

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having read the novel, I find that the author, Leo Tolstoy, has successfully conveyed the theme of Anna Karenina, namely: “One will not be happy if one does not conform to social norms.” In this case, one should not be unfaithful to one’s spouse.

The theme is revealed through the inner and social conflicts of the protagonist, Anna Karenina. In this case, Anna, who is described as a high class woman, tries to find happiness through true love.

Anna Karenina hopes that society will support her in her attempt to gain happiness in her own way. She wants society to understand her passion for love and her problem and to accept her when she tries to be honest to herself by revealing her love affair with Vronsky. She believes that love is the most important thing in her life that can make her happy. It can be seen through her decision to go against society and face the consequences of her action. That love is very important for her can be seen through her readiness to abandon her beloved only son and her high status as the wife of a man of the upper class.

Unfortunately, wanting to get what she regards as true love leads her to misery and even tragedy. The novelist shows the protagonist’s failure to gain

happiness through her inner conflicts soon after she makes up her mind to have an affair with Vronsky. Tolstoy presents a realistic example of the cause of the inner conflict, namely her great difficulty to decide whether to accompany her lover, Vronsky, or to forget him and continue living with her husband and her only son. In general, a woman does not want to abandon her only child. Therefore, it must have been a very difficult thing for her to leave her son, Seryozha. Abandoning society which admires and thinks highly of her is also a big problem for her. However, the novelist reveals that Anna finally decides to continue her relationship with Vronsky. This gives evidence that in her opinion love is more important than society.

That the protagonist finally commits suicide also reveals the novelist's message that whatever we wish to do, we have to realize that we do not live alone but in society that determines social norms that to a certain extent limit our freedom.

This novel is an excellent literary work. Leo Tolstoy is successful in portraying a woman who tries in vain to search for happiness through true love.

The novel gives a message to the reader that since we live in society, whether we like it or not, we should conform to social norms. This is very well illustrated through the protagonist's failure that makes her feel depressed and which finally leads her to suicide.

As a final comment, I personally agree with the novelist that a woman should not flirt with another man whatever the reason may be. However, I do not

agree with him if a woman is forced to marry a man whom she does not love just for the sake of getting a high status in society. In this case, since loving a person is one of the basic human rights, I think it is wrong of Anna Karenina's parents to force her to marry Karenin, an upper class man whom she does not love. It is also wrong for Anna to leave her husband and her little child no matter what the reason is.