Abstract. Some of the best literary works around the world are very good to learn, such as a poem “Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats which is phenomenal by the quote “Beauty is truth, truth beauty”, and in prose, the work from Kate Chopin entitled The Awakening which is also phenomenal by the way the story ends. By using the theory of comparative literature, this study aims to describe the intense feeling of two different kinds of literary work by depicting their similarities and differences. The analysis shows that those works provide the description of different feeling delivered by each author. Keats presents the poetry in romantic mood, full of cheers and energy, although it serves momento mori. While Chopin presents the prose in elegiac or tragic mood. Those feeling are depicted throughout the way both authors represent the values of their works. Three values which are depicted in its similarities and differences are; 1) the meaning of death, 2) nature attribute, and 3) revealing truth. The feelings shown in the both literary works are basically about the reality of life. The beauty, the truth, the life, and the death are enclosed into the social life experienced by the people in the world.

Keywords: comparative literature, feeling, , values of literary works

1. Introduction

Learning literature is inseparable from the notion analyzing literary works since the elements and knowledge of literary study are being revealed and practiced within. The words by Kennedy and Gioai (2005:733), “For, when we finish reading a good poem, we cannot explain precisely to ourselves what we have experienced-without repeating, word from word, the language of the poem
itself.” support that analyzing poetry as one of literary works is needed since by reading it only, the message and the meaning will not be revealed.

Beside poetry, the other genre of literary works is prose. Prose is different from poetry in several ways, so both writer and reader will certainly regard them differently. Some of the best literary works around the world are very good to learn, such as a poem “Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats which is phenomenal by the quote “Beauty is truth, truth beauty”, and in prose, the work from Kate Chopin entitled The Awakening which is also phenomenal by the way the story ends. Both works have being studied by many experts, scholars and learners around the world because undeniable they are full of knowledge in literature study. However, the analysis employed certainly different in terms of the aspects and its objectives, includes this study.

This study analyzes both genres of literary works, poetry and prose with the aim to describe the intense feeling of two different kinds of literary work by depicting their similarities and differences. Specifically, The first is the analysis of the feeling of suffusion and incorporation in Keat’s “Beauty is truth, truth beauty” that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know. And then followed by the analysis of the feeling of Edna’s fearful and fabulous fulfillment in letting herself be dragged and drifted to her total sensuous pathetic contentment. And the last, will be the analysis of the relation of both author’s intense feelings in their works.

Beside enriching the references of literature studies, the significances of this study are absolutely delivering good lesson for the readers’ life through the values contain in the literary works, and stimulating the readers to love reading as supporting literacy activities.

2. Method

This research was done through library research which consists of two important steps. The first is close reading both novels as the corpus data and taking note while reading. The second step is finding similarities and differences based on the theory of comparative literature. Wellek and
Warren (1963:39) convinced that comparative literature is the study of relationships between two or more literatures. They viewed comparative literature as a study. Henceforth it can be interpreted that the study that is conducted by comparing two literatures or more and finding the relationship of these being compared. It other words, comparative study is used as a method of the study. Remak (1961:3) also viewed comparative literature as a study but he gave broaden explanation for of what being studied that it can be comparing two or more literatures from one country or from two different countries. For instance, comparing works that set in America and another set in England. It also can be comparing two the same type of literary works or different types of literary works. For instance, comparing two different novels or comparing a novel and a poem.

According to the explanation, this study fulfills the requirement of conducting the study using comparative literature since it is going to reveal and to compare two different types of literary works dealing with the feeling represented by Keats’ “Ode on a Grecian Urn” and Chopin’s The Awakening and then to find the differences and similarities in both works.

3. Findings and Discussion

“Ode on a Grecian Urn”

The poem Ode on a Grecian Urn is as romantic poem created by John Keats in 1820 which is recognized as iconic poetry (Brann, 1988). Beside the beauty provided by Keats through the complicated stanzas, the poem also has ultimate part which makes it extremely memorable and closely identical with Keats, is that last two lines of the last stanza, “beauty is truth, truth beauty.” Even, Halque and Rahman (2013:59) titled their study as Beauty is truth, truth beauty: the core of Keats’ Romanticism. From the title of the study, it has been revealed that the quote has more than a sentence which consists of two clauses with two changeable basic words.
Truth can be meant as a human being’s quality or state of ‘being true’, to loyalty, truth worthiness, sincerity, genuineness, honesty, etc. It can also refer to a statement’s being in accordance with experience, facts, or reality. And it can ultimately refer to reality itself. A moralist may praise a person for his truthful speech behavior. While Beauty designates broadly the quality, or the thing having the quality, attributes to “whatever pleases or satisfies the senses or mind, as by line, color, form, texture, proportion, rhythmic motion, tone, etc. or by behavior, attitude etc. (Tung, 2008:2). The definition of both notions will help the analysis of the feeling of the quote.

Keats puts the beauty and the truth as two balance things, that the beauty is something true and the truth is something beautiful. The beauty in the poem can be seen from two different sides which carry the truth within. The first is from the inside of the poem itself which enclose into the stanzas. The stanzas tell the very beautiful story which is strongly depicted from the reality of social life at the certain time. Thus, the reality is as the truth. Even though Keats depicts the story of the ancient Greece in a long ago that doing sacrifice ritual to stay eternally in the world, and even when the chronology of the story is somehow fictive, the depiction must be inspired by the reality of the people life at that time. The concept is like the folklore or myth among the people which is known as the story of believable-and-unbelievable, but the existence of them is undeniably real; people believe that the folklore and myth exist. That’s what the reality is true, while the story inside the reality is beautiful. Even though the story is such a pain or elegy, there must be a beauty.

The second side of beauty is seen from the outside of the poem that is the urn as the whole poem. The urn represents the beautiful hand-made product of art, while the poem is the beautiful imaginative product of art. The truth carried by the urn in this case is dealing with the time of being. The urn conveys the message that art is superior to nature in the sense that art is permanent while nature or human life’s temporary. The joy of art is forever while the joy of real is limited. The human being will die, while the inanimate will stay eternally, that’s the ultimate truth. As being concluded by Halque and Rahman (2013:63) “So, it is better to accept the reality of life. So the core
of Keats’ poetry advocates us not to escape and seek short lived pleasure rather find the deep truth in the real life which is the core of ultimate beauty and that is the truth beauty.” That is what the readers of the poem have to know, to remember, and to be sincere of that message of the suffusion and incorporation of the quotes. ‘that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.’

At least how the reality inspired Keats to produce such a beautiful urn as a poem, it is also truth which definitely contains the warmth of truth.

The Awakening

The poem which has phenomenal reader response in interpreting the quote, the prose also carries a lot of controversy since the ending is unexpected for some ways. In analyzing the feeling of Edna’s fearful and fabulous fulfillment in letting herself be dragged and drifted to her total sensuous pathetic contentment, using the theory of Psychoanalytic from Tyson (2006:12), that is the unconsciousness. Tyson defined “The unconscious is the storehouse of those painful experiences and emotions, those wounds, fears, guilty desires, and unresolved conflicts we do not want to know about because we feel we will be overwhelmed by them.”

Edna has the storehouse of those painful experiences and emotions in almost her life although she has just about awakened. When she tries to resolve conflict within her side after the awakening by being her as what she wants, precisely the conflict is unresolved. What she did by letting herself dragged and drifted into the sea is driven by the unconsciousness.

“Defenses are the process by which the contents of our unconscious are kept in the unconscious.” Defenses include selective perception (hearing and seeing only what we can handle), selective memory (modifying our memories so that we don’t feel overwhelmed by them or forgetting painful events entirely), denial (believing that the problem doesn’t exist or the unpleasant incident never happened), avoidance (staying away from people or situations that are liable to make us anxious by stirring up some unconscious-i.e., repressed-experience
or emotion), **displacement** (“taking it out” on someone or something less threatening than the person who caused our fear, hurt, frustration or anger), and **projection** (ascribing our fear, problem, or guilty desire to someone else and then condemning him or her for it, in order to deny that we have it ourselves).” (Tyson, 2006:15)

By letting herself dragged and drifted into the deep sea, Edna shows that she only hears and sees only what she can see. She denies to handle the problem, the destiny as a mother, being left by Robert and should be back as Leonce’s wife. She also tries to forget the painful events entirely by modifying her past memory. She tries to deny that the problem will not exist when she enjoy dragging and drifting. She avoids to stay near the people and to try away from people. She takes her problem all, and she has guilty desire and tends to condemn Robert on his going. So, the feeling of Edna is clearly as kind of unconsciousness.

The concept of unconsciousness seems to be the contrast with the awakening of Edna, which is after she has been awakened and she realizes that her life is so far from what she actually wants. The awakening drives her to the Eros-the life or sex drive, but in making it reveal she is then driven to Thanatos-the death drive unconsciously.

Gudmundson (2014:17) in her study on *The Awakening*, applied the theory of Oceanic Feeling by Freud. In her study, she claimed that in letting herself be dragged and drifted to her total sensuous pathetic contentment, Edna is conscious; it is Eros drive. Edna had prepared herself to be dragged and drifted since she went on and on walking into the sea. Then she also agree that in committing suicide Edna is unconsciousness; it is Thanatos drive.

Theory of suicide by Durkheim in Sherdianti (2014:7), suicide is the term used to all cases of death which is a direct or indirect from a positive or negative act of the victim himself, which he clearly knows that will produce this kind of result.” Edna’ is as the victim herself. In her result of study, Sherdianti (2014:11) concluded that Edna commits a type of egoistic suicide. While, egoistic
suicide she has explained based on Durkheim’s, it happens when individuals insufficiently integrated to the society and social group. They are not included in many social activities therefore they feel unattached, useless, and disappointed. The conflict of Edna derives from the feeling of being different from other woman in her social life, especially from two different figures of woman; Madam Ratignolle and Mademoiselle Reisz.

So, the feeling of Edna’s fearful and fabulous fulfillment is by consciousness to drive Eros but it drives her to unconsciousness as Thanatos drive.

The analysis of the poetry and the prose above shows the relation between both authors’ intense feeling towards their literary works. Keats presents the poetry in romantic mood, full of cheers and energy, although it serves *momento mori*. While Chopin presents the prose in elegiac or tragic mood. Those feeling are depicted throughout the way both authors represent the values of their works. Three values which are depicted in its similarities and differences are;

1) **The meaning of death:** Both Keats and Chopin basically have the same point in their works dealing with the meaning of death that is, if Keats sees the death as the destiny which every human being will experience it, even he is jealous to the urn which can stay eternally, Chopin precisely make her own fate by suicide. Keats who has experienced being left by lovely people of him, as his father and his grandfather (Hanson, 2015) seems to protest the urn on being eternal which he cannot be. While, Chopin basically has the same experience of loosing her lovely people, her husband and her mom, but Chopin makes Edna as a perfect family member, no experience of being left by lovely people by the death. (Wyatt, 1995). Tyson (2006:22) has defined the meaning of death as “death is the ultimate abandonment: no matter how close we are to our loved ones, no matter how important we are in our communities, when we die we die alone. The definition represents both Keats and Chopin’ feelings in their works about the
meaning of death. If Keats addresses between death and eternity, while Chopin addresses the Eros and Thanatos which are actually the same, is about life and death.

2) **Nature attribute;** Keats presents the beauty as the truth which depicted from the pictures in the urn, the picture said as Sylvan historian since he uses forest with trees features in depicting the urn to tell the story about the ancient Greek (Brann, 1988), while Chopin presents the strength of the sea feeling which can awaken human realize. Forest and sea are as the nature attribute which represents their own value.

3) **Revealing Truth;** Keats’ quote beauty is truth, truth beauty clearly presents the feeling of revealing the truth which is argued as the core of beauty, while Chopin makes Edna also tries to reveal the truth after her awakening. Her previous life is realized as the pretense. The end of her life is actually as the impact of revealing the truth.

4. **Conclusion**

The feelings shows in the both literary works are basically about the reality of life. The beauty, the truth, the life, and the death are enclosed into the social life experienced by the people in the world. Literary works is worthy as giving lesson, delivering message, and reminding people about the life itself. As a good lesson dealing with both analysis above is covered in the quote of Halque and Rahman (2013:64) “The Avoidance of reality can’t be the source of beauty. It is not a way out of all pains. It’s a momentary.”
References


