

NORA'S ACTIONS AS A HOUSEWIFE IN FACING PATRIARCHAL
OPPRESSION AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM AS REFLECTED IN
HENRIK IBSEN'S PLAY A DOLL'S HOUSE:

A MARXIST FEMINIST READING

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Tesis ini membahas drama *A Doll's House* karya Hendrik Ibsen yang menggambarkan tentang kondisi rumah tangga Nora Helmer di Norwegia pada abad ke 19. Lewat penggambaran tokoh utama drama tersebut, Nora Helmer, sebagai seorang istri yang menghadapi tekanan sistem patriakal dan masalah ekonomi, segala tindakannya harus melalui sepengetahuan suami. Sayangnya, Nora tidak pernah mendapatkan rasa hormat dari sang suami bahkan Nora tidak boleh memberikan pendapat untuk sang suami apalagi mengajukan diri untuk memiliki pekerjaan diluar rumah. Namun akhirnya ia menyadari bahwa sebagai seorang istri, ia pun berhak untuk dihargai dan ia pun berhak mengeluarkan pendapat dan pekerjaan rumah tangga yang dilakukan oleh istri bukanlah suatu pekerjaan remeh yang juga harus dihargai.

Dalam menganalisa drama ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan Marxist Feminist dari Flora Tristan yang didukung oleh pendekatan Marxist Feminist oleh Rosemary Putnam Tong karena drama ini memperlihatkan kemajuan-kemajuan wanita dalam mendapatkan hak untuk dihargai dalam bidang ekonomi dan lingkungan sosial. Pandangan rendah bukan hanya tertuju pada pekerja wanita yang bekerja diluar rumah tetapi juga dalam rumah tangga. Karena pada hakekatnya rumah tangga merupakan konsep terkecil dari sistem ekonomi dan sosial.

Dari hasil analisa penulis terhadap drama *A Doll's House*, penulis dapat menyimpulkan bahwa ketidakadilan dalam sistem ekonomi dan sosial tidak hanya di alami oleh wanita yang bekerja di luar rumah tetapi sesungguhnya ketidakadilan tersebut juga terjadi di dalam rumah tangga sebagai pengaruh sistem patriakal dan juga sistem sosial dalam masyarakat saat itu.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

Literary work is a kind of writing that has been valued as work of art. Literary work reflects human life and it can influence human's life too. As it is closed to human life, almost all of the literary works tend to talk about human's experiences. Sometimes this experience is produced to show off the reality of a human in certain time. One part of literary work is drama. The most experience of human that often discusses in a drama is about women's life. There are so many women's emancipations nowadays, women struggle for being equal with men and having a voice in society. In fact from time to time, the inequalities between men and women still exist. Discussing about women is an interesting story. The conversations and debates about gender role, polygamy, and sexual violence are very beneficial.

In this research, I want to analyze a drama by Henrik Ibsen entitled A Doll's House written in 1879. At that time the revolution had been happening in Europe since 1848. Ibsen was one of the writers that pro-feminism. "Women were winning the vote not just in Britain but in many other countries worldwide. In Canada, the USA, Germany, Sweden and in Norway where Hendrik Ibsen's plays (A Doll's House 1879, The Wild Duck 1884, Hedda Gabler 1890) had protested

against women's subjection" (Watkins 79). As the result, the emergence of a new modern perspective in literary and dramatic world comes into being. Affected by this perspective, the spirit of revolution and the emergence of modernism had made the choice of Ibsen's realist drama focus on a housewife.

Being a housewife is often thought as a trifling job and it is hardly ever got a respect. Many people think that women only get discrimination or disrespect of economic and political aspect when they have a work outside of house. However, women do not only get such disrespect outside, but also inside their house. So, this research is conducted in order to show women's movement in economic and political aspect and being a housewife is also the same as being a labor outside the house. Then, A Doll's House is concerned with the women as a housewife and their roles in economic aspect. They also hold important role in human life. It refers to major characters; Nora Helmer whom I observe her character in the play as what it is seen in Marxist feminism. Marxist Feminism is one of feminist theories that believe women also need to be looked as a worker and they have many contributions in economic life.

"There are long political traditions stretching back to the nascent fight for women's emancipation in nineteenth century. As early as 1854, Norwegian women acquired inheritance rights. But it was not until the 1890s that married women gained the right to control their own wealth. Prior to the start of industrialization in the nineteenth century, women's role was entirely subservient to men. Industrialization gave women new

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the drama A Doll's House by Hendrik Ibsen, I found a conclusion that the main character Nora Helmer has shown that a housewife is also a worker that needs to be honor. After all of the things that Nora has done, it shows that she has women's movement especially a wife who is tied by the patriarchal system and old thought of society about women. A housewife is also a worker and woman does it without being paid whether in salary or a respect. The steps that Nora takes to fulfill her family economic problem, it can be said as her own economic needs, this action also brings the impact to her family's economic needs.

Nora has done many jobs such a being a housewife, doing some actions by borrowing money, and she has also done some copying work. These jobs can be categorized as women's movement. It has a long time, women are expected to become a housewife and doing many jobs of household such as taking-care children, cooking, and keeping a house, but they have never been paid. A thought that husband has given money to his wife as their respect, this thought needs to be changed. This money is not a respect. This money is used by husbands for running the household production. This is housewives' condition in nineteenth century.

The character of Nora also had shown that the women's condition under patriarchal system in nineteenth century, the housewife's condition which was

under the patriarchal system and the social condition of Norway at that time. Since the industrial revolution and the emergence of modernism made the social condition of the people of Norway in nineteenth century was also influenced. If a woman wants an independent in working, she has to free from the marriage relationship. So, women struggle in economic system is not only happened when women have a job outside the house. Actually, the struggle is happened by women, especially the women from middle and upper-class. They struggle to get the rights of women from patriarchal system and they also struggle in order to change the society's thought about married women.

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