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Realism in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*

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Abstract

A Doll's House was written by Henrik Ibsen and held a very important position in the history of European plays. Ibsen explores reality which was happening 19th century society. This paper is an attempt to understand how Doll's house portrays the status of women in the 20th century. This paper will also explore how social realism has been used in this play. This paper will analyze how does a marriage portray in the play.

Keywords: Realism, Socialidealism, Feminism, marriage, freedom.

1. INTRODUCTION

Henrik Johan Ibsen was a Norwegian playwright and one of the founders of modernism. He was referred to as the Father of Realism. He was the first modern playwright of realism who revolts against the tradition of romanticism. Through his play, he explores all the social hypocrisy and pretense. A Doll's House revolves around a couple with three children n who live middle-class life but this social realism changes Nora's life which leads her to leave her family and seeking freedom. It is a realist play that portrays controversial ideas of the time. In this play, he explores mindset of the audience in 19th- century society. Through his work, we can see how the middle-class people were used to work hard in this filthy condition. Even these people don't have time to spend with children, playing games and eating cake. They spoke in a ruffle – free, a basic language adopted for this play. Ibsen never showed something new to the people. He expresses exactly what happening in that society and also talks about their inner secret which they kept hidden. He highlighted the forced role women were taught to play, the deceptive appearance wore daily, and expressed this idea using the

people's realistic style of speech. He used the simplistic writing style " The poor little mites are playing with their present ". These are lines were spoken when Nora says about her children. Even he portrays the setting of the play. Ibsen listed the props which bring a sense of reality and also want the audience to feel truly setting in Helmer's living room. Nora was only concerned about her house and family. The outside world is not important for her including laws. Therefore, they never showed the outside world Ibsen's setting of the play is focused on Nora's household work. It would be easy to get distracted by the Krogstad and Mrs. Linde relationship.

1.1 Research Objectives

Given the statement of the problem, the study has set the following objectives:

- Analyzing how marriage is portrayed in Ibsen's A Doll's House.
- Exploring how Ibsen uses the tool of social realism in this play to show the real faces of society.

To find out the way how the role of women uses in Ibsen's A Doll's House. The study has framed the following research questions:

- How does the play use the theme of social realism in A Doll's House?
- How does the play bring about the role of women in the 20th century?
- How does the play portray the marriage in A Doll's House?

2. METHODOLOGY

This qualitative study has used literature review as a prime tool of data collection. As for data analysis, the study has used analytic induction and content analysis to analyze the collected data.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND FINDINGS

In the play, A Doll's House, the title itself explores the dependent and dehumanized role of the wife within traditional middle-class society. His work gives a sense of actuality even. The object in A Doll's House stands for social idealism, feminism, realism. Ria Peburantari article titled "Marriage Reflected in Henrik Ibsen A Doll's House (1879): Feminism Approach " explore feminism marriage system in A Doll's House harms women's because women are marginalized and oppressed. Md. Nesar Uddin in his scholarly article titled " Nora on Ibsen's A Doll's House and Komolin Saratchandra's Shesh Proshno: A Comparative Study from a Feminist Perspective" explore woman repression. Both of these writers celebrated as claimed for presenting woman questions in their work. to restructuring social construct about woman status in society.

R. S.Ragavi in his scholarly article titled "feminism analysis of Henrik Ibsen A Doll's House " explores the play from a feminist perspective . The paper explores primarily a desire of a woman to establish her identity and dignity is governed by men. This paper will show the system of marriage norms, fighting

for individual identity and their freedom. Andrew Finch and Heebon Park – Finch, in their scholarly article titled "A Post – Feminism, Evolutionist Reading of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House" explore the play from the post-feminist and evolutionary perspective. They explore Nora's character beyond idealism, over the sympathetic representation of women as has been observed often. Rather they examine the characters of the play in the light of the evolutionist theory by analyzing how these characters evolve and adapt to the strict hierarchal society by devising survival strategies such as flattery, deception, and denial. Arburim Iseni and Amir Hossain in their scholarly article titles "Symbolic Realism in Ibsen's A Doll's House: An overview " explore the realistic attitude towards 19th-century society. They attempt to make use of symbolism, metamorphosis, the art of characterization, and unity of opposites of Ibsen's moral, social, and economic problems. Toril Moi in this scholarly article "First and Foremost a Human Being": Idealism, Theatre, and Gender in A Doll's House" by. In this paper, he explores modernism, gender, and idealism.

3.1 The Contrast between romanticism and realism

The main difference between the movements of Romanticism and Realism lies in social alliances. Romanticism is the idealism for a better world. Romantic writers believed that they can explore their beliefs and emotion in their writing. They gave more importance to human imagination and political restraints. But realism is more about the social condition. There is no more idealization of events instead they attempt to write about the present situation. They recreate the true nature of reality. Romanticism can be seen in Faust by Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, a play about the individual and his relations with the supernatural likewise Realism is shown in A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen a play about the household and the reality of marriage.

3.2 Realism in Drama

Realism begins in the last half of the 19th century as an experiment to make the audience realize about society. Even people did not believe in Romantic idealism. They realize that hard work and violence have become the true answer to their success. In this time period, they focus on social importance and how they affect realistically with others. They observe that life does not have any magical pattern in the same way they want in the Drama or Novel. Instead of joy, tragedies, comedies they want a realistic play. Literature has a sense of realism that they want to connect with the reader.

3.3 Realism in A Doll's House

Ibsen brings the true essence of realism in the play A Doll's House. The title itself explains the dehumanized role of women in middle-class society. A Doll's House stands for protagonist Nora, whose character explains the real action of the play. Though he was not a modernist, he revolts against social realism. This play is

the perfect example of realism and it lighted the forced role of women who use to hide their trouble before society and he uses realist form and style of writing. In this play, we can find the male domination, identity, and society Expectation. Nora was the wife of Torvald Helmer who lived in a comfortable house with three children. They have been married for eight years.

3.4 Social Idealism

In this drama, Ibsen explores the social idealism between Nora and Torvalds. In 19th century the male-dominated her wife and children likewise in this play Torvald is dominant to her family. when he finds out about the forgery he doesn't support this wife. His only concern is it shouldn't reveal to society and he doesn't want to lose his family name.

" Oh, what an awful awakening !" In all these eight years she who was my pride and joy a hypocrite, alien worse, worse -a criminal! How infinity disgusting it all is!The shame !".

He screams to Nora and tells her she does no influence over the children and Torvald. He's only concerned about the Krogstad quiet and he doesn't make trouble with the family. He only thinks about himself and his reputation.

3.5 Women identity in A Doll's house

The play A Doll's House was written in the 19th century when the woman was struggling for economic and social rights equal to men in society. At the beginning of the plays, Nora was dominated by her husband Torvald; she was signifying as Doll is something like an inanimate object with which her husband Torvald can play and enjoy seems it. Finally, she decided to leave the house and seeking freedom. Torvald is an intelligent man but he always dominates her. Her love for Macaroons: Nora eats macaroons secretly as they are forbidden in her in the house.

Through these lines, we come to know how she is dominating by her husband. He always says this wife not to eat her favorite macaroons because her teeth will become rot and fall. She always hides her dessert from Torvald. Even she had no freedom to eat her favorite food.

For Tarantella Dance, Torvald decides the dress for Nora.

In the meantime, Nora and Torvald plan to attend a masquerade party in which she will be dressing up to perform the tarantella. He controlled Nora as the Doll player basically he forced her to dress up and put her in front of the world. In this play, Nora acts as a doll ordered around by her father and husband.

Nora: No Torvald really, I promise you... I wouldn't do anything that you don't like

Nora was afraid of Torvald so that she promises that she never do anything against him. She herself feels like a child, the relationship between Nora and Torvald were as father and child instead of a husband and wife. He treats Nora as a little child who cannot make her own decision. Nora played the role of a

child her whole life, first under her father and now under Torvald. Nora hides the troubles and pain.

Through this play, Ibsen tries to explain to the readers that the women who lived in the 19th century they hide their hurt and pain behind their clothes and mask. After the revelation of Nora's crime, he was enraged. When Torvald shouts at Nora, she finally understands who he actually is.

Nora: I don't believe in that anymore in that anymore. I believe that, before all else, I'm a human being, no less than you – or anyways, I ought to try to become one

After the conversation

she reveals to Torvald that she has been treated like a doll and she decides to leave the house. she develops individualism and no longer listens to her husband. He wants the audience to identify how they treated Mrs. Linde and Mr. Rank.

Marriage Reflected in A Doll's House play :

As a play focused on the marriage of Nora and Mrs. Linde. In this play, Mrs. Linde and Nora are white Norwegian women. Both of them are childhood friends and they got married also. Nora was always devoted to her husband and children. According to Nora, her husband was a hardworking lawyer who tends to be domineering. Although he claims to love Nora, he envisions his wife to be more like a toy in a dollhouse. She believes that her husband respects her , protects her, and provides for her emotional and financial well- being. But in reality, he is a hypocrite. He always cares about his reputation and appearances. He never gave any respect to his wife and even never consider her as a human being. Although she thought her friend Mrs, Linde was suffering from a domineering husband but Nora's life has been a falsity. Mrs. Linde's first marriage was based on financial benefits. At the end of the play, we know she had a trusting relationship with Krogstad. Through Mrs. Linde

Ibsen clear about the stereotypical woman who is incomplete without a man to take care of her. He develops his contradiction of the romanticized version of marriage as bliss through the character of Nora and Mrs. Linde. Ibsen shows Nora's character as the necessity of individual freedom. She wants to be an independent person. She was not happy in her marriage life .she was treated as the doll wife of Torvald . she suppresses her desire to please him. Nora likes to have macaroons but Torvald doesn't allow her to eat. he wants to keep his wife to be attractive so he asks her took part in the fancy dress party. After the party, he forced her to go back home early after the tarantella dance. Torvald motive was to have sex with her but she refused it but he reminds her of duty as a wife. The word won't show his anger; in this way, he treated his wife.

As a married, she can't receive her letters and she was not allowed to work. through this example, we come to know how she treated her husband. At last, Nora realizes her husband's true identity so she leaves the house Now she got

freedom from her domestic work. Ibsen creates a female character Nora who chosen to leave her family to get freedom.

4. CONCLUSION

Ibsen's A Doll's House explores the reality which was happened in the 19th-century society. The play reveals the inner secrets and hidden desire of characters. He used realism to create the illusion reality. In this paper I tried explain the marriage, social idealism and characteristics of women in 19th-century.

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