MARRIAGE REFLECTED IN HENRIK IBSEN’S A DOLL’S HOUSE PLAY (1879): A FEMINIST APPROACH

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

by:

RIA PEbruantari
A320110167

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2015
PERNYATAAN

Saya yang bertandatangan di bawah ini,

Nama : Ria Pebruantari
NIM : A320110167
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Judul Artikel Publikasi : MARRIAGE REFLECTED IN HENRIK IBSEN A DOLL'S HOUSE PLAY (1879): A FEMINIST APPROACH

Menyatakan dengan sebenarnya bahwa artikel publikasi yang saya sahkan ini benar-benar hasil karya saya sendiri dan bebas plagiat karya orang lain, kecuali yang secara tertulis diacu/dikutip dalam naskah dan disebutkan pada daftar pustaka. Apabila di kemudian hari terbukti artikel publikasi ini hasil plagiat, saya bertanggung jawab sepenuhnya dan bersedia menerima sanksi sesuai peraturan yang berlaku.

Surakarta, 28 Oktober 2015

Yang membuat pernyataan,

Ria Pebruantari
A320110167
ARTIKEL

MARRIAGE REFLECTED IN HENRIK IBSEN
A DOLL’S HOUSE PLAY (1879):
A FEMINIST APPROACH

Diajukan Oleh:
Ria Pebruantari
A320110167

Artikel Publikasi ini telah disetujui oleh pembimbing skripsi Fakultas
Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Muhammadiyah
Surakarta untuk di pertanggung jawabkan
di hadapan tim penguji skripsi

Surakarta, Oktober 2015

Pembimbing I

Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S. Pd. M.Ed
NIK. 772

Pembimbing II

Titis Setyabudy, S.S.,MA
NIK. 948
Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini pembimbing skripsi / tugas akhir:

Nama : Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M.Ed
NIK : 772
Nama : Titis Setyabudy, SS.MA
NTK : 948

Telah membaca dan mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi (tugas akhir) dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Ria Pebruantari
NIM : A320110167
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Judul Skripsi : Marriage reflected in Henrik Ibsen A Doll’s House play (1879): A feminist approach

Naskah artikel tersebut layak dan dapat disetujui untuk dipublikasikan. Demikian persetujuan ini dibuat, semoga dapat digunakan sepuhnya.

Surakarta, October 2015

Pembimbing I

[Signature]
Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S. Pd. M.Ed
NIK. 772

Pembimbing II

[Signature]
Titis Setyabudy, SS.MA
NIK. 948
MARRIAGE REFLECTED IN HENRIK IBSEN’S A DOLL’S HOUSE PLAY (1879): A FEMINIST APPROACH

Ria Pebruantari

Dewi Chandraningrum

Titis Setyabudi

English Department, FKIP-UMS

Jl. A. Yani Pabelan Kartasura Tromol Pos 1 Surakarta 57102

Telp. (0271) 717417 Fax. (0271) 715448

ABSTRACT

The research is proposed to analyze Marriage which is resprésented by the character in Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House play by Feminist Approach. This study is qualitative using the play of Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House play (1879) as the object. There are two kinds of data source: primary and secondary. The primary data source is the play of Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House play and the secondary data source are some literary books and some articles related to the play. The method of collecting data in the research is library research by reading and summarising the data. In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive analysis. Based on feminist approach, marriage system in A Doll’s House harms women’s, because women are marginalized and oppressed.

Keywords: Marriage. A Doll’s House. Feminist Approach.
A. Introduction

1. Background of the study

Literature is human’s creature such as drama, novel, short story, poetry, poem, etc. In an age of backlash against feminist it is heart-warning to see the persistence of one of feminism’s most promising traditions of theory and practice. (Gaard: 1993).

As one of literary works, drama is one of the literary works, which is represented on stages. The performer 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.

Every person has a desire to get married at young age or in old age. Marriage can occur because of love, social status, economic or political situation. The presence of human marriage will feel safe and comfortable with her life partner, but the marriage is not a happy ending for a certain person but marriage can also end up with sorrow like separation and divorce between two pairs (Puspita, 2013).

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 play* is drama written by Henrik Ibsen. It appeared on 15 September 1879. tells about a household circumstances that began with harmonious and ends with divorce. This play tells about Nora Helmer is apparently happily married to Torvald Helmer, who is a lawyer to take over the post of director of the Joint Stock Bank. They have three small children.

Nora has a secret to keep. Early in their marriage Torvald became seriously ill, and the doctors advised a stay in a more southerly climate. Nora had to hold of the money for the journey in secrecy and so borrowed it from Krogstad, a lawyer who had been a fellow-student of Torvald’s. As security for the loan she forged her dying father’s signature.

A Doll’s House the 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.

2. Literature review

*A Doll’s House* is interesting play to read and watch. As far as the writer concerns, the research on *A Doll’s House* play has been conducted by some reasearchers. They are as follows:

a. Researcher by Karlita Masha Eman (Fakultas Sastra Universitas Sam Ratulangi) entitled *Konektifitas Ide, Perilaku dan Artefak Dalam A Doll’s House Karya Henrik Ibsen.*
b. Researcher by Christina Kelley Forshey (Liberty University:2008) entitled "Ibsen's Female Characters in Captivity: An Exploration of Literature and Performance".

c. Researcher by Vivi Yulian (Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, 2000) entitled Nora’s Idea about Feminism As Reflected in Ibsen’s A Doll’s House.

d. Researcher by Ellen (Bina Nusantara University, 2008) entitled Typical Person of Three Characters In Hedda Gabler, Rosmersholm, and A Doll’s House written by Henrik Ibsen.

e. Researcher by Frida Hartaty Putri H (Sumatera Utara University, Medan, 2010) entitled An Analysis of Absurd Elements in Henrik Ibsen’s Play A Doll’s House.

The literature reviews above described an idea, female character in A Doll’s House and other Henrik Ibsen play, without analyzing by any theory. Here, the researcher conducted research related to Marriage reflected in Henrik Ibsen A Doll’s House play (1879) by using feminist approach.

3. Problem statements

The problem statement of this research is “how is marriage reflected at Henrik Ibsen a doll’s house play?”

4. Objectives 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 feminist Approach of the play.

a. Nation of Feminism

Feminist comprises a number of social, cultural, and political movements, theories, and moral philosophies concerned with gender inequalities and social rights for women. Feminist takes a number of forms in a variety of disciplines, such as feminist geography, feminist
history, and feminist literary criticism. Feminist has changed aspect of
ewestern society. Feminism is a politics directed at changing existing
power relations between women and men (Mandel, 1995:4).

b. Major Principle of Feminist

1) Women’s position

A woman is always considered lower than men and women
into the lowest levels, even treated as second class. Mandell
(1995:14) stated a special form of life called patriarchy through
which man appropriate all superior social roles and keeps women
in subordinate and exploited position oppressed that woman.

2) Women’s role

In society, the greatest role of women is in the family.
Women are root of the morality of their children and the manager
of finances of family. Betty Friedan, the Feminine Mystique:
Housewives are unfulfilled and less than human ("The Housewife
Blahs"). The problem's name is patriarchy (male-dominated
society).

3) Women’s right

Women have right in every aspect of life, so women have
the same rights as men. Woman has right to freedom includes on
politics, economic, and sexual freedom. Woman also has right to
freedom includes on politic, economic, and sexual freedom.
Feminist attempts to gain democratic right, the right to have
education and occupation, the right to be Member of Parliament
also the right to divorce (Humm, 2002:53).
4) Women’s participation

Now women have right to participate in any way they like, as in legal, political, economic, social, educational, etc. Many women participate in government administration. They jumped down as a politician. Moreover, the president of Indonesia is a woman. Women and men are equal in public life. Expose the male-centered nature of society's beliefs and mores, and replace them with the female perspective.

2. To reveal marriage of major and minor characters by means of feminist approach.

Marriage is an event that an agenda is pronunciation and promise of marriage for life as husband and wife. After performing the agreement, pairing men and women have been legally valid religion and state law to live together, the marital relationship, and have a child (Susetya, 2007)

5. Limitation of the study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing marriage of major and minor characters which is reflected in *A Doll’s House play* (1873) based on feminist approach.

B. Research Method

Type of the study used by the writer to make this research is descriptive qualitative research. The purpose of descriptive qualitative research is to analyze the play using feminist perspective. The first step of conducting the research is determining the type of the study. The second is determining the object of the study. Then the third is determining the data sources. The fourth is determining the technique of data collection, and the fifth is determining the technique for data analysis.
C. Research Finding and Discussion

Based on the analysis, the researcher finds and discusses the result of the research finding as follows:

1. Marriage System

Marriage is a ubiquitous feature of human kinship and social organization and its development assumed a critical role in the history of social institutions. According to many anthropologists, the regulation of sexual relationships may in itself have formed the basis of all human social orders.

In *A Doll’s House* play Helmer’s relationship seems to be more like a father and a daughter than a husband and wife. But in the end of the play Nora thinks that she was become a doll in her house and her marriage.

“No, only merry. And you have always been so kind to me. But our home has been nothing but a play room. I have been your doll-wife, just as at home I was papa’s doll-child; and here the children have been my dolls. I thought it great fun when you played with me, just as they thought it great fun when I played with them. That is what our marriage has been Torvald.” (ADH: 69)

Marriage Presented by Mr. Linde sacrificed her relationship with Krogstad and her potential happiness, in order to marry a wealthy man who could support her mother and brothers.

“Mrs. Linde: my mother was alive then, and was bedridden and helpless, and I had to provide for my two younger brothers; so I did not think I was justified in refusing his offer”. (ADH: 10)

By the end of the play it seems that Christine and Krogstad will have the marriage of shared responsibility that the Helmers are not able to achieve. Mrs. Linde is entering into her new marriage with her personal integrity intact. In this play the end of Nora and
Torvald marriage is Nora leaves her husband, children and her house.

2. Women’s Position

In society, women are seen as the second-class people, they have no right in deciding their own life. Women are considered lower than men and women are the lowest levels, even treated as second class. Women always get the low-level job. Mandell (1995:14) stated a special form of life called patriarchy through which man appropriate all superior social roles and keeps women in subordinate.

In *A Doll’s House* play Nora is wife of Torvald Helmer with three children, she loves dancing, she is spoiled women, and she is loyal and patience girl.

“she and the children laugh and shout, and romp in and out of the room, at last Nora hides under the table, the children rush in and out, looking for her, but do not see her, they hear her smothered laughter, run to the table, lift up the cloth, and find her. Shouts of laughter. She crawls forward and pretends to frighten them” (ADH: 21).

However, when the problem comes to her household Nora feels confused and she is under the control. She feels like a doll when lives with her father and when she was married and lives with her husband Torvald.

“NORA: It is perfectly true, Torvald. When I was at home with papa, he told me his opinion about everything and so I had the same opinions(...)he would not have liked it. He called me his doll-child, and he played with me just as I used to play with my dolls. And when I came to live with you… “No, only merry. And you have always been so kind to me. But our home has been nothing but a play room. I have been your doll-wife, just as at home I was papa’s doll-child; and here the children have been my dolls. I thought it great fun
when you played with me, just as they thought it great fun when I played with them. That is what our marriage has been, Torvald.”

(ADH: 68, 69)

Woman position in *A Doll’s House* play is under the men positions. The position of woman in marriage that wife is more a servant than a helper. She only states indirect suggestions about home policies and decisions. Her husband’s is the leader of the family and she is obliged to follow him. Nora is just like an attractive instrument in her husband’s hands to be loved and cherished but nothing more.

3. Women’s Role

Ibsen describes that women’s role is limited on the domestic area. Nora only has sacred duties, as a wife and mother and becomes an object in her society.

“Before all else, you are a wife and a mother” (ADH: 68)

Then Nora shows that her existence is not as a mother and wife but is a human being like other.

“Nora: I have other duties just as sacred

Helmer: Indeed you have not. What duties could those be?

Nora: Duties to myself.

Helmer: Before else, you are wife and a mother.

Nora: I don’t believe that any longer. I believe that before all else I am reasonable human being, just as you are or, at events that I must try and become one.” (ADH: 70)
By constantly referring to Nora with pet names, Torvald seems to dehumanize his wife. And Torvald seems to stereotype all women as frivolous spendthrifts.

HELMER: "Is it my little squirrel bustling about?" … That is like a woman! But seriously, Nora, you know what I think about that. No debt, no borrowing. There can be no freedom or beauty about a home life that depends on borrowing and debt." (ADH: 2, 3)

Women's sacrificial role in *A Doll House* play Mrs. Linde abandoned her true love Krogstad who was penniless in order to marry a man that would allow her to provide for her poor mother and two brothers. She sacrificed love. The nanny abandoned her own children to work for Nora's family so that she could earn a living.

4. Women’s Right

Women have right in every aspect of life, so women have the same rights as men. Woman has right to freedom including on politics, economic, and sexual freedom. Rights are something owned by every human being. They cannot be determined by others. Rights cover right for education; right to get jobs, right to achieve happiness, right to determine what to be, etc.

Nora is proud of her self because she has been save her husband’s life from serious illness.

“Nora: Come here. (pulls her down on the sofa besides her). Now I will show you that I too have something to be proud and glad of. It was I who saved Torvald’s life.” (ADH: 12)
In A Doll’s House, Nora sacrifices for her own right. Nora has save her husband’s life from serious illness and she thinks that she can do anything to save her family life.

“Linde: No, a wife cannot borrow without her husband’s consent.

Nora: Oh, if it is a wife who has any head or business, a wife who has the wit to be a little bit clever.” (ADH: 12)

Nora does not believe that she has no right to save her husband’s life and finally she gets her free life from her husband obligations.

“Listen Torvald, I have heard that when a wife deserts her husband’s house, as I am doing now, he is legally freed from all obligations towards her. In any case I set you free from your obligations. You are not to feel yourself bound in the slightest way, any more than I shall. There must be perfect freedom on both sides.” (ADH: 73)

According to Ibsen, a great wrong has been done to women, since the right to act for them has been taking away. Ibsen pleads for women to be given the right to be free to access a situation and act for themselves. Ibsen proves that the true happiness of everyone lies in oneself” everyone needs to find out who he or she really is and to become that person, and living a lie will lead into destruction, the true relationship should be built upon truth.

5. Women’s Participation

Now women have right to participate in any way they like, as in legal, political, economic, social, educational, etc. Many women participate in government administration. They jumped down as a politician. Moreover, the president of Indonesia is a woman.
Nora’s participation is expressed in social life as the Norwegian women. Women’s participation expressed in the play can be seen when Nora tries to work hard every night.

“Nora: well, then I have found other ways of earning money. Last winter I was lucky enough to get a lot of copying to do; so I locked myself up and sat writing ever evening until quite late at night. Often I was desperately tired; but all the same it was tremendous pleasure to sit there working and earning money. It was like being a man”. (ADH: 15)

Women participation also presented in conversation between Nora and Krogtad when they debate about the law and position.

“Nora: I don’t believe it. Is a daughter not to allowed to spare her dying father anxiety and care? Is a wife not to be allowed to save her husband’s life? I dn’t know much about law; but I’m certain that there must be laws permitting such things as that. Have you no knowledge of such laws-you who are a lawyer? You must be a very poor lawyer, Mr. Krogstad.”( ADH: 26)

Women’s emancipation is a vitally important question for the working class, because the militant unity of all sections of the working class, fighting side by side, is essential to the success of the proletarian revolution.

D. Conclusion

Ibsen's A Doll's House is often seen as a play about feminism. This is because Nora Helmer comes to realize that she has been married to a man who cares nothing for her or her sacrifices to save his life but only for his reputation. With this discovery, Nora decides to leave at a time when society could not conceive of the act of a woman abandoning her family.

According to Ibsen, a great wrong has been done to women, since the right to act for them has been taking away. Ibsen pleads for women to be
given the right to be free to access a situation and act for themselves. Ibsen proves that the true happiness of everyone lies in oneself; everyone needs to find out who he or she really is and to become that person, and living a lie will lead into destruction, the true relationship should be built upon truth.

Based on feminist analysis, the writer knows about the changing of major character’s personality. It shown by women’s fight against patriarchal culture to get equality. It shows Nora’s struggle to be equal with men. These equalities are equality in position, right, role, and participation.

Women’s position in this play is Nora’s position as a mother and wife. She founded many problems after her happiness with her husband, especially in social life, law, and freedom. She could not do what she wants to do. The women’s position gives some emancipation to a woman’s to explore their mind and what they want to do in the society. And have the same position as the men in society.

All people have right. They are free to do what they want, but there is role that must be done by them. Nora’s right in this pay is right to achieve freedom and to get the real identity. Nora’s had freedom to reach her freedom to be a free woman in Norwegian without leave with a person who makes her likes a doll.

By the end, the marriage breaks apart due to a complete lack of understanding. Together in wedlock, Nora and Torvald are incapable of realizing who they are as individuals.

"A Doll's House" shows Ibsen's view on a variety of topics. Ibsen presents what he thinks about men and women's role in society, equality between genders, and feminism."A Doll's House" is truly a modern classic and will be held as a model for women's rights for years to come.


VIRTUAL REFERENCE

A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen. www.globlalgrey.co.uk (accessed 2015-01-13)
