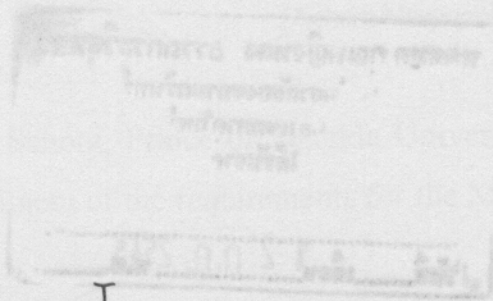




ความแปลกแยกของสตรีในนวนิยายเรื่อง ดิ อเวคเคนนิง และ ความรักครั้งสุดท้าย  
**Women's Alienation in *The Awakening* and *Khwamrak Khrang Sutthai***

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<b>Thesis Title</b>	Women's Alienation in <i>The Awakening</i> and <i>Khwamrak Khrang Sutthai</i>
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### Abstract

This comparative research aims to study women's alienation in different contexts through the female protagonists in the late nineteenth century American novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin and the late twentieth century Thai novel *Khwamrak Khrang Sutthai (The Last Love)* by Suwannee Sukhontha.

The study finds that the women's alienation in both novels are different in terms of origins and impacts on the heroines. Social constraints have more influence on the life of Edna, the principal character in the American novel, than on the life of Ros, the central figure in the Thai novel. The stereotypical role of a woman as a "devoted" wife and mother which is hard to oppose in creole society during the late nineteenth-century American society, obstructs independence which Edna holds as the essence in her life. For Ros, the society's negative attitudes toward a divorcee lower her dignity. However, she is determined to pursue a way of life of a new-generation woman in the late twentieth-century Thai society who can single-handedly bring up the children in the highly competitive urban society. Such social constraints therefore, similarly make Edna and Ros social aliens who cannot communicate with anyone. However, the two heroines encounter dissimilar inner conflicts. Ros lives in the society which is more flexible and provides women more opportunities such as those regarding jobs and remarriage. The lack of social integration, as a result, has stronger impacts on Edna than Ros. Edna needs great courage to withstand social disapproval, and is especially troubled by her own guilty conscience when she finally realizes that her children will be affected by her conduct. Most importantly, Edna's sense of powerlessness and Ros's feeling of meaninglessness are also the result of the

alienation in personal relations. Disappointed by the reactions of their lovers, who seem to be under social control or their opponents' influence, the two heroines end their lives with suicides.

Literary techniques employed to portray women's alienation in the two novels are comparable. It is found that both authors efficiently utilize artistic techniques to make their novels works of art. Similar techniques are the development of the themes of love and dignity of a woman who fights against society, the conventional plots and the novelists' use of familiar settings, especially the emphasis on the sea. Dissimilar points are point of view, characterization and imagery. *The Awakening* is told with a limited third-person point of view focusing on Edna, while an omniscient point of view is employed in *Khvamrak Khrang Sutthai*. Characters in *The Awakening* are indirectly shown, while most characters in *Khvamrak Khrang Sutthai* are directly described by the narrator. Finally, while imagery is an outstanding technique used throughout *The Awakening*, especially to demonstrate the protagonist's psyche, the use of imagery is rather limited in the Thai novel; the image of the sea seems prominent only at the end of the Thai novel.