

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

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).

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 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

Marriage is an interpersonal relationships (usually intimate and sexual) are acknowledged by the state. Marriage is the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law (Marriam Webster).

Marriage is an event that an agenda is pronounciation 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)

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 written by Henrik Ibsen. *A Doll's House* was published on December 4, 1879, and first performed in Copenhagen on December 21, 1879. The work was considered a publishing event and the play's initial printing of 8,000 copies quickly sold out. The play was so controversial that Ibsen was forced to write a second ending that he called "a barbaric outrage" to be used only when necessary. The controversy centered around Nora's decision to abandon her children, and in the second ending she decides that the children need her more than she needs her freedom. Ibsen believed that women were best suited to be mothers and wives, but at the same time, he had an eye for injustice and Helmer's demeaning treatment of Nora was a common problem. Although he would later be embraced by feminist, Ibsen was no champion of women's rights; he only dealt with the problem of women's rights as a facet of the realism within his play. His intention was not to solve this issue but to illuminate it (Tornqvist, 1995)

Besides writing *A Doll's House* Ibsen also wrote another play called *Public Enemy*. In the play of public enemies is the struggle between hypocrisy and greed on the one hand, and the ideal of personal honor on the other hand, there is the exposition in *Ghosts* of tragedy-fate darker and even more than in *Oedipus*, and each of the existing social dram, as under unforgiving microscope lenses, some moral cancer (Thomas, 1983).

Ibsen forced the character to examine their past, conditions which community they have, and the methods by which they have get their smaller own ambitions, so they could pronounce judgment on themselves. This action is still for the most part concerned with the action of men and the outside life, relation with the community and the world, and its themes have largely done with moral and ethical human relationship with human (McFarlane, 1994).

Ibsen was born March 20, 1828, in Skien, Norway, a lumbering town south of Christiania, now Oslo. He was the second son in a wealthy family that included five other siblings. In 1835, financial problems forced the family to move to a smaller house in Venstop outside Skien. After eight years the family moved back to Skein, and Ibsen moved to Grimstad to study as an apothecary's assistant. He applied to and was rejected at Christiania University. During the winter of 1848 Ibsen wrote his first play, *Catiline*, which was rejected by the Christiania Theatre; it was finally published in 1850 under the pseudonym Brynjolf Bjarme and generated little interest. Ibsen's second play, *The Burial Mound*, was also written under the pseudonym Brynjolf Bjarme, and became the first Ibsen play to be performed when it was presented on September 26, 1850, at the Christiania Theatre (McFarlane, 1994).

In his lifetime, his plays are often considered a scandal, when Victorian values in family life and propriety in Europe. Any challenge to it is considered immoral and arouse anger. Ibsen's works investigate the realities

that lay behind many walls, and unpack its contents a lot of things that evoke anxiety many of his contemporaries (McFarlane, 1994).

Although Ibsen's depiction of Nora realistically illustrates the issues facing women, his decision in the Act II to have her abandon her marriage and children was lambasted by critics as unrealistic, since, according to them, no "real" woman would ever make that choice. That Ibsen offered no real solution to Nora's dilemma inflamed critics and readers alike who were then left to debate the ending ceaselessly. This play established a new genre of modern drama; prior to *A Doll's House*, contemporary plays were usually historical romances or contrived comedy of manners. Ibsen is known as the "father of modern drama" because he elevated theatre from entertainment to a forum for exposing social problems. Ibsen broke away from the romantic tradition with his realistic portrayals of individual characters and his focus on psychological concerns as he sought to portray the real world, especially the position of women in society (McFarlane, 1994).

"The League of Youth" (1869) was Ibsen's first venture into realistic social drama and marks a turning-point in his style. In 1879, Ibsen was convinced that women suffer an inevitable violation of their personalities within the context of marriage. In "*A Doll's House*", he portrayed the wife struggling to break free: this was unheard of at the time and Ibsen's play caused a sensation. Continuing the theme of tensions within the family in "The Lady from the Sea", Ibsen put forward the view that freedom with responsibility might at least be a step in the right direction.

*A Doll's House* play tells about a household circumstances that began with harmonious and ends with divorce. This play tells about Nora is apparently happily married to Torvald, who is a lawyer to take over the post of director of the Joint Stock Bank. They have three small children (Rosefeldt, 2003).

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 ( Tornqvist, 1995).

Ever since then she has saved some of the housekeeping money in order to pay back the loan with interest, and she has taken on small jobs to earn some money herself. When the play opens, an old friend of Nora's, Mrs. Linde, has arrived in town to look for work, and Nora sees to it that Torvald gives her a post at the bank. But this means that Krogstad is dismissed from his post at the bank, and in desperation he goes to Nora and threatens to tell Torvald about the loan and the forgery unless he is allowed to keep his post (Thomas, 1983).

Nora is despairing but at the same time convinced that in his love for her, Torvald will sacrifice himself and take full responsibility for what she has done, if he learns the truth. Nora considers asking Dr. Rank, an old friend of the family, about the money, but when he declares his love for her, she finds it impossible to ask him. Torvald finds out what has happened, and reacts with rage and revulsion, without any sign of being willing to accept responsibility for the forgery (Rosefeldt, 2003).

Mrs. Linde, who was in love with Krogstad in the past, gets him change his mind and withdraw his threats. But Nora has begun to understand that her marriage is not what she thought it was, and in the course of a dramatic conversation with Torvald she decides that her most important and only task is to go out into the world on her own to "bring herself up", and she leaves her husband and children ( Tornqvist, 1995).

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. 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.

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in analysing this play. Firstly, *A Doll's House* play is a depiction of the realities of life with all kinds of problems. Secondly, *A Doll's House* play deals explicitly with themes of identity, in which a women struggling to find her identity. Thirdly, *A Doll's House* play also reflects destructiveness of a family. Last, marriage becomes the main issue of this play is reflected well.

Relating to all the descriptions above, the writer uses feminist approach. Feminist approach is the theory that a generic label for perspective or group of theories that exploit the meaning of the concepts of gender. Feminist theory observes that many aspects of life regardless of biological sex, including gender is understood in quality of language, employment, family roles, education, and socialization (Beasley, 1999)

Feminist theory aims to dismantle the power and limits of the power-sharing. Power is the classification of a class or status by sex (genderisasi). Feminist theory and emphasizes the oppressive nature of gender relations. Oppressive nature is inherently hard and pressing. Socialist feminism tried to dismantle the roots of women's oppression and offer an alternative ideology that is: a socialist. Oppression against women will not end as long as they continue the implementation of the system of capitalism. This is said to be the marginalization of the role of women as part of a product of social, political, economic and related to the existence of capitalism as a system. Here oppression is rooted in the existence of classes in society. At first, Friedrich

Engels describes the classic book *The Origin of the Family, Private property and the States* (1884). Deterioration of women not because of technological developments, not because women are mentally weak and power (so it must be protected by a man), not because of other reasons, but because of the emergence of social classes ( Ratna, 2004)

Based on the data above, the writer analyzes *A doll's house* play by using feminist approach to dig up major and minor characters marriage reflected at Henrik Ibsen entitled *Marriage Reflected in Henrik Ibsen in A doll's house play by Henrik Ibsen (1879): A Feminist Approach*. To achieve the purpose study, the writer analyzes the play on its nature of literary, nature of author and nature of society.

## **B. 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. The first researcher about *A Doll's House* is conducted by Karlita Masha Eman (Fakultas Sastra Universitas Sam Ratulangi) entitled *Konektifitas Ide, Perilaku dan Artefak Dalam A Doll's House Karya Henrik ibsen*. She concludes that Henrik Ibsen *A Doll's House* is considered as the problems of her research that is how does ibsen connect the Idea, behavior and material culture in *A Doll's House*, and the objective of her research is to recognize the ways Ibsen connect the idea, behavior, and material culture in *A Doll's House*.

The second researcher was conducted by Christina Kelley Forshey (Liberty University:2008) entitled "*Ibsen's Female Characters in Captivity: An Exploration of Literature and Performance*". She concludes In Henrik Ibsen's plays, *A Doll's House*, *The Wild Duck*, *The Lady from the Sea*, and *Hedda Gabler*, the theme of captivity is demonstrated in the female protagonists Nora, Hedvig, Ellida, and Hedda. The theme of captivity also serves as a

performance guide for the portrayal of these characters. Ibsen's female protagonists are in bondage to an object or person that manipulates the character's mental and emotional senses. The character's inner captivity reaches a climax where a decision must be made to abolish the chains of captivity or forever remain enslaved.

The third study has been conducted by Andrew Finch and Heebon Park-Finch (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 fourth researcher has been conducted by Dwi Sulistyowati entitled *Deconstruction Analysis in Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House*. Some of the important research findings are stated as follows; firstly, the character of Nora as the main character can be categorized as a round character and based on the character, the appearance of Nora's character is presented by using dramatic technique. Secondly, the writer finds logo-centrism, phono-centrism, binary opposition, and trace. Thirdly, the writer finds the author unconsciously uses the patriarchy system in the play. Nora Helmer's husband uses stereotype



system which makes her as peripheral woman, but actually she refuses her husband's system.

The fifth researcher was conducted by Vivi Yulian (Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, 2000) entitled *Nora's Idea about Feminism As Reflected in Ibsen's A Doll's House*. The researcher discusses three problems. The writer is discussing about the characterization of the female character in the play, Nora is the main focus of the analysis. The second point is to see what oppression that Nora undergoes. The last point is to present Nora's revolt from the injustice situation suppressing her.

The sixth researcher was conducted 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*. The writer analyzes the similarity of character and three woman personals in the three different plays, entitled Hedda Gabler, Rosmersholm, and *A Doll's House* written by Henrik Ibsen. The three plays adopt the problems that happen in the household and society in the 19th Century. The three woman characters have life their self, but they have similarity of character in confronted all of problems.

The seventh researcher was conducted by Ishomuddin (Islamic State University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta 2014) entitled *Patriarchy in Ibsen's A Doll's House*. The writer analyzes man's domination through patriarchal system in *A Doll's House* drama by using Marxist feminism theory. Firstly, the writer analyzes the relation between man and woman in a family life including work divisions. Then, the writer explains the influences received by woman and writer 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 eighth study was conducted by Guo Yuehua (Canadian Social Science, 2009) entitled *Gender Struggle over Ideological Power in Ibsen's A*

*Doll's House*. The writer analyzes gender relations in the form of power struggle, various conflicts between male and female are exposed to indicate the intensiveness of the gender struggle in winning over their control. Though men manipulated their power in an open way, women demonstrate their ideological strength with their forceful challenge of masculine power in a more tactful way, and deconstruct the traditional myths of gender roles.

The ninth study has been conducted by Fatemeh Ghafourinia and Leila Baradaran Jamili (Islamic Azad University-Boroujerd Branch, Iran) entitled the Women's Right in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. The writer investigates the role of women and their right in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* (1879). The writer will show the untrue system of marriage, stressing on individuality of women and fighting for their freedom, in addition protesting to all restriction in society.

And the last study has been conducted 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 writer explains the absurd elements on situation disillusion and futility as well as the protagonist feeling alienated in *A Doll's House* Play. The writer uses the descriptive method of analysis.

Based on the descriptions, the researchers above are different with the writer because the researcher uses the different theory and approach. The writer here wants to conduct a study on Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* play on feminist approach. The writer focuses on the reflection of the Marriage in *A Doll's House* play. The similarity of these researches are the use of *A Doll's House* play (1873) as the data source.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of this research is "how is marriage reflected at Henrik Ibsen *A Doll's House* play?"

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

#### **E. 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.

#### **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 large of body knowledge, especially the literary study on *A Doll's House play* (1973)

##### 2. Practical Benefit

This study is wished to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other student of Muhammadiyah Uneversity 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* (1873) based on feminism approach.

#### **G. Research Method**

In this research, the writer analyzes Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House play* (1873). 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 is research

which results in the descriptive data in the form observed people or behavior. 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 by Henrik Ibsen which is published in 1873. It is analyzed by using feminist approach.

## 3. Type of the Data and Data Source

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

### a. Primary Data

The data primary are the main data obtained from all the words, dialogues, phrases and sentences in the play. The primary data 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 play. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information related to the play.

## 4. Technique of the Data Collection

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

- a. Reading the play 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. Selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study

f. Drawing the conclusion of the data analysis that has already done in the former chapter and formulating its pedagogical suggestion

#### 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis of content. The steps of technique of the data analysis are compiled as follows:

1. Analyzing the Structural elements of the play. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the play
2. Trying to decide the sociological analysis of the literary work. Focus will be paid on the meaning of marriage
3. Making discussion of the finding
4. Making conclusion

### **H. Paper Organization**

The organization of this study is explained in order the reader can understand the content of the paper easier.

Chapter I is introduction, which contains background of the study, literary review, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is Underlying theory, it describes the theory of feminism, notion of marriage, structural elements of the play and theoretical application. Chapter III is social background of Norwegia society in the late of twentieth century. Chapter IV is Structural analysis; it coves (1) the structural elements of *A Doll's House* play; it consists of narrative elements of the play such as characteristics and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme; (2) Discussion. Chapter V is present feminist analysis of *A Doll's House* play. The writer will present feminst analysis which relates human facts, collective subject, world view, structure of work, dialectical conception

between comprehension and explanation, and discussion. Chapter VI is the last chapter of this research paper consist of conclusion and suggestion.