

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Happiness is expected by everyone. Since she/he lives her/his own life, it is entirely her/his right to choose what she/he is going to have for the sake of herself/himself. But there is also the fact that not all human beings can accept it. There are several problems they have to face which influence their purpose. There are also some aspects or background that force them to face reality, to live in a real world, to survive comfortably. These aspects can be seen in true life, but sometimes it can also be seen from literary work. One of the plays written by Henrik Ibsen reflects this phenomenon.

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) is known as one of the remarkable Norwegian writers. He is one of the greatest modern literary writers and has his own characteristics that interests the writer. Ibsen has sometimes be called the “Father of Modern Drama,” probably because he is the first important playwright to realize in practice the profound possibilities of dramatic realism (Darmono, xviii). Although he is a Norwegian writer, he is regarded as the first modern writer because he emphasizes the importance of conflict between individual and society.

Ibsen’s plays have been performed in many important stages in five continents and they have also been staged in Broadway for years (Darmono vi). His works which is originally written in Norwegian, have been translated into many modern languages. Some of his works *Hedda Gabbler*, *The Wild Duck*, *The*

Pillar of Society, and *Peer Gynt* have also been translated into Indonesian language. They are translated by Sapardi Djoko Darmono and published by Yayasan Obor Indonesia, a well-known Indonesia's publisher. Therefore, it can be assumed that Henrik Ibsen is not only considered as a Norwegian or European writer, but also as a world writer (Darmono vii). His theme about conflict between individual and society can be appreciated not only by the Western but also the Eastern people.

The most important reason that makes the writer chooses Henrik Ibsen's work is never out of date theme. Most of Ibsen's plays are about human problems, psychological as well as social that as human beings, people always relate with. His major character is always concerned with his conscience. There is a large element intellectualism about his men and women. They are thinkers and feelers, constantly examining their personal inclinations and conflict (Squires 11).

One of Ibsen's greatest plays is *The Wild Duck*. It was written in Rome 1884 during Ibsen's long period of self impose exile (Meyer 1). His talent of creating symbols is shown in this play. The symbol is "the hub and the heart of the play, as though the symbol (*The Wild Duck*) is the magnet and the characters of the play are held together by this centripetal force" (Meyer 19).

The story is full of echoes from Ibsen's own childhood that involves creating his characters. Ibsen can well imagine how his memory of childhood, of his sister Hedvig, of his father who suffers the same of bankruptcy, of the furniture and books which he has in Venstop, where he lives subsequently (McFarlane 386). The main male character, Hjalmar Ekdal has been originally



based on a photographer named Edward Larsen who is naïve, pessimist, and an idle dreamer in which he has taken the oldest known photograph on him 1861-1862. Another main male character, Gregers Werle, is an idealist who feels that his mission is to preach truth and purity of soul whenever he can (Meyer 21). The story tells about Hjalmar Ekdal who lives under Haakon Werle's influence, a wealthy industrialist, in provincial of Norway. His aging father, Old Ekdal, an unfortunate lieutenant, Gina Hanson, his wife, Hedvig, an adoring daughter, Gregers, a young idealist and assortment of wildlife including pigeons, rabbit and of course the eponymous wild duck are the milieus which have great influence on him. These milieus summons him to live in his consciousness.

Viewing the title, *The Wild Duck*, the writer has certain curiosity. The word *wild* here possibly means the area far away from where most people live and *duck* is a word meaning the domestic animal of common water-bird. The title plays big roles, for it might express the content or the extract of the play. Compared to the story, *duck* probably represents Hjalmar Ekdal himself, or something more abstract like being powerless for instance. It does not block the possibility that duck might represent something else. Hjalmar Ekdal gets the spotlight because he is one of the main male characters. With the potency he has, he is convinced to vindicate the family honor and rehabilitate his old father by making a fortune as an inventor, but the double pose of righter of wrongs and of lonely man sustains and comforts him. If it is true that Hjalmar Ekdal is really a *duck*, there is another question about the reason of the duck to be wild. Furthermore it would be interesting to find out why Hjalmar's strive goes

fruitless. By looking at the flow of the story, it can be found whether the presumption is reasonable or not.

The Wild Duck is an interesting play to discuss. One of the main male characters here, Hjalmar Ekdal is a complicated person, not an ordinary man who can bear much reality, who mostly has expectation to gain something wonderful in his life. He has no capability of being an inventor even most of his income is provided by his wife. He does not know that his wife had once been secretly the mistress of the elder Werle and that he is not in the point of the biological fact of the father of his daughter. Later Hjalmar finds the fact that his marriage is related with his father's and Werle's previous partnership. The conflicts begin when Gregers came into his life. His plan is to bring Hjalmar and Gina closer to one another by revealing the false basis of their marriage, and construct genuine relationship in order to gain dignity.

In this study the writer is interested in making deeper understanding about psychological and sociological conflicts that lead the main male character's changes in his life, the reaction due to the influence of family and people around him. The writer tends to find the response and the intensity of the main character to face real life.

B. Statements of the problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer has formulated the problem and would like to find out answers through the following questions:

1. What does Hjalmar undergo that leads the changes in his life?

2. How is Hjalmar's reaction due to the truth of his family background viewed from psychological view point?
3. How is his reaction viewed from sociological view point?

C. Objective of the study

The study will be satisfactory and scientific by regarding to the objective of the study. Three objectives which the writer aims to achieve in this study are:

1. To describe the conflicts through the occurrences that change Hjalmar and lead him to ruin his happy family.
2. To discuss Hjalmar's reaction due to the truth of his family background viewed from psychological view point.
3. To discuss Hjalmar's reaction due to the truth of his family viewed from sociological view point.

D. Significance of the study

Study on psychological and sociological conflicts has much been done in literary research especially on the main character of plays or novels. But up to now psychological and sociological conflicts on the main character of Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* has not been found yet. Analysis on the conflicts of Hjalmar Ekdal as the main character will contribute the study of conflicts further in the literary study. The significant contribution especially lies on Hjalmar Ekdal's conflicts in relation with his acquaintances and family background. The writer also wishes the readers will be interested in reading other Ibsen's works besides *The Wild Duck*

because his works are worth studying regarding his aim to bring problem of ordinary people. The study about Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* especially on Hjalmar Ekdal hopes to add a new knowledge about how to face the real fact of life.

For a better understanding and a deeper appreciation on literature especially on Ibsen's play, the writer would like to expect the positive respond to increase the knowledge in the field of science. The writer also hopes that this study can enrich the reader's literary knowledge in general.

E. Scope and limitation

To give a deeper analysis, the writer would like to focus on Hjalmar Ekdal as the main male character in the play through character, plot, and setting. Further the writer would like to analyze psychological and sociological conflicts and its influences toward the main male character especially Hjalmar Ekdal. These elements are considered to be representative enough as the main elements in the play in which they are interrelated to one another to express the impression of the play.

F. Theoretical background

To reach the objective of the study that the writer has mentioned before, the writer will use a theory that is relevant to the problems and objectives. In this study, the writer uses intrinsic theory. It is an application of intrinsic elements based on literary work itself. The use of intrinsic theory is appropriate to analyze the character, plot, and setting. To give further analysis the writer also uses

approaches such as psychological approach of Abraham H. Maslow's concept of hierarchy needs and sociological approach of George Herbert Mead's *The Self*. These approaches discuss the responses of the main character toward the situation he faces and the environment where the main male character lives in, the people around him and the relationship he makes with them.

G. Method of the study

Firstly, the writer collects data. They include secondary and primary data. The secondary data consists of information from many books, articles, encyclopedias and other printed material related to the work of Ibsen, particularly *The Wild Duck*, to support the study. However, Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* is used as the main source to find the primary data focused on the psychological and sociological conflicts.

Then the following step after the data collecting is classifying them based on certain criteria to the validity. The validity of data should be found before the analysis is conducted in order it can be clearly shown that the data to be analyzed represent the main problem of the study. The classification of data is used to determine whether they will be analyzed or not- in this case not all the data found are analyzed- is based on the following criteria:

- a. The data are on the main character of Hjalmar Ekdal in *The Wild Duck*
- b. The data are on his psychological and sociological conflicts in the form of dialogues, events and actions.

The technique of analysis used is qualitative-descriptive. The primary data on conflicts found in the form of dialogues, events, and actions selected based on two criteria above are all categorized into qualitative data because they are narrative. The qualitative data are then described further intrinsically and extrinsically to find deep understanding of the conflicts viewed from psychological and sociological points of view.

F. Definition of key terms

In this analysis, the writer will use some important words, which are repeated many times.

Wild : animal, bird, etc that normally live in natural condition

Duck : the domestic animal of common water bird

Wild Duck : a real animal used in the play to symbolize Hjalmar Ekdal as a main male character that becomes wild after finding the truth of his family background.

Psychology : the scientific study of the mind and its processes

Sociology : study of the nature and growth of the society and social behavior.

CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND
RELATED STUDIES