

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Reading a literary work is not only a matter of looking for pleasure, but also learning about life. The readers can find many things closely related to daily life such as love, life, and also death. Literary work can represent daily life through the character's appearance. Through literary work, the teaching and the beauty of life can also be learned.

As it is said by Jones in *An Outline of Literature States*, "Literature is the form of art that uses words as a medium to express the ideas, feeling from experiences in our daily life. Moreover, Hudson (1965:10) state as follows :

Literature is the vital record of what men have seen life, they have experience of it, what they thought and felt about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and ending for all of us, it is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

The quotation above implies that literature is experience of life ; it is the reflection of the people's imagination through their thought and feeling. People can express their experience and imagination into the various forms of literary works by using language as a basic of literature through written works.

Literary work is one of the important things in human life. It can make people enjoyable and enrich their knowledge. Literature can be divided into three kinds, namely drama, prose, and poetry. By reading literary works, people keep in their mind any experience about life such as sadness, happiness, love, loyalty, conflict in life and death.

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Drama is a work of literature and the presentation of life and character through action and dialogues, some word action such as scenery, lightning, music and so forth. Reaske (1966 : 14) states that drama is a work of literature on composition, in which daily life and human activity by means of presenting various action of and dialogues between groups of character. Drama is the form of literature performed by actors and actress on the stage. By reading drama the other writers can improve their knowledge and their way of writing, such as in writing the character and society. Drama can excite our imagination, our creativity and our inspiration. The writer is interested in analyzing the drama entitled *A Doll's House* written by Henrik Ibsen.

A Doll House is a play created by Henrik Ibsen in 1879. It is a social drama on marriage, in which a woman refuses to obey her husband and walks out from her apparently perfect marriage. By the condition in Victorian period, the exploitation of women becomes stronger. Ibsen in *A Doll's House*, also shows the need of women liberation of exercising free will. "Men, either unconsciously or consciously, have oppressed women allowing them little or no voice in the political, social, or economic issues of their society" (Bressler,1999:180).

Furthermore in *Literary Criticism : An Introduction to Theory and Practice*, he also says that "women feminist declare, must define themselves and assert their own voices in the arenas of politics, society, education, and the arts. By personally committing themselves to fostering such change, feminists hope to create a society where the male and female voices are equally valued" (Bressler,1999:180).

In fact, male is very dominant in human life. Men have been portrayed as being more dominant than women. *A Doll's House* written by Henrik Ibsen tells about a husband named Torvald. He tries to fulfill all of his wife's need. Unfortunately, his wife Nora gets oppression by Torvald. The oppression that occurs in this story, such as Torvald loves Nora without realizing that he is overprotective to Nora. Consequently, Nora feels oppressed with this condition. In this drama, Torvald wants to have a family which can make him dominant in his family.

The writer chooses male supremacy in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* as the topic of the research because supremacy is the quality or state of having more power, authority, or status than anyone else. Therefore "supremacy" is the most interesting topic appearing in drama. Besides that, the writer finds that "supremacy" causes many complicated problems toward Torvald's daily life such as sadness, affair, oppression. All of them are very interesting to be analyzed in order to enrich knowledge about life.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The research has two problems that will be discussed. They are formulated as follows :

1. What kinds of male supremacy are conducted by Torvald in Henrik Ibsen's "*A Doll House*" ?
2. What are the effects of Torvald's male supremacy toward himself and Nora ?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

To answer for the problems that are stated above, the writer determines two important goals. They are as follows :

1. To explain about male supremacy conducted by Torvald in Henrik Ibsen's "*A Doll House*"
2. To explain the effects of Torvald's male supremacy toward himself and Nora.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

The writer limits the problem to discuss in order to get a detailed understanding of the topic of the discussion. In this research, the writer takes male supremacy in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. The writer would like to pay attention only on the kinds of male supremacy conducted by Torvald and the effects of male supremacy toward other characters. The characters that are discussed mainly in the research.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this research will be useful for the readers in getting knowledge about supremacy and its effects, both positive and negative, which are shown by Torvald in drama *A Doll's House* written by Henrik Ibsen. The readers will increase their knowledge and also their imagination about the effects of supremacy.

Furthermore, the result of the study is intended to stimulate other researchers to do further research on this drama and can be used as the important reference. The last, of course this thesis will be useful for the writer herself to enrich the horizon with the expression of life concerning with the drama.