

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Holdsworth and Luckhurst (2008:1) says that in most cases, literature is referred to as written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be considered as literature in the more exact sense of the word. Literature then, can be said as a creative writing by an author with aesthetic values which makes literature regarded as an art. Baldick (2001:2) also states that the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature.

Literature is produced by imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination. Literature has three general genres, they are drama, poetry, and prose. Literature obtain vast subjects including woman role variously appears in literary works .

The object of this research is a drama written by henrik Ibsen entitled *A Doll House*. The word ‘drama’ is derived from the Greek word ‘dran’ means ‘to do’ or ‘to act’. The drama itself comes from the Greek language, namely draomai meaning to do, act, and so on (Klarer 2004: 43). The word drama can be

interpreted as an act or action. In general, the definition of drama is a literary work written in the form of dialogue and with the intent to be demonstrated by the actors (Meyer, 2010: 593). Staging drama play can be known by the term theater. Drama can also be said as a story that is exhibited on stage and based on a play. Character is one of drama's intrinsic element which shows who are in the play.

In Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House* there is one unique female character that is Nora. Nora is an ordinary woman who daily as a housewife and takes care of her husband and children. On the other hand, Nora do some things that he meant to help her family but it is not in accordance with what is allowed by the community. Nora, thus become alienated from her role as housekeeper. The form of harmony of the household Nora and her husband Torvald gradually uncover the restrictions on the role of women in the family and the economy. In the end she has to leave his husband and three children. Indeed this is a hard choice for Nora, but she can pass through it with a sense of happiness because she knows that real happiness is waiting for her out there. Overall, though Nora had a very confusing dilemma, she managed to determine her course of life, in line with what she had hoped for and anticipated. Therefore, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House* represent an unique women role issue.

Henrik Ibsen is an influential Norwegian dramatist. He played a major role in the development of realistic drama and was called as the father of modern drama (Abrams and Harpham, 2009: 287). Some say that Ibsen is the author of the drama whose work is most played in the world after Shakespeare. In his lifetime,

his dramas were often judged scandalous (Ghafourinia and Jamili, 2014), when Victorian values were upheld in family life and propriety in Europe. Every challenge to him is considered immoral and provokes anger. Henrik Ibsen's work investigates the realities that lie behind many walls, and its contents unravel much of the things that arouse the anxieties of many of his contemporaries.

There are various approaches to literature review. In this research, related to the topic discussed, the researcher chose feminism approach. The approach of feminism in literary studies is often known as the critique of feminist literature. Feminist comes from the word femme which means woman. Feminism is a movement of equality between men and women in all fields of politics, economy, education, social and organized activities that defend women's rights and interests. Feminism also is an awareness of the oppression and extortion of women in society, both in the workplace and household (Abrams and Harpham, 2009: 223).

Woman role has been an widely discussed issue in various generations from time to time. The role of women is often a debate. Many people think women should get a bigger role in people's lives. On the other hand, there are those who see women as having only a role in domestic domains or domestic life. The progress of the times has greatly changed the view of women in this country. The view that women only have the right to care for a home has changed with the emancipation that causes women to have the same rights as men.

In the play, *A Doll's House* , Ibsen wants to show Torvald Helmer as an immature human being. His sense of power and of direct domination harms his

own development as a normal human being. He is found to be a representative of a dominating class. Despite characteristic state of his intellect, he fails to find out the gaps in Nora's accusation against him and her own lapse. Like a coward, he takes all her allegations because of his immature wit and knowledge. Finally, he tries to compromise with Nora as a conjugal unit. Due to mutual domination and insincere effort, Helmer's family becomes empty and finally they chose to divorce.

Both Ibsen and Crothers dramatize many problems faced by women: the conflict between marriage and love; motherhood and profession, unfairness of the double standard; alienation of a single career woman; hollowness of marriage; and opposition faced by the powerful women. They try to bring not only new women to the stage, but also new ground by directing, staging, and casting their plays on the center-stage. Their plays are of importance in the history of the development of social drama in the field of English literature. They represent women in various social problems and with various perspectives of male against female. They reflect social forces which shape women's activities and aspirations, where they are the New Women in search of power, identity, and freedom as an imaginary vehicle of fulfillment to achieve both a sense of self and freedom from the male ego's limited perception. Their female characters are preeminent in merit, intelligence, firmness, and integrity. They have given women vigorous and strong voice through portraying the characters, including- Nora Helmer, Mrs. Alving, and Susan Trexel to highlight superstitious faith, religious orthodox, alienating attitudes, and psychological conflicts.

The important targets in the analysis of literary feminism (Cuddon, 2013: 178), as far as possible relate to the following. The first is to reveal the works of past and present women writers to be clear the image of women who feel suppressed by tradition. The dominance of patriarchal culture must be clearly expressed in the analysis. The second is to uncover various pressures on female characters in works written by male authors. The third is to reveal the ideology of female and male authors, how they view themselves in real life. The fourth is to assess from the gynocritic aspect, that is understanding how the feminist creative process whether female authors have a specificity in style and expression or not. The last is to reveal the aspect of feminist psychoanalysis, namely why women, both figures and authors, prefer the delicate, emotional, affectionate, and so forth.

This research intends to find out the views of Henrik Ibsen as author of *A Doll's House* in describing the role of women in his work. Therefore, the analysis of women role with feminist approach is fascinating enough to be conducted. This research, thus, entitled **“The Role of woman in family as depicted in Henrik Ibsen’s “A Doll’s House: A Feminist Approach.”**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher identified some problems:

1. Women role in household as seen in Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll House*;
2. Woman role in family economy as seen Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll House*;

3. Endearment of woman as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*;
4. Divorce as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*.
5. Male domination in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of problem, the writer has chosen tow problems.

The researcher wants to analyze:

1. Male domination as seen Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*;
2. Women role in household as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*;

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Related limitation of the problem, the researcher has formulated the problem found above into research questions as follows:

1. How is male domination depicted as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*?
2. How is woman role in household depicted as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The purpose of this research is:

1. To find out the depiction of male domination as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*?
2. To find out the depiction of woman role in family economy as seen in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*?

1.6 Significance of the Research

This research has significance that were divided into two:

a. Theoretical Aspect

This research is expected to enrich the study of woman in literary work.

b. Practical Aspect

This study is meant to encourage the students to study more about literature particularly about woman role.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Woman : Woman is term that sexually differs to man. Woman does mean sexual kind of human being but more than that it reflect social function of female in society.

Role : A function or part performed especially in a particular operation or process. The role of someone in society is based on gender. The role of gender is perceived as something that can change and can be adjusted to the conditions experienced by a person.

Feminism : Feminism is a social movement that comes out as a response to oppression against women as indicated by discrimination, marginalization and violence. It is also the

view that women only have the right to care for a home has changed with the emancipation that causes women to have the same rights as men.