

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analysing Gustave Flaubert's novel entitled Madame Bovary and Leo Tolstoy's entitled Anna Karenina, I would like to draw some conclusions. Both Gustave Flaubert's Madame Bovary and Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina deal with the issue of adultery. Both protagonists are married women who are involved in adulterous relationships. Nevertheless, they have different characteristics, so the way they face their problem are different.

I would like to explain further about the similarities and differences of these novels. One of the similarities between Madame Bovary and Anna Karenina concerns the unfaithfulness in relationship, in this case married life. Each female protagonist is tempted to be involved in scandalous relationships with other men. Both protagonists are dissatisfied with their marriage. Thus, they choose to commit adultery in order to find happiness in life.

Another similarity is that both protagonists do not have further consideration when they decide to commit adultery. However, at the end of their

life, both Emma and Anna regret their actions and they beg God for forgiveness.

The other similarity is that both protagonists at the end of the novel choose to commit suicide as a way out to run away from their problems in life. In Madame Bovary, Emma is deeply trapped in big amounts of debts and she chooses to commit suicide to be released from problems. She poisons herself. In Anna Karenina, Anna's position in society is not as good as before. As a result, she thinks that the only way to escape from suffering is by committing suicide. She throws herself in the path of a train.

In spite of the similarities, there are also some differences. One of them is about the indication why adultery takes place in the life of the female characters. In Madame Bovary, since Emma is portrayed as an unrealistic and romantic woman, she already has a false perception about marriage which she regards as a good solution to solve her problems and discontent. Thus, she commits adultery in order to find a romantic and glamorous life which she cannot find in her marriage.

However, in Anna Karenina, from the first impression at the first meeting, Anna and Vronsky have been attracted to each other. Since Anna is portrayed as a passionate woman, she possesses a great deal of passion to be loved which cannot be fulfilled by her husband. Therefore, she becomes deeply involved in an adulterous relationship with Vronsky.

Another difference is that In Madame Bovary, Emma is portrayed as an irresponsible mother while in Anna Karenina, Anna is portrayed as a responsible mother. Due to the fact that they have different characteristics, they act differently towards their family even though both of them commit adultery. Emma never truly cares for her daughter Berthe, and thinks that her daughter is an intruder in

her life. She only cares about her own happiness. On the other hand, Anna always thinks about her son and she even sneaks back just to see her beloved son. Her adulterous relationship cannot change her affection as a mother for her son Seryozha.

The other difference is the social background in these two novels. In Madame Bovary, Emma is from the middle-class society, and she has a financial problem. As Emma is a materialistic woman, she is not satisfied with her married life because Charles cannot give her enough money. On the other hand, in Anna Karenina, Anna is from the upper-class society, which is mainly caused by her husband's position in society. Unlike Emma, Anna does not have any financial problem. However, money does not give her a life that is wonderful and full of happiness.

These novels are also about relationships between man and woman. A forbidden affair, in this case, adultery, can happen to anybody from different status. Moreover, money does not guarantee someone to have a happy life. It is shown in the two novels that the important thing in marriage is not money, but trust and understanding between husbands and wives.

Through the portrayal of the protagonists, the authors of the two novels indirectly show their purpose of creating the novels. Gustave Flaubert explores his criticism towards romanticism and the life style of bourgeoisie people in France at that time, as shown in the character of Emma Bovary. Whereas Leo Tolstoy, through Anna Karenina, exposes the idea that when one destroys a family, he or she will lose his or her meaning of life. Flaubert's and Tolstoy's

styles of portraying the characters cause these two novels to become interesting and worth analysing.