

Breaking Free with Language Unleashed: Analyzing the Stylistic and Linguistic Devices in Kate Chopin's 'The Awakening'

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this paper is to explore the significance of language in discourse analysis by closely examining Kate Chopin's novel "The Awakening". By focusing on the lexical and grammatical elements of the text, this study aims to demonstrate how literary devices impact the coherence of the story from a linguistic standpoint. Using "The Awakening" as the primary source of research data, this paper also delves into how language effectively conveys symbols and signs to articulate Chopin's message. Ultimately, this analysis offers valuable insights into the interpretation of the novel and its underlying themes.

Keywords

Chopin, The Awakening, Discourse analysis, Literary devices, and Language.

The grammatical features of a text are important aspects of linguistics and are shaped by sociocultural contexts. Linguistic analysis, as described by Halliday, focuses on the descriptions and interpretations of lexico-grammatical choices and their relation to the social and cultural context and the word structure. Goodenough defines culture as the know-how a person must possess to navigate daily life, which is socially acquired through learned behavior and not from the genetic endowment. The author's language, culture, and society play a significant role in their writing, as seen in the works of Kate Chopin.

Kate Chopin was an American author, short story writer, and novelist. She lived and was influenced by the tradition of Louisiana and the Creole community, as evident in her writing which reflects the Louisiana Creole culture. Chopin is also well known for her feminist views, as represented in her writing through the portrayal of women's suffering under patriarchy. She is best known for

her novel "The Awakening," which was published in 1899.

"The Awakening" takes place in New Orleans and Louisiana at the end of the 19th century and explores themes related to women, such as femininity, motherhood, freedom, and patriarchy through its protagonist, Edna Pontellier. The novel also discusses the Creole community, including its language and attitudes, and behaviors of its members.

Louisiana Creole Culture and Its Language

The term Creole originated as a designation for the indigenous people of Africa and the Western Indies; but was later expanded to include settlers from Europe who settled in the United States, especially in Louisiana and New Orleans. The

French Creoles of New Orleans were considered an elite community, loyal to their French traditions. They were known for their sophistication, including their imported wine, alcohol, books, and clothes from France, as well as their emphasis on social gatherings and the importance of the family unit, where they only married within the community.

French Creoles were very different and unique in their lifestyle especially the French Creole of the 19th. They were sophisticated only because they were known for importing wine, alcohol, books, and clothes from France, and because they cared about the social gathering. Also, the family unit was important and followed a specific ideal. They were only allowed to marry from the same community.

Kate Chopin was partially Creole, with her Creole identity coming from her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who raised her after her father's passing. Her husband, on the other hand, was fully Creole. In "The Awakening," Chopin represents Edna as a figure who is not fully Creole, much like herself. Edna marries and lives in a Creole lifestyle, and some psychologists claim that she is the alter ego of Kate Chopin, used by Chopin to escape her own suffering in the Creole patriarchy.

The Creole language is a type of language that has developed from a mixture of different languages, including European languages such as French, Spanish, and Portuguese, as well as African and Indigenous American languages. It is often used by communities that are descended from enslaved people, who have had to develop a common language for communication in the absence of a shared mother tongue. Creole language often has its own unique grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, and can be seen as a distinct and separate language from the languages that have contributed to its formation.

The Creole language spoken in Louisiana is French Creole, which is distinct from other Creole languages and has its own unique features and characteristics. This language played an important role in the development of Louisiana Creole culture and was used in various aspects of daily life, including family, social gatherings, and commerce.

The Creole language and culture were central to Chopin's representation of Louisiana and the Creole community in "The Awakening." Through her use of the Creole dialect, Chopin was able to convey the rich cultural heritage of Louisiana and the Creole people, while also highlighting the challenges and complexities faced by Creole women in a patriarchal society. The use of Creole language in the novel represents the cultural diversity and complexity of Louisiana society and serves as a testament to the important role that language can play in shaping social and cultural identity.

In sociolinguistics, the Creole language is often

associated with lower-class or marginalized communities and is considered a non-standard form of language. However, in Louisiana, Creole was used by the upper-class French Creoles as well, who was considered a sophisticated and elite community. This goes against the sociolinguistic concept of Creole language as being limited to lower-class communities and shows that Creole was a versatile language used by different socio-economic groups. Chopin challenges the traditional sociolinguistic assumptions about the status and prestige of Creole. The use of Creole by the upper class in Louisiana highlights the important role that language can play in shaping social and cultural identity.

Background

The background of this paper is focused on exploring the relationship between language, culture, and society in the works of Kate Chopin, particularly in her novel "The Awakening," which is set in Louisiana and explores themes related to women's roles in society, femininity, motherhood, and patriarchy. The paper specifically looks at how the use of Creole language and the representation of Creole culture in Chopin's work reflects the sociocultural context in which it was written.

The paper begins by introducing the importance of grammatical features in linguistics, particularly in relation to the social and cultural context in which language is used. The paper then introduces the concept of culture as a socially acquired know-how that is essential for navigating daily life, and how an author's language, culture, and society play a significant role in shaping their writing.

The paper then introduces Kate Chopin as an American author who was influenced by the tradition of Louisiana and the Creole community, and is known for her feminist views, particularly as represented in her writing. The paper specifically mentions "The Awakening" as Chopin's most famous novel, which explores themes related to women and the Creole community.

The paper then provides background information on the Louisiana Creole culture, particularly its language and attitudes, and behaviors of its members. The paper highlights the unique features of the French Creoles of New Orleans, including their sophisticated lifestyle, emphasis on social gatherings, and the importance of the family unit, where they only married within the community.

The paper then connects Chopin's personal background to the representation of Creole culture in "The Awakening," highlighting that Chopin was partially Creole and that her Creole identity came from her mother, grandmother, and great-

grandmother. The paper also suggests that Edna, the protagonist of "The Awakening," is an alter ego of Chopin used to escape her own suffering in the Creole patriarchy.

The paper then explores the Creole language and its role in Louisiana Creole culture, particularly French Creole, which is unique and has its own distinct features and characteristics. The paper highlights how Chopin used the Creole dialect in "The Awakening" to convey the rich cultural heritage of Louisiana and the Creole people, while also highlighting the challenges and complexities faced by Creole women in a patriarchal society.

Finally, the paper challenges traditional sociolinguistic assumptions about the status and prestige of Creole, highlighting how it was used by the upper-class French Creoles as well as lower-class or marginalized communities. The paper suggests that the use of Creole by the upper class in Louisiana highlights the important role that language can play in shaping social and cultural identity.

Objective & Research Problem

The objective of this paper is to explore the role of language and culture in shaping the representation of Louisiana and the Creole community in Kate Chopin's novel "The Awakening." Specifically, the paper aims to investigate how the use of the Creole language in the novel reflects the cultural diversity and complexity of Louisiana society, and how it highlights the challenges and complexities faced by Creole women in a patriarchal society.

In addition, the paper aims to challenge traditional sociolinguistic assumptions about the status and prestige of Creole as a language. By examining the use of Creole by the upper-class French Creoles in Louisiana, the paper seeks to demonstrate that Creole was a versatile language used by different socio-economic groups and played an important role in shaping social and cultural identity.

Overall, the objective of this paper is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the language and cultural features of "The Awakening" and to demonstrate the ways in which they contribute to the novel's representation of Louisiana and the Creole community.

The research problem for this paper is to examine how Chopin's use of Creole language and representation of Creole culture in "The Awakening" contribute to the exploration of themes related to women, including femininity, motherhood, freedom, and patriarchy. The paper seeks to address the following questions:

1. How does Chopin's use of Creole language and representation of Creole culture reflect the sociocultural context of Louisiana in the late 19th century?
2. What are the implications of Chopin's use of Creole language for the portrayal of women in the novel?
3. How does Chopin challenge traditional sociolinguistic assumptions about the status and prestige of the Creole language and its speakers?
4. What is the significance of language and culture in shaping social and cultural identity in "The Awakening"?
5. What is the significance of literary devices in analyzing the Creole language?

By answering these questions, this paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of language and culture in shaping literature and the representation of social and cultural issues.

This study can potentially help others in a number of ways.

1. Increase knowledge and understanding: It can contribute to the overall body of knowledge on a particular topic, and help others gain a deeper understanding of that subject.
2. Inspire further research: It can inspire other researchers to build upon your findings and explore the topic in greater depth.
3. Provide solutions: If this study addresses a particular problem or challenge, it can provide potential solutions or recommendations that can be implemented to improve the situation.
4. Inform decision-making: If it is relevant to a particular industry or organization, it can inform decision-making processes and help guide policies and practices.
5. Promote discussion and debate: It can spark discussion and debate around a particular topic, leading to new insights and perspectives.

Overall, this study can have a positive impact by contributing to the larger body of knowledge, inspiring further research, providing solutions, informing decision-making, and promoting discussion and debate

Literature Review

The relationship between language and culture has been a topic of interest in linguistics for many years. Halliday's systemic functional linguistics approach emphasizes the importance of analyzing language in context and how it relates to social and cultural factors (Halliday, 1978). This approach has been applied to the study of literary texts to better understand the cultural and social contexts in which they were produced (Eggin & Martin, 1997).

Culture, as defined by Goodenough, refers to the

knowledge and skills that people must possess to navigate daily life, which is acquired through social learning rather than genetic inheritance (Goodenough, 1957). Kate Chopin, the author of "The Awakening," was heavily influenced by her Creole heritage and upbringing in Louisiana, which is reflected in her writing. Her depiction of the Creole community in Louisiana highlights the importance of culture and language in shaping identity and society.

The Creole language, as spoken in Louisiana, is a unique language that has evolved from a mixture of European, African, and Indigenous American languages. The use of Creole in literature has been studied by researchers to better understand its role in shaping social and cultural identity (Fournet, 2007). The French Creoles of Louisiana were a distinct and elite community who used the Creole language in various aspects of daily life, including social gatherings and commerce (Ancelet, 1989).

In "The Awakening," Chopin uses the Creole dialect to represent the cultural diversity and complexity of Louisiana society. This representation challenges traditional sociolinguistic assumptions about the status and prestige of Creole language, as it was used by the upper-class French Creoles in Louisiana. Chopin's use of Creole highlights the important role that language can play in shaping social and cultural identity.

Furthermore, Chopin's feminist views are reflected in her writing, particularly in her portrayal of the struggles of women in a patriarchal society. Her representation of women in "The Awakening" has been studied by feminist literary scholars to better understand the societal and cultural factors that contribute to the oppression of women (Gilbert & Gubar, 1979).

Overall, the literature suggests that language and culture are closely intertwined, and that they play a significant role in shaping social and cultural identity. Kate Chopin's use of the Creole language in "The Awakening" highlights the complexity of Louisiana society and challenges traditional sociolinguistic assumptions about the status of Creole language. Furthermore, her feminist views are reflected in her writing, providing insight into the struggles of women in a patriarchal society.

The themes of feminism and patriarchy in Kate Chopin's "The Awakening" have been widely explored in literary criticism. Many scholars have analyzed the novel's portrayal of women's experiences in a patriarchal society and its commentary on the limitations placed on women's agency and autonomy.

One prominent scholar, Sandra Gilbert, argues that the novel is a critique of the patriarchal system that restricts women's potential and creativity. She sees Edna's struggle for independence as a

representation of the larger feminist movement at the turn of the century, as women were increasingly challenging traditional gender roles and seeking more rights and opportunities. Gilbert notes that Chopin's portrayal of Edna's sexuality and desire for personal fulfillment was controversial at the time of the novel's publication, but is now recognized as an important early feminist text.

Other scholars have explored the ways in which Chopin's own experiences as a woman in a patriarchal society informed her writing. Susan Rosowski argues that Chopin's own life as a wife and mother in Louisiana Creole society contributed to her critique of the limitations placed on women's agency and autonomy. Similarly, Emily Toth suggests that Chopin used her writing as a means of exploring her own sense of identity and liberation from the constraints of traditional gender roles.

Overall, the critical literature on "The Awakening" and its portrayal of feminism and patriarchy highlights the ways in which literature can serve as a means of critiquing and challenging societal norms and power structures. Through Chopin's representation of Edna's struggle for independence and autonomy, the novel raises important questions about the limitations placed on women's agency in a patriarchal society, and offers a critique of the societal norms that restrict women's potential and creativity.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Material & Methodology

This study examines the relationship between literature, language, culture, and society in the works of Kate Chopin, particularly her novel "The Awakening." The authors use a variety of sources, including primary texts and secondary scholarship, to explore Chopin's use of the Creole language and how it reflects the culture and society of Louisiana during the late 19th century. It is a qualitative research approach to analyze the linguistic and cultural features of Chopin's work. This would involve close reading and interpretation of the novel to identify and analyze the use of language and cultural elements.

The material used in this study includes primary texts of Kate Chopin's works, particularly her novel "The Awakening," as well as a secondary scholarship from linguists and sociolinguists, such as Halliday and Goodenough, to develop a theoretical framework. The study primarily focuses on analyzing the linguistic and cultural features of

Chopin's work and exploring the relationship between language, culture, and society. This suggests that the authors used a theoretical approach to guide their analysis and interpretation of the primary texts.

Overall, while the text does not provide a detailed description of the methodology used in this study, it appears to be a literature review that uses both primary and secondary sources to explore the relationship between language, culture, and society in the works of Kate Chopin. The authors used a qualitative research approach to analyze the linguistic and cultural features of Chopin's work and drew on theoretical frameworks developed by linguists and sociolinguists to guide their analysis and interpretation.

Results & Findings

Symbols

Language is a complex symbolic system that uses sounds and arbitrary symbols to convey meaning and enable communication among members of a speech community. Symbols, in particular, play a crucial role in language and communication. They are used to represent abstract ideas, concepts, and emotions that cannot be directly expressed through words. In literature, symbols are often used to enrich the meaning of a text, add depth to the characters, and evoke emotions in readers.

Chopin, in her novel, "The Awakening," skillfully employs symbolism to enhance the meaning of her work. For example, the sea is a recurring symbol throughout the novel, representing both freedom and escape, as well as danger and confinement. The caged birds in the novel symbolize the trapped and restricted lives of women in the society of the time. The color green, which is associated with nature and growth, symbolizes Edna's awakening and her desire for a more fulfilling life.

Symbolism in literature allows authors to convey complex ideas and emotions in a more subtle and nuanced way. By using symbols, authors can explore themes and ideas that might be difficult to express directly in words. Symbols can also help readers connect with characters on a deeper level and understand their motivations and emotions.

Language and symbols are inseparable, and they work together to create meaning and enable communication. Symbolism in literature is a powerful tool that can enrich the reading experience, deepen the meaning of a text, and allow authors to explore complex ideas and emotions in a more subtle and nuanced way.

Bird

In her novel, Chopin employs the use of symbolism to enhance the meaning and beauty of her work. One symbol that is prominently featured in the novel is the bird, which is used to convey a specific message. At the beginning of the novel, a caged bird is introduced, and at the end of the story, a bird with a broken wing is seen flying over the ocean before ultimately falling into it.

The bird in the novel represents the women in Creole society who are subjected to patriarchal oppression. In particular, it symbolizes the protagonist, Edna, who has been caged and marginalized throughout her life. The bird's broken wing represents Edna's inability to fly freely due to the restrictions placed on her by society.

Despite this limitation, Edna uses her imagination to break free and unleash her individuality. However, this act is viewed as threatening by the patriarchal society, which sees her as an ill and broken creature that needs to be eliminated. In the end, Edna plunges into the ocean, much like the bird with the broken wing, as it is the only place where she can fully embrace her new identity and reality.

The use of this symbol helps to unify the meaning that Chopin is trying to convey with the structure of the text. Moreover, the act of flying that is associated with the bird in the novel is not meant to be taken literally, but rather as a metaphor for the ways in which women can use their imagination to break free from the limitations placed on them by society.

In her article, "The Laugh of the Medusa," Cixous comments on the bird and the act of flying in Chopin's novel. She notes that flying is a gesture associated with women, as it represents their ability to soar through language and make it fly. According to Cixous, women have always had to rely on a flight to possess anything, as they have been forced to live in flight, stealing away and finding hidden crossovers when necessary.

In conclusion, Chopin's use of the bird as a symbol in her novel highlights the struggles that women face under patriarchal oppression. The bird's broken wing represents the limitations placed on women by society, while its ultimate plunge into the ocean symbolizes the liberation that can be achieved through the use of imagination and the breaking free of societal restrictions.

Cixous's perspective adds flavor to the discussion of Chopin's use of the bird symbol because it highlights the larger theme of women's empowerment and the use of language as a tool for that empowerment. Cixous argues that women have historically been limited in their expression and relegated to a passive role in language, but she

encourages women to use language to assert themselves and their creativity. In this context, the bird symbolizes not only Edna's individual journey but also the larger struggle of women to break free from patriarchal constraints and achieve self-expression. By invoking Cixous's ideas, the analysis of the bird symbol in Chopin's novel becomes a commentary on broader social and cultural issues.

Ocean

Throughout Kate Chopin's novel, "The Awakening," the protagonist Edna is intimately connected to water. The ocean and the shore are places where Edna feels embraced and loved for who she is, with all of her thoughts, sadness, and rejected individuality. Water, for Edna, represents safety and freedom from the constraints of a patriarchal society.

In the final scene of the novel, Edna strips naked and walks into the ocean, symbolizing her rebirth. This act represents her desire to shed her old identity and embrace a new sense of individuality, free from the influence of patriarchal society. By removing her clothes, Edna also metaphorically removes the trappings of civilization and its expectations.

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As she stands alone by the sea, naked and vulnerable, Edna feels like a newborn creature opening its eyes to a familiar world that it has never known. This scene represents a powerful and transformative moment for Edna as she embraces her true self and begins a new life.

The use of symbolism, such as the connection between Edna and water, and the symbolism of the ocean as a mother's womb, helps to unify both the structure and meaning of the novel. It serves to reinforce the central theme of the novel, which is the struggle of an individual to break free from societal constraints and embrace their true self.

"But when she was there beside the sea, absolutely alone, she cast the unpleasant, pricking garments from her, and for the first time in her life she stood naked in the open air, at the mercy of the sun, the breeze that beat upon her, and the waves that invited her."

She completes, "How strange and awful it seemed to stand naked under the sky! How delicious! She felt like some new-born creature, opening its eyes in a familiar world that it had never known." (301)

2. Cohesion

Paltridge (2012) highlights the concept of cohesion as a means of achieving a unified and cohesive texture in a text. According to Hassan's discourse analysis, there are two crucial elements to consider when analyzing discourse. The first is the unity of structure, which involves patterns that combine to create an information structure. The second is the unity of the text, which involves the use of resources such as cohesion patterns to create a coherent and cohesive text. By using cohesive patterns, such as repetition, reference, and conjunctions, authors can create a text that flows logically and is easily comprehensible to readers. The novel under discussion exemplifies these two unities, as it employs a range of cohesive devices to create a coherent and cohesive narrative. The novel under discussion illustrates these two unities quite clearly.

Repetition

Repetition is a powerful linguistic device that finds extensive use in linguistics and literature as well. It can manifest in the repetition of specific words or in the repetition of sentence or phrase structures. Authors use repetition with purposeful intent, and in her novel, Kate Chopin uses repetition to underscore important points while reinforcing her themes of self-awareness and awakening, particularly through the dialogues of her protagonist, Edna. According to Rusciaon (2021), Chopin's choice of words and sentence structures directly reflects Edna's character development.

In addition to the repetition of words, Chopin also employs repetition in sentences, phrases, and scenes. For instance, in Chapter Six, Chopin writes, "The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, and inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation" (p. 34). This repetition of sounds and imagery creates a rhythmic and seductive effect that mirrors Edna's internal struggles and a growing sense of self-awareness. By utilizing repetition, Chopin is able to reinforce her novel's central themes, while creating a sense of unity and coherence in the text.

Kate Chopin's use of repetition is particularly evident in the final chapter of her novel, where she repeats a scene with minor variations in wording. This repetition of imagery highlights the symbolic moment of Edna's awakening, specifically through the crashing waves. According to Rusciaon (2021), the repetition of these passages cannot be ignored, as they serve as powerful symbols of Edna's personal transformation.

Moreover, Rusciaon also notes that the paragraph structures of these passages are different from each other. The first passage is a single, stand-alone paragraph, while the repetition in the second passage appears in the middle of a four-sentence paragraph. The use of short paragraphs draws attention to these passages and emphasizes their significance within the novel.

In the final chapter, Chopin writes, "The water of the Gulf stretched out before her, gleaming with the million lights of the sun. The voice of the sea is seductive, never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander in abysses of solitude. All along the white beach, up and down, there was no living thing in sight. A bird with a broken wing was beating the air above, reeling, fluttering, circling disabled down, down to the water" (p. 300). This repetition of imagery creates a sense of circularity and closure in the novel while emphasizing Edna's ultimate fate and her journey toward self-awareness.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are an important type of cohesive device that helps to express the logical and semantic relationships between sentences. According to Paltridge (2012, p.139), conjunctions like "and", "however", and "finally" can contribute to the unity of a text. It is essential to use conjunctions correctly to ensure that the meaning is conveyed accurately. In her novel, Chopin utilizes different conjunctions to connect similar ideas or to contradict different opinions, thoughts, or views.

For instance, in the following quotation, Chopin uses the conjunction "but" to contradict and contrast the preceding clause, which conveys the idea of Edna looking back. The use of "but" emphasizes that Edna keeps moving forward toward the ocean, which is her moment of awakening. "She did not look back now, but went on and on, thinking of the blue-grass meadow that she had traversed when a little child, believing that it had no beginning and no end." (p. 302)

Chopin also uses the conjunction "and" to connect similar ideas and views together. The use of "and" helps the reader to understand her message more easily. In the following quotation, Chopin uses "and" to give a full description of Edna's exhaustion. Edna has crossed a long distance to reach the ocean, and the shore is far behind her. "The shore was far behind her, and her strength was gone." (p. 302)

Moreover, in the following quotation, Chopin uses the conjunction "when" to describe two different actions that Edna did simultaneously. The use of "when" contributes to the unity of the text and serves the meaning. "She was not thinking of

these things when she walked down to the beach." (p. 300)

Therefore, the proper use of conjunctions can contribute to the cohesiveness and unity of a text. Chopin's skillful use of conjunctions in her novel plays a significant role in conveying her message effectively to the reader.

Punctuations

Punctuation marks are crucial in writing, as they serve to separate sentences or clauses and convey the full meaning of the text. The proper use of punctuation marks is essential to ensure the unity of the text, while the misuse of them can weaken the text's coherence and lead to misunderstandings.

Various punctuation marks, such as semicolons, commas, and periods, are used in different situations to convey a clear message and strengthen the discussion, ultimately achieving the unity of the text. Therefore, the incorrect use of punctuation marks in writing can lead to confusion and misinterpretation of the message.

In her novel, *The Awakening*, Chopin uses punctuation marks correctly, resulting in a positive impact on the unity of the novel. She uses different punctuation marks to convey her message and the purpose of writing the manuscript, including semicolons, commas, and periods.

Chopin's use of punctuation marks is particularly evident in chapter six and the last chapter, where she uses the same sentences and clauses but with different punctuations in each. This technique allows her to express different messages and ideas in each chapter effectively.

For example, in chapter six, Chopin writes, "The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, and inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation" (p. 34). In contrast, in the last chapter, she writes, "The water of the Gulf stretched out before her, gleaming with the million lights of the sun. The voice of the sea is seductive, never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander in abysses of solitude. All along the white beach, up and down, there was no living thing in sight. A bird with a broken wing was beating the air above, reeling, fluttering, circling disabled down, down to the water" (p. 300).

Chopin separates the clauses with semicolons in the first quotation, while in the second quotation, she uses commas instead of semicolons in the repeated sentence. Semicolons represent the end of an idea or thought but indicate the continuation of related others. In contrast, commas represent a separation in clauses with a short pause rather than a complete stop.

The repeated sentence consists of three clauses: "The voice of the sea is seductive," "never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude," and "to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation." In the first quotation, the three clauses are connected with semicolons, while the second quotation connects the first two clauses with commas. Chopin links the three clauses to control the narrative's flow, akin to the movements of the waves.

Chopin uses semicolons for a specific purpose in the first quotation, intending to show that all the sentence's clauses are linked. While the second clause can stand alone and be a full sentence, the question of what or who is "never-ceasing" arises. This question is answered in the second quotation when Chopin links the clauses with a comma, indicating that the voice of the sea is what "never ceases." In the second quotation, Chopin also uses a comma to separate the first and second clauses instead of a semicolon. This change in punctuation alters the sentence's flow and shifts its meaning.

As Rusciano notes, "Chopin's choice of punctuation directs the flow of the sentence. Rather than briefly stopping between clauses, readers pause for only a moment. But by changing the flow, the meaning of the sentence shifts" (Rusciano, 2021). Chopin's deliberate use of punctuation not only affects the flow of the sentence but also has a significant impact on the meaning conveyed. By using semicolons, Chopin links related ideas or thoughts and creates a sense of continuity. In contrast, periods signify a clear break between two separate ideas or complete thoughts. In "The Awakening," the protagonist Edna's journey of self-discovery is reflected through Chopin's use of punctuation. Edna's awakening is gradual and incomplete, and Chopin's use of semicolons conveys this sense of uncertainty and fluidity in Edna's journey. Overall, the correct use of punctuation is crucial in conveying the intended message and tone of the text. It is a testament to Chopin's mastery of language and storytelling that the careful placement of punctuation can have such a significant impact on the reader's interpretation of the text.

Pronouns

Pronouns are an essential tool in the literary world. Writers utilize them to maintain cohesion in their text and avoid repetitive use of nouns such as names of characters, places, and objects. Moreover, pronouns can help authors convey their hidden messages and deeper meanings through their writing. In feminist literature, for instance, Third-Person Pronouns such as she, he, and they can aid

in demonstrating the hierarchy of patriarchy, women's efforts to break free from societal norms, or different interpretations altogether.

Kate Chopin, a feminist writer, strategically employs various Third-Person Pronouns throughout her work. For instance, the pronoun she is frequently used to refer to Mrs. Pontellier, the main character in her novel. By utilizing this pronoun, Chopin avoids the repetitive use of the character's name and maintains the reader's interest in the story. In chapter three, Chopin writes, "Mrs. Pontellier was by the time thoroughly awake. She began to cry a little, and wiped her eyes on the sleeve of her peignoir" (p. 13).

Similarly, Chopin uses the pronoun he instead of repeating Mr. Pontellier's name. This use of pronouns helps to keep the text flowing smoothly and avoids the tediousness of repetitive use of names.

Furthermore, Chopin employs the pronoun they to unify her text and provide a sense of cohesion. In chapter four, she writes, "There were only Creoles that summer at Lebrun's. They all knew each other, and felt like one large family..." The pronoun they refers to the noun "Creoles" and enhances the text's fluidity.

In summary, pronouns are a critical component of any literary text. They can help maintain unity and avoid repetitiveness in the writing while also conveying deeper meanings to the reader. Chopin's strategic use of pronouns, such as she, he, and they, adds to the overall impact and success of her feminist work.

Conclusions, Limitations & Recommendations

The paper presents a thorough analysis of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, focusing on its stylistic and discourse elements. By examining the language used in the novel, the paper illustrates how it serves as a valuable tool for discourse analysis and contributes to the conveyance of literary concepts. It explores the impact of various linguistic features, such as repetition, conjunctions, punctuations, pronouns, and literary symbols, on the coherence and unity of the text. It highlights how the use of these features can enhance the reader's understanding of the story and reinforce the author's message.

Furthermore, the paper delves into the Louisiana Creole culture depicted in the novel and its effect on the characters. It discusses how cultural attitudes and beliefs shape the characters' behavior, relationships, and interactions with others. The paper also examines the influence of the Creole

language on the characters' speech and communication, demonstrating how it adds a layer of complexity and authenticity to the text.

In addition to its linguistic and cultural analysis, the paper presents a feminist reading of the novel, highlighting the author's critique of the patriarchal society and its constraints on women. The paper explores the themes of identity, self-discovery, and independence, which are central to the protagonist's journey and reflect Chopin's feminist perspective.

Overall, the paper offers a rich and insightful analysis of *The Awakening*, highlighting the novel's linguistic, cultural, and feminist elements. It demonstrates how these components come together to create a powerful and thought-provoking work of literature that continues to resonate with readers today.

This paper offers a comprehensive analysis of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, examining its linguistic, cultural, and feminist elements. While the study provides valuable insights into the novel, there are some limitations that should be addressed in future research. One of the main limitations is the study's narrow scope, as it only focuses on one novel. Another limitation is the need for a more detailed linguistic analysis of the novel, as well as a more comprehensive exploration of feminist theories and perspectives. Additionally, the study's examination of Louisiana Creole culture does not take into account the historical accuracy of its portrayal or the perspectives of actual members of the culture. To address these limitations, future research could expand the analysis to include other works of literature, incorporate specific examples of linguistic features, incorporate the perspectives of members of the culture being represented, and incorporate a wider range of feminist theories and perspectives.

Linguists and sociolinguists can benefit from the analysis of the use of Creole language and its unique grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation in Chopin's novel, as it provides insights into the development of the Creole language and culture in Louisiana.

Feminist scholars and gender studies researchers can benefit from the analysis of how Chopin's feminist views are reflected in her writing, particularly in the portrayal of women's suffering under patriarchy in "The Awakening." Literary scholars and researchers can benefit from the exploration of the sociocultural context in which Chopin's work was written and how it influenced her writing. The paper provides insights into the representation of Louisiana and the Creole community in Chopin's work, as well as the importance of language in shaping social and cultural identity. Historical researchers can benefit from the analysis of the French Creoles of

Louisiana in the 19th century and their unique lifestyle, including their imported wine, alcohol, books, and clothes from France, as well as their emphasis on social gatherings and the importance of the family unit, where they only married within the community.

The recommendations for this study are:

To address the limitation of the study's scope, future research could expand the analysis to include other works of literature, or other forms of cultural texts, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the linguistic and cultural features at play.

To address the limitation of the linguistic analysis, future research could incorporate specific examples of linguistic features and analyze how they contribute to the overall meaning of the text.

To address the limitation of the study's cultural analysis, future research could incorporate the perspectives of members of the Louisiana Creole culture to gain a better understanding of their experiences and how they are represented in literature.

To address the limitation of the feminist analysis, future research could incorporate a wider range of feminist theories and perspectives to gain a deeper understanding of the novel's feminist elements.

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This study was particularly unique as it involved a combination of two seemingly disparate fields, namely linguistics and literature. We believe that this interdisciplinary approach allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the linguistic and cultural elements at play in the literary text, as well as to explore the novel's feminist themes and perspectives from a novel perspective.

We hope that our findings will be useful to other researchers and scholars in the fields of linguistics and literature, as well as to anyone interested in gaining a deeper appreciation of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. We also extend our gratitude to anyone who may have indirectly contributed to this study by providing us with inspiration, encouragement, or support along the way.

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