titled *Edna's Suicide in Kate Chopin's The Awakening* claims that Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* is a masterpiece of feminist philosophy. It tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a wife and mother who realizes that her society does not allow her the possibility to be an autonomous individual human being.

It seems that Edna is only a valuable possession for her husband collection and not an individual human being. "In short, Mrs Pontellier was beginning to realize her position in the universe as a human being, and to recognize her relations as an individual to the world within and about her (p.25)."

For this reason, she crossed over the boundaries of women gender roles. She refuses her husband's control and she no longer thinks that her husband's authority is a must for her to do.

"What are you doing out here, Edna? I thought I should find you in bed," said her husband, when he discovered her lying outside the house. He had walked up with Madame Lebrun and left her at the house. His wife did not reply.

*"Are you asleep?" he asked from her.*

*"No." she replied with cold manner.*

*"Do you know it is past one o'clock? Come on," and he mounted the steps and went into their room.*

*"Edna!" After a few moments had gone Mr. Pontellier called.*

*"Don't wait for me," she answered. (p.59)*

Mr. Pontellier, Edna's husband, repeatedly calls Edna to come to the house, yet Edna still rejects and prefers to stay outside.

*'Edna, dear, are you not coming in soon?' he asked again.*

*'No; I am going to stay out here.'*

*'This is more than folly,' he blurted out. I can't permit you to stay out there all night. You must come into the house instantly. (p.60)*

*'Leonce, to bed,' she said. 'I mean to stay out here. I don't wish to go in, and I don't intend to. Don't speak to me like this again; I shall not answer you.'*(p.60)

The above lines of text show how Edna did not like to be instructed, including by her husband. And it is a time when she wants an individual identity for herself, free from any kind of oppression.

Her husband provided her and her children each and every comfort of life but he is a man who did not console her soul and did not provide her any kind of emotional attachment. That's why she

used to share all her thought and feelings related to herself and her family with Robert who had a lot of plenty time for her.

She was always criticized by her husband that she did not possess good qualities of mother and also not fulfilling the duty of her as a wife. This thing emotionally hurt her but as it was the rule of that time male dominant society that women should not speak anything even a word in front of husband so Edna was also used to remain silent.

Such as in one occasion Mr. Pontellier informed her wife that Raoul had a high fever and needed looking after. Then he lit a cigar and went and sat near the open door to smoke it. "Mrs. Pontellier was quite sure Raoul had no fever. *He had gone to bed perfectly well, she said, and nothing had ailed him all day*" (p.10). With this imprisonment, Edna begins to experience that her becoming a woman and a wife is too binding. George Arms's claim that, "Mrs. Chopin regards freedom from children as a necessary basis for complete freedom" (Arms, 1981).

The other characters in the novel such as, Mrs Ratigolle always used to give instruction to Edna that she would sacrifice herself for her children and for her husband comfort. So not only Edna husband but Mrs Ratigolle as member of Patriarchal society was suppressing Edna both mentally and physically. In the society where Edna lived the women like Mrs Ratigolle were indoctrinated to the extent that they actively practice, maintain and perpetuate oppressive traditions. Such women see other women as born to serve men, without choices and destined to live their lives in exactly the way in which they have led their own under patriarchal oppression. Moreover, such women emphasize that traditional beliefs should be preserved and that a woman should know her place in this society, thus further perpetuating the oppression of women. But Edna refused to be merely only one of her husband expensive possession. She rejected the norms and roles of male dominant society and showed her reaction toward them. She was in search of her own female identity rather than a wife and mother. This change was the result of men oppression, as when she realized the values of her own identity she started neglecting her household works, used to quarrel with her husband, she talked about her own identity and women rights, and she refused to sleep with him. As Foucault (1964) has shown, the definition of madness can differ depending on different cultural norms of a society. Mr Pontellier considers Edna to be "mad" because she does not act like a Victorian woman. She acts outside the normative frameworks of a Victorian society; she rages at her husband when she is angry and ignore her household and children and these are signs of "madness", according to the Victorians, that is why Mr Pontellier attaches qualities of "madness" to his wife.

In male dominant society if any women showed this kind of symptoms it mean she was mentally ill that's why Mr Pontellier called for physician and doctor said that she has been associated with "pseudo intellectual" feminist. These dialogues of male physician revealed the mentality and thoughts towards women and showed that how much women were mentally suppressed. Due to that s Patriarchal society suppression she was mentally so much disturbed that even she did know that what she wanted from herself. Her relation with Robert and Arobin was a kind of reaction toward rules that was only made for women by society. Even she cut off herself from her children because she thought that may be her children again push her towards that same oppressed circle of society from which she was liberating herself.

She herself said “devilishly wicked specimen” a wicked example of femininity because she refused each and everything that society demanded from her. She was not a devoted wife, the sacrificed mother and the virtuous maiden. She sacrificed many years of her life in satisfying the responsibilities of a daughter, wife, sister, mother and socialite but now she desired to identify herself and wanted to free herself from all these relations and society oppressions. And her reaction toward that oppression was so much strong that even she refused to go to attend her sister marriage and she thought that marriage trapped women and due to which women spend her whole life as a slave without any kind of identity.

But when she revealed that women like her cannot exist in this society, she committed suicide in order to liberate herself because she did not want to enter in that patriarchal society again.

*“The foamy wavelets curled up to her white feet, and coiled like serpents about her ankles. She walked out. The water was chill, but she walked on. The water was deep, but she lifted her white body and reached out with a long, sweeping stroke. The touch of the sea is sensuous, enfolding the body in its soft, close embrace. She went on and on. She remembered the night she swam far out, and recalled the terror that seized her at the fear of being unable to regain the shore. She did not look back now, but when on and on, thinking of the bluegrass meadow that she had traversed when a little child, believing that it had no beginning and no end” (p. 220-221).*

*The Awakening* reveals a rebellious side of Edna Pontellier's character that was never seen in the roles of the society's good, dutiful wives and mothers. *The Awakening* poses a diverse role for a woman that is neither the responsibility of a mother nor wife. The ending of the text (Edna's suicide) raised a number of criticisms as it was uncertain concerning whether her rebellion was beaten or whether this was a celebration of her rebellious spirit freedom. According to MacDonald (2009) Edna achieves her independence from her husband, but cannot proceed because of her tangled emotions of affection for her children. She thought she would be able to choose one but she failed.

Edna's death was liberation – that she can eternally escape the binding life. Edna ends her life because she wanted to free herself from the oppression she suffered both from her family and society. Edna's action can be considered as symbolizing her awakening. The suicide in this case does not mean a defeat; it is Edna's final rebellion against the society instead because only in death she can achieve the peace and freedom that she desires (Blažková, 2009). She commits suicide because she did not want to look back and as she realizes there is no position in society for such women she decided to celebrate her autonomy and freedom by committing suicide. Although she dies, it is her victory that she did not feel the need to repent anything (Nazrul, 2009).

## 9.2. Women Oppression and Madness in “The Yellow Wallpaper”

*“Confinement was also a way of trying to organize madness” (Foucault, 1965).* The Yellow Wall Paper is an account of a repressed, suppressed self of a woman whose movements are limited, as she is confined by her husband's 'rescuer' notion of hysteria which ultimately drives her to madness. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's (1860-1935). Gilman (1892) can be interpreted in many different ways. It is the portrayal of a married woman's confinement in society but the vital theme from which we can deal is how male dominant society oppressed women and effects of oppression



on her mental condition. The wallpaper symbolically present woman trapped in her roles as mother and wife. She belonged to her husband wholly and her husband could do anything with her wife was a useful material to her husband until a significant number of children were born. Women's duty was merely to give birth to children and please their husbands. Women were expected to be submissive and docile (Nazrul, 2009).

At one point she felt there was a woman hiding at the back the frontier of the wallpaper, her slowly developed opinion construct her believe that there was not only one woman hidden behind, there was actually a collectivity of women who were craving for freedom and want to come out of the cage. The strong powerful imposition of her husband's will on her. Her relations with John, the narrator expresses only obedience and fear. For example, in one instance the narrator attempts to voice her concern over her welfare, the woman fails to react when John instructs her to *"never for one instant let that idea enter [mind]"* (Gilman, 1892). Instead of retaliating against the caging of her personality and creativity, the narrator simply accounts in her journal that she *"is getting a little afraid of John"* (Gilman, 1892). She saw that her own life was trapped as she has an artistic mind and loves to write but her husband mentally oppressed her and did not allow her to write anything, this act of her husband mentally oppressed her.

The narrator wanted to bring together her loss and achievement through her writing. Her artistic creativity is hampered by her husband. He did not allow her to write which is a great barrier in terms of her emotional recovery. She thought that she can avert her mind from her nervous breakdown through writing but her husband and sister in law's constant surveillance prevents her from doing so. Yet at the end he tears up the wallpaper and allows the metaphorical woman to come out from confinement. She was happy because the freed woman resembles herself as well. The narrator also wishes the same freedom for all women who are trapped by social, emotional and physical barriers (ibid, 2009). She herself admits that there are certain things in her life that have always made her nervous and hysteria is a functional disturbance of the nervous system. She could tell what would help her in recovery but she gives up all hope as her husband remains unchanged. According to Greg Johnson it is "an expression of long suppressed Rage" (p.2). He further elaborates his point saying that her madness is temporary and in her temporary madness her suppressed rage becomes apparent. Foucault (1964) discussions of hysteria can be applied to Gilman (1892) husband's ideas of her wife as a "mad" person. Hysteria was thought of as a female disease, often related to passionate excitement, where women invent, exaggerate and repeat all the absurdities a disordered imagination is capable of (131-132). The narrator "hysteria" is more accurately described as the passion she expresses for being mistreated by her husband although the mistreated behavior of husband is not that much visible in text like the behavior of The Awakening Mr Pontellier but still through hidden text readers know about the behavior of husband.

The narrator of Gilman (1892) goes into temporary madness which can be seen as an escape from the strict norms and values imposed upon her by society. The development of the human mind is essential to all, and certain limitations and obstacles can result in great disorder. From a newborn child to an old person, everybody seeks liberty, both physical and mental. Freud (1922) essay 'Beyond the Pleasure Principle, deals entirely with the development of the human mind. The theory is discussed through a couple of examples where it is shown that human desire for freedom

starts from the very early days of one's life. So both women of mentioned work seek liberty both physically and mentally but certain limitation and obstacles especially oppressed behavior of patriarchal society drive them in great mental disorder.

### 9.3. Comparison between Kate Chopin's *the Awakening* and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *the Yellow Wallpaper*

Both writer works stand as a “political cry” against injustice. The injustice which was doing with women they both were confined only to their household work and deprived from each and every kind of mental and physical freedom.

A similar thread runs through *The Awakening* and *The Yellow Wallpaper*, 'women's mental illness.' Mr. Pontellier suspects his wife is having some kind of mental breakdown when she starts behaving differently. It is actually the 'new woman'; the 'awakened self of Edna which makes him think this and consulting with a doctor he says 'she has got some sort of Cristina Giorcelli, Edna's wisdom meaning women ought to behave in certain ways otherwise they are suspected of being mad. Both protagonists of the two texts struggle for their liberty and freedom. Edna is bolder and more expressive while the narrator of *The Yellow Wallpaper* is submissive. Ultimately both married women manage to secure a different ground for themselves (Nazrul, 2009). Since

Both women lived in an unhealthy society with patriarchal norms and values, they had been brought up to depend upon men and live according to their patriarchal rules. They must obey her husband since they lived in a society where men and women did not have the same opportunities (Klára, 2009).

Both women in the text were craving for their freedom and suffering from mental illness due to patriarchy oppression. Both of them get freedom in the end but in the shape of death.

## 10. CONCLUSION

In this essay researcher has examined how both protagonists are deliberately driven “mad” by her patriarchal husband oppression. The both women feel that they do not belong from anywhere and this makes them more vulnerable; it becomes easier for patriarchal husband to drive them “mad” or make them mentally ill. The patriarchal society where they lived prohibits them from leading an independent life. Researcher has used the social definition of “madness” in order to give details how the protagonist of Yellow Wall Paper derived “mad”, since researcher did not regard her “madness” to be anarchy of her brain. Comparatively, both Charlotte Perkins Gilman's and Kate Chopin had debated similar issue of women dissatisfaction against marriage and society. Both characters were married to well-to-do men but were not satisfied with their lives upon marriage Both of them end their lives, yet the way the author depicts the last moment of the character is different in The Yellow Wall Paper protagonist as an agony and Edna as an awakening. As from both text study and from both women suffering it has been cleared hat patriarchy oppression leads these two women toward mental illness. So, here is great connection between madness and oppression and the result also support Foucault (1964) theory of *Madness and Civilization*. Foucault (1964) discussions about madness as a disease of our civilization apply well to how researcher interpreted Edna mental illness. It was effect of her husband's oppression in the

unhealthy patriarchal society they lived in, a society that accepted Mr Pontellier cruel behavior towards his wife. His major concern was to maintain his patriarchal position to control and exercise power over Edna (Klára, 2009). From the above discussion and text analysis researcher gave the complete description of above questions that women are oppressed from last many centuries. And when she showed reaction towards that oppression she was considered mentally ill. So there is great link between patriarchy, madness and oppression, all these three terms effects have linked with each other.

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