

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human lives as an individual and a social creature. While human is acting as social creature, he or she tries to create various kinds of relationships with others. Moreover, the development of human relationship can be more complex since it happens between two different sexes, male and female. Besides, the crucial connection between male and female in family are sometimes confronted with the gender gap problem that causes domestic violence.

Domestic violence can occur to anyone all the time. This violence happens between intimate partner, family or heterosexual. This abuse attacks the victim physically or psychologically. Moreover, the abuser uses domestic violence in order to control his partner. Schechter in *Domestic violence: a national curriculum for family preservation practitioners* states that:

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and threatening behaviors that may include physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence as well as intimidation, isolation and coercion. The purpose of domestic violence is to establish and exert power and control over another; men most often use it against their intimate partners, which can include current or former spouses, girlfriends, or dating partners. (1995: 17-18)

It is clear that domestic violence is a portrait of violence against women who are perpetrated by their intimate partners. The violence includes physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence. Thus, domestic violence is also known as family abuse in which men often gain control over their partners through fear

and intimidation, isolation and coercion. Subsequently, family abuse occurs because of several aspects such as gender shift role, conservative social structure, masculinity, inequality of right, and so forth.

Generally, men are considered superior than women in a marriage. In this case, wives have to accept and obey all rules which are made by their husbands in many ways. Here, men become the leader of the family. Therefore, women have always been in difficult position. DeGenova states that patriarchy family is a family in which the father is head of the household with authority over other family members while patrilineal descent is inheritance that is traced through the male line (1990: 7). It implies that a man is always considered as a father and it means a man always becomes the leader and has a power to hold the rule in society. Here, the drama *A Doll's House* tells about the relationship between Helmer and Nora. Unfortunately, Nora always lives under Helmer's strict rule due to the fact that Helmer's position is more powerful than Nora. As the leader, Helmer controls and dominates everything which is conducted by Nora at home. Eventually, the way of Helmer treats Nora is considered as domestic violence.

Therefore, this research focuses to analyze the domestic violence which happens in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. It is domestic violent behavior within the family which makes men have the right to control women such as giving orders or telling her that she must comply in some manners because she is a wife.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Concerning the topic of the study, that is, the analysis of domestic violence in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, the problems are as follows:

1. What is the domestic violence done by Helmer toward Nora in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*?
2. What are the psychological effects of domestic violence experienced by Nora in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Due to the problems that are stated before, this research is aimed to answer the two questions as follows:

1. To describe domestic violence done by Helmer toward Nora in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.
- 2 To explain the psychological effects of domestic violence experienced by Nora in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

To get a detailed understanding of the topic in the discussion, it is important to limit the discussion. This study focuses on Henrik Ibsen's classic drama, *A Doll's House*. The drama is analyzed based on the kinds and the description of domestic violence that happens to Nora which is done by Helmer.

1.5 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this research will give new knowledge to the readers about types and manifestation of violence that they may never have heard or seen before. It is explained through the topic that domestic violence is not a taboo thing to be discussed since it can be solved. Indeed, domestic violence is something that is needed to be understood well that the preventive action may be taken.