

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature reflects and expresses the life, the social condition in society to represent the community and the era (Wellek and Warren, 1977:110). Literary sources have function as a tool of human inspiration to make people aware the meaning of life and to improve the quality of life. Literature sources are the phenomena that occur in community such as family life and etc (Wiyatmi, 2012:42). Describing the elements of society that occur toward men and women are quite interesting because it presents at the order of life both of them socially and culturally. One of the life problems that becomes the source of the literary works is the position of women in society.

As one of literary works, drama is one of the literary works which is represented on stages. The perform is indicated in action and utters the writer dialogue (Abrams, 1971:43). Drama shows the history of human's life in society and it is presented on stage. *A Doll's House* is a drama written by Henrik Ibsen which expresses the theme of a woman's rights and an individual woman asking for her rights.

According to the science of biology women and men are different, but as spiritual and physical person equipped with reason and right to independence, both of them have intrinsic equation. Both of them have a right to develop themselves. But in the fact, either in developed countries or

developing countries women always are the second national, who are always difficult to enjoy their right that they have.

In society, women have the lower position than men. When women get married, they will have a role as wife and mother. They will be hoped well for sex, having babies, cooking, and nothing else. Besides, women are discriminated against in pay, education and job. And also the woman's financial depends on the man or their husband. Women do not have freedom and equality, they cannot get professions that they want.

Women's position in the nineteenth century was really in bad condition. The society had strong assumption that "women's position was clear, she was always physically and intellectually inferior to the man" (Rubenstein, 1987:7). This assumption causes the women become the subordinate class in politically and socially. Women are only responsible to their husband, child and household as a wife and mother. As a result they had no right to choose their own ways.

In men's view, women do not have freedom, equality and any meaningful sense. They do not deserve to get job and education and cannot enter some professions. Society considers women have no ability to do something. These conditions make women try to struggle for her right to get the same equality.

A Doll's House is a drama written by Henrik Ibsen. It is appeared on 15 September 1879. *A Doll's House* reflects an individual woman asking for her rights. Ibsen's concerns about the position of women in nineteenth century

in society. Women were not treated as equals to men, either in relation to their husbands or society. Ibsen believes that women were best suited to be mother and wives, but at the same time, he had an eye for injustice and although he was embraced by feminist. Ibsen was no champion of human right, he had only dealt with the problem of women's right as a facet of the realism within his play.

A Doll's House was written by Henrik Ibsen, he was born on 28 March 1828 in Skien, Greenland, United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. He was the Norwegian playwright, theatre director a poet. He is often referred to as "the father of realism" and is one of the founder of Modernism in theatre. He was marriage with Suzannah Thoresen. Ibsen had one son, lawyer and government minister, Sigurd Ibsen. He died on 23 May (aged 78) in Christina, Norway, Oslo.

His major works, *Peer Gynt* (1867), *A Doll's House* (1879), *Ghosts* (1881), *An Enemy of The People* (1882) are among the last plays included in Ibsen's realism period. Ibsen continued to write of modern realistic themes in his next plays, but he also relied increasingly on metaphor and symbolism in *The Wild Duck* (1884), *Hedda Gabler* (1890).

A Doll's House tells us about an individual woman asking or her rights. Nora Helmer is a wife of Torvald Helmer, the director of bank. She is beautiful woman and loves her family very much. She never asks for anything useless to her husband. But before she and her family live in the happiness she secretly borrowed a large sum of money so that her husband

could recuperate from a serious illness. She never told him of this loan and has been secretly paying it back in small installments by saving from her household allowance. Her husband, Torvald, thinks her careless and childlike, and often calls her his doll. When he is appointed bank director, his first act is to relieve a man who was once disgraced for having forged his signature on a document. This man, Nils Krogstad, is the person from whom Nora has borrowed her money. It is then revealed that she forged her father's signature in order to get the money. Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's crime and thus disgrace her and her husband unless Nora can convince her husband not to fire him. Nora tries to influence her husband, but he thinks of Nora as a simple child who cannot understand the value of money or business. Thus, when Torvald discovers that Nora has forged her father's name, he is ready to disclaim his wife even though she had done it for him. Later when all is solved, Nora sees that her husband is not worth her love and she leaves him to get her freedom.

The *A Doll's House* plot takes us back in time of Passive Woman period, the life of woman is only as a housewife. Nora, as a woman, a wife, or a mother, behaves like a doll. She is under the control of the invisible hands and the pressures of patriarchal system in society. Based on this drama, the major character has problem about the struggle women's right from oppression. Therefore the writer uses feminist approach in this research because it is related to the women's right.

B. Literature Review

A Doll's House is interesting play to read and watch. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the *A Doll's House* play has been conducted by some students.

The first study about *A Doll's House* is conducted by Frida Hartaty Putri H, University of Sumatera Utara student, in her article published in 2010 entitled “*An Analysis of Absurd Elements in Henrik Insen's Play A Doll's House*”. She concludes that this thesis describes the elements of the absurdity of the disappointment situation and feelings of isolation that is the main character in the play *A Doll's House*. Absurd situations are experienced only to prioritize logic humans and humans in the literature are represented by a character or characters. Through a thematic study of literary texts through the drama, a description of the elements of the absurd is based on dialogue and actions by the characters. Thus the description of analytical methods is done in the analysis of data, known as the descriptive method of analysis.

The second is the study conducted by Vivi Yulian (Sanata Dharma University, 2000) entitled “*Nora's Idea about Feminism Reflected in Henrik Ibsen A Doll's House: Feminism Approach*”. This study concerns the social problem of a woman's rights and an individual woman asking for her rights. This study discusses three problems. The first is discussing about the characterization of the female character in the play, Nora Helmer. The second

point is to see what oppressions that Nora undergoes. The last point is to present Nora's revolt from injustice situation suppressing her.

The third is the study conducted by Abdul Baseer, et al. (Faisalabad University Pakistan, 2013) entitled "*The Use of Symbolic Language in Ibsen's A Doll's House: A Feministic Perspective*". This paper is a feministic analysis of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in Julia Kristeva's perspective of semiotic and symbolic language. The focus of the paper is to expose the patriarchy and its ruthless exploitation of women. In the light of Kristeva's semiotic / symbolic language modes appropriate sentences, clauses, phrases and lexemes have been specified and marked out to uncover the social status of woman, and to demonstrate that how a woman is reduced to mere a toy or / and a breathing object to a maximum extent, and a socially constructed phenomenon working for man. The paper concludes that patriarchy establishes the ideas of man's ascendancy and woman's relegation on the basis of symbolic concepts associated with male-dominated linguistic code, and not on the basis of semiotic use of language

The fourth is the study conducted by Fatemah Ghafourina, et al. (Islamic Azad University-Boroujerd Branch, Iran) entitled "*The Women Right in Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House*". This paper will show the untrue system of marriage, stressing on individuality of women and fighting for their freedom, in addition protesting to all restrictions in society. Under the impact of Ibsen's ideology, individuality and humanity are the most important social issues which are developed in his works. All social instructions and

conventions are the enemy of every individual because they restrict the characters' personal identity and their freedom. In particular, Ibsen expands this outlook on the women's position whose individuality and freedom are taken by masculine society. Nora, as a woman, a wife, or a mother, behaves like a doll. She is under the control of the invisible hands and the pressures of patriarchal society. Ibsen protests against the position of women in a masculine society which is unfair and under the hegemony of male-dominated powers.

The fifth is the study conducted by Andrew Finch, et al. (Kyungpook National University) entitled "*A Post-Feminist, Evolutionist Reading of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House*". This paper, while acknowledging the play's original impact and significance in terms of women's rights and social restrictions in general, attempts to place Ibsen's play in a contemporary context by re-reading it from a post-feminist, evolutionist perspective. Taken together, these two approaches allow the reader or audience member to see Nora as an individual who was born into a strict, hierarchical society and who adapted to that society by devising survival strategies such as flattery, deception and denial. Rather than praising Nora as a martyr for womankind or condemning her as a selfish hysteric, this way of understanding her situation and that of the other characters sees them all as interacting with and adapting to their environments in ways which aim to achieve the basic evolutionary needs of survival, reproduction, parenting and kinship, and group living.

The sixth is the study conducted by Md. Nesar Uddin (Dept. Of English Language and Literature, Internasional Islamic University Chittagong, Bangladesh) entitled “*Nora on Ibsen’s A Doll’s House and Komolin Saratchandra’s Shesh Proshno: A Comparative Sthudy from Feminist Perspective*”. This aritcle is focused on woman repression. Very few male writers could see woman sufferings in social phenomenon with woman eyes and thereby present their distresses in literary works. Saratchandra Chattaphadhyay and Henrik Ibsen are among the few celebrated writers who claimed overwhelming applause for presenting woman question in their works with a view to restructuring social construct about woman status in society. Nora and Komol are presented in their respective works as advocates of woman rights. Nora revolts against male-formulated social structure repressing women in the name of religion, conventions, and breaks the framework set up by men and dashes for liberated life. But Komol is more ruthless in her approach. She attacks age-old beliefs both social and religious and denounces everything that denigrates humanity. A lot of criticism arises in social and literary discourses because of their blatant attitude towards traditional social mindset. This article made a feminist reading of Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* and Saratchandra’s *Shesh Proshno*, and evaluated Nora and Komol from feminist perspective. The study discovered a great commonness in both the characters-the struggle for emancipation.

The seventh is the study conducted by V. Meenakshi (Departement of English, Bharathidasan University Constituent College, Orathanad) entitled

“Comparative Feminist Reading of Henrik Ibsen and Lesia Ukrainka”.

Norwegian writer Henrik Ibsen and the Ukrainian writer Lesia Ukrainka have some common themes in their dramas, to name a few – emphasis is placed on the conflict between the individual and society as well as the place of the artist in society. This paper makes an attempt to compare and contrast the traits found in their heroines in a feminist perspective.

The eighth is the study conducted by Noorbakhsh Hooti, et al. (English Department, Faculty of Arts, Razi University, Iran) entitled *“Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House: A Postmodernist Study”*. This paper tends to lay stress on the postmodernist dimensions of Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*, a play which manifests different aspects of modernism as a common feature of Ibsen’s works; nevertheless, demonstration of different notions of postmodernity cannot and will not be repudiated in the play.

The ninth is the study conducted by Ishomuddin (English Department, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta) entitled *“Patriarchy in Ibsen’s A Doll’s House”*. In this case, the writer analyzes men’s and women domination through patriarchal system in *A Doll’s House* drama by using Marxist Feminism theory. First, the writer analyzed the relation between men and women in family life. Then, the writer explains the influences received by women. The writer also explains the message that is conveyed by Ibsen through *A Doll’s House* and the Islamic Perspective through patriarchal system in *A Doll’s House*.

The tenth is the study conducted by Wilujeng Asih P (Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya, 2009) entitled “An Analysis on Feminism in Henrik Ibsen A Doll’s House”. This research describes how Nora and Mrs. Linde fight against the men’s domination, especially in the public scope. The writer uses feminism approach as an analysis method.

And the last study is conducted by Dwi Sulistyawati, 2008, entitled “A Deconstruction Analysis in Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House”. It tells about the characterization of Nora, the trace, and the binary opposition in A Doll’s House. The writer of this research uses deconstruction theory to analyze the data.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this research is “How is patriarchy in society reflected in Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*?”

D. Research Limitation

The writer focuses this research in analyzing patriarchy in society which reflected in *A Doll’s House* play (1879) based on the Feminist Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* based on the structural elements of the play.
2. To reveal the patriarchy in society by means of Feminist Approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The writer wishes that this study can impart a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, especially the literary study on *A Doll's House* play (1879).

2. Practical Benefit

This study is whised to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as reference by other university students who are interested in literary study on *A Doll's House* play (1879) based on the feminist approach.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer analyzes Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* play (1879). There are five elements that should be taken into account in this research, they are:

1. Type of Research

In writing this study, the writer employs the descriptive qualitative research. Moleong (1983: 3) affirms that qualitative research a research which results in the descriptive data in the form observed people or behaviors. Then, the steps of conducting this qualitative study are (1) determining the object of the study, (2) determining the source of the data, (3) determining the method of data collection, and (4) determining the technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *A Doll's House* play which is published in 1879. It is analyzed by using feminist approach.

3. Type of Data and Data Sources

There are two types of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data

The primary data are the main data obtained from all the words, dialogues, phrases and sentences in the novel. The primary data sources of the study are *A Doll's House* play by Henrik Ibsen.

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data are the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the novel. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information related to the novel.

4. Technique of Data Collection

In conducting the study, the writer uses the techniques in collecting the data as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data
- c. Underlying the important word, phrases and sentences which are related to the study
- d. Arranging the data into several part based on its classification
- e. Library research by collecting and selecting both primary data and secondary data
- f. Drawing the conclusion of the analysis that has already done in the former chapter and formulating its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of analyzing data is descriptive. The writer wants to observe the struggle of women in facing the patriarchy system and focus on it. There are two analyses, structural and feminist analysis.

H. Paper Organization

This paper organization consists of six chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. The third chapter is social historical background europe in nineteenth century.

The fourth chapter deals with the structural analysis. The fifth chapter presents the feminist analysis, and the six chapter is conclusion and suggestion.