

**CHAPTER III**  
**ANALYSIS OF HJALMAR EKDAL'S CONFLICTS**  
**VIEWED FROM INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC ASPECTS**

This chapter is the analysis on intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The first part of the sub chapter consists of intrinsic elements which are character, plot, and setting. These elements are to clarify the analysis about the subject of the chapter. The second part discusses the extrinsic aspect which are focused on psychological and sociological approaches. These approaches are to give clear connection between the main character's response and the environment he lives in.

**A. Intrinsic Analysis**

**A.1. Character**

The analysis of character focused on Hjalmar Ekdals as the main male characters of the play because all the major events involve him intensively. That is why more attention in the analysis is provided on his character.

Hjalmar Ekdals is the son of lieutenant Ekdals. He has been a favorite by his friends since he was Junior High School. At that time he was known as a poet and attractive student, but it is contradictory to his life today.

THE FLABBY GENTLEMAN: "Don't you have a nice little poem you could recite for us, Mr. Ekdal? You used to do that beautifully."

HJALMAR : I am sorry. I don't remember any

THE FLABBY GENTLEMAN: That a shame. Well, in that case , Balle, what do we do?" (Act I: 17)

The conversation above describes that in his youth, Hjalmar is melancholic. He often writes poem to express his idea beautifully. The statement of Hjalmar Ekdal's "I am sorry. I don't remember any" maybe means he really forgets his habit of writing poem or just shows his shame as stated by Flabby Gentleman "that's a shame". However, something important to know behind his habits of writing poem is, of course, his melancholy because poem is the product of a deep feeling. His melancholy cannot be separated from his life experience especially the inner conflicts he faces. Hjalmar is asked to recite the poem, but he refuses to do it. His refusal clearly shows the inner conflicts against his outer need done by Flabby Gentleman. Moreover Flabby Gentleman considers Hjalmar's refusal as a shame as stated "that a shame". The shame is an inner condition to protect himself against the unwanted fact. Therefore, Hjalmar cannot stand to attend Werle's party of Gregers' homecoming where most people know him as a melancholy.

GREGERS : "How is your father these days?

HJALMAR : I'd just as soon as not talk about him. My poor, unfortunate father lives with me of course. He has one else in the world to turn to. But it is so terribly difficult for me to talk about these things. Tell me how you have been-up there at the work."(Act 1: 13)

Hjalmar tries to reject his condition. He refuses to talk about his father, a lieutenant, who suffers of a guilt. His attitude and behavior change after he was accused of a false he never did. It makes Hjalmar so terrible to discuss about his past. It reminds his sadness since he feels difficult to open the dark secret that has been buried a long time ago. This refusal clearly shows that he tries to run away from the unfortunate fact so that he changes the topic of his discussion. It is quite different from most sons who are mostly proud of their parents. On the contrary Hjalmar is burdened with the talk about it. Further he convinces Gregers that he is capable of treating his father.

Relling considers Hjalmar as a friendly young man who amazes people around him.

RELLING : "All right, but after dear, sweet Hjalmar had taken up studying after a fashion-right he is a light of the future among his friends, too. He was handsome enough, he rascal- red and white, just the way little shop girls like the fellows. And he had this sentimental temperament and this warm hearted voice, and he could give such poetry declamation of other people's poetry and other people's thoughts.

GREGERS : (*indignantly*) Is this Hjalmar Ekdal you are describing?

RELLING : Yes, if you please. For this is what he looks like on the inside, the idol for you are prostrating yourself for."(Act V: 59)

In school Hjalmar is a favorite and diligent student. Gregers idolizes him for his talent and charm. Furthermore he often attracts others through his sentimental and warm-hearted which is often expressed by declaiming poetry that touches human's feeling. He is a light for his friends because of his talent and charm attract them deeply so he is regarded as an idol person.

There are some people who have close relationship with Hjalmar. The first is Gina Hanson. She is Hjalmar's wife who is some years older than he is. To Hjalmar, she always performs his cleverness and maturity that is guided by her experience as a maid in Werle's house a year before their marriage. She knows exactly that she has to take care of whatever is in her house. Their needs are mostly supported by her effort in the studio of photography. She does it so well that the job enables them to earn money. She continuously performs her warm hearted to Hjalmar although she knows that Hjalmar is not strong enough to maintain his responsibility as a husband and father. Her cleverness becomes the backbone of the household that has sustained the family for fourteen years by using it as a weapon to keep warmth and pleasing.

Besides Gina Hanson, Hjalmar has close relationship with Hedvig, his daughter. When her daughter is fourteen years old, she grows so fragile that everything around her has influenced her view deeply. She loves her parents and spends her time to devote them. She is really close to both her father and mother, supports them to work in the studio to earn money for their daily needs. She has lost her childhood since she quits studying. She has to stay at home, helping her parents, taking care of the animals that she regards as part of her world that

accompanies her lifetime. Her sensitivity breaks when she listens to her parents' quarrel of her origin. She assumes that her father is everything to survive. It is showed by her decision of killing her loved duck that leads her to suicide as the answer of her difficulties.

Lieutenant Ekdals is a former army that is discharged from his institution since he is accused of illegal operation and is sent to prison. This alters his behavior; he becomes a shameful, mysterious, and drunken person. He regards the animal on the attic as a real wild animal like his youth time. Fortunately he still gets income from Werle –his previous partner- as the payment for doing some work in the office.

Instead of his family, there are some people who give effect on Hjalmar both positively and negatively. They are Gregers, Molvik and Dr. Relling.

Gregers Werle is an idealist man whose mission in his life is to advocate and preach truth and purity of soul whenever he can. He considers that Hjalmar is the man who should be rescued from self-deception.

GREGERS : *“(in a low voice) You must join in Hjalmar !*

HJALMAR : *“(with a twist of his body) What am I to say?”*

THE FLABBY GENTLEMAN: Don't you believe, sir that Tokay may be considered relatively beneficial to the stomach?

WERLE : *“(by replacing the fireplace) I'll guarantee the Tokay you were served to night, at any rate. It is one of very best years. I am sure you noticed that yourself.*

THE FLABBY GENTLEMAN: Yes, it really was an usually delicate tasting.

HJALMAR : (*hesitantly*) Do the years differ?

THE FLABBY GENTLEMAN : (*laughs*) Ah. Mr. Ekdal! Splendid!(Act I: 15-16)

It is Hjalmar's frustration in joining the party. He feels difficult to adapt to people and topic he never knows. He is just an object of laughing that blocks him to talk further. The inner conflicts appear since he tries to adapt but he is just an object of humiliation. Through this occurrence Gregers feels that something has happened to Hjalmar. He is sure that Hjalmar has lost his self-confident that is influenced by his family. He grabs a misery on Hjalmar through his uncertain respond to the guest. He thinks that it has to be changed. He believes that there is a relationship between his father's kindness and Hjalmar's marriage. His suspicion of Hjalmar's child of losing eyesight and his father's sickness leads him to open Hjalmar's eye to look at the fact behind his family. He does it as he views that by genuine relationship, Hjalmar will live as an ordinary people.

Molvik, the priest, is Relling's roommate who lives in a downstairs apartment and sometimes accompanies Hjalmar to have a drink. Unfortunately he never gives sympathy upon Ekdals' suffer although he knows the family's condition. He just follows the occurrence without paying more attention to the Ekdals.

Doctor Relling is the man who knows the Ekdals well. He is interested in the family and mostly spends their time on the attic where the animals live in. He also tries to assure the situation that may ruin the family. He is clear sighted

and knows how to deal with people. He is not an idealist and feels responsible to them. He believes that almost everybody is sick. Hjalmar, Lieutenant, Molvik, Gregers are all merely patients in his eyes, they have been suffering from illusion. Old Ekdal never gets over his court case, so he stays on the attic and thinks as a Norwegian countryside, shooting rabbits as though they were bears. Molvik, according to Relling is a priest that needs help to stop from lapsing into desperation and madness. And so Hjalmar must also reserved from himself. He is unable keeping his mind since he quits studying. Therefore Relling feels that it is his obligation to rescue Hjalmar to be an admired photographer who is poised on the striving of new invention.

Hjalmar is a loving person. He always tries to make his family happy although it is hard to implement. In his family, he is the one who loves his daughter over his life.

HEDVIG : “(*happy in tear*) oh father ! You are so sweet and good !

HJALMAR : No, no, don’t say that. There I was seated at the rich man table-gorging myself on his ample fare – and I couldn’t even remember

GINA : (*seated by the table*) Nonsense Ekdal

HJALMAR : it is not nonsense. But you must not reckon to strictly. You know I love regardless.

HEDVIG : (*throwing his arms around him*) And we love you father, so much, so much.”(Act II:26)

HJALMAR : (*moved*) Ah yes! The child! The child above all. Hedvig, come to me. (*Stroking her hair*) What day tomorrow?

HEDVIG : (*playfully shaking him*) Oh, stop it, father!

HJALMAR : It's like a knife through my heart, when I consider how little we can do. Just a small celebration here, in the attic.

HEDVIG : But that just the way I like it!" (Act III: 43)

Hjalmar truthfully loves his daughter. He always amuses her even though he feels unhappy. As a father, Hjalmar regards her above all he wants to devote to. He does it by giving something special for his child's birthday but he can afford it only a simple celebration in the attic. It shows how hard it is for him to achieve his desire. Moreover he has to adapt to the society he has to interact as in Werle's party where most of the Chamberlains come. He is only a disgrace since he is humiliated when he joins them. He does not know what the topic is about. He is laughed at for asking a question to the guests moreover as his father passes with the bookkeeper to the front door that leads him to turn his back and face the fireplace as to reject and deny him. This occurrence stimulates him to think of leaving the party earlier. He forgets that Hedvig is waiting for the tidbits he has promised to her.

Hjalmar is an unstable personality. When he tries to gain his ambition to be an inventor his family has supported him. They have prepared and made ready to help everything he needs. Unfortunately Gregres whose mission is to advocate and preach truth and purity the soul comes.



**GREGERS** : "Not to that so much. I won't say you are crippled. But you are in a poisonous marsh, Hjalmar. You have contracted an insidious disease and gone to the bottom to die in the dark.

**HJALMAR** : I? Die in the dark? Honestly, Gregers. You really shouldn't say such things.

**GREGERS** : Don't you worry. I'll get you up again. For I, too, have got a mission in life. I found it yesterday."(Act III: 49)

This is Gregers' point of view about Hjalmar's sickness. It shocks Hjalmar to accept the idea that he is suffering from a disease and misery. Gregers' assumption that he will die in the dark touches his consistency since he is sure as capable person who will reach the highest achievement. To recover it Gregers offers help, to construct genuine relationship with his wife. In further discussion, Gregers claims that the main reason of his misery is a lie that has lasted for over fifteen years. The family, Hjalmar has constructed is arranged by his father who has covered his deception through Hjalmar's marriage. Gregers' opinion drives Hjalmar to flash back about his marriage and argue about it with his wife. During the quarrel he concludes that he is not the biological father of Hedvig. He is not a real father of a child to whom he loves very much. It breaks his dream and leads him to fruitless accomplishment.

Hjalmar is a person who is full of imagination. He always keeps thinking that someday he will be honorable and admired throughout the world. On

his effort he assures that he will return the family's honor by making an invention, something to do by combining photography and art.

**HJALMAR** : “ No, it doesn't. at any rate, it all turn out to be for the best. For soon now I will finish my invention and I do, Dr. Relling thinks, as I do myself, that father will be allowed to wear his uniform again. I shall claim that as my only reward.

**GREGERS** : Oh it is this business with the uniform that mostly-

**HJALMAR** : Yes, to be able to wear it again is what he dreams of and long for. You have no idea how it cut me to the quick to see him. Whenever we have a little family celebration here, like Gina's and my wedding anniversary or whatever it may be, then the old man appears in his lieutenant's uniform from happier days... ” (Act III: 40)

**GREGERS** : “But it is progressing?

**HJALMAR** : Certainly, it is progression. It occupies my thoughts everyday. It filled me. Every afternoon after dinner I shut myself up in the living room to ponder in peace. I just can't be buried: it won't do any good. That is what Relling says too.”(Act III: 41)

Hjalmar truthfully assures that his invention that fills his day will come to reality. He will soon finish it. It is devoted particularly to return his father's honor who has been an object of pity and mockery. Unfortunately he never realizes that his

effort turns his obligation to the family. His family needs is contributed by his wife who is reconciled to her fate, lives in a fool's paradise, and is sustained by the lie around in which their lives are constructed. Sincerely Hjalmar never thinks about the past after he has to marry Gina. He is blissful in his ignorance of how Gina has been discarded by the man who supports them. Hjalmar married her in apparent ignorant of her status and her past. He does not wish to investigate exactly when his own daughter is conceived, for fear of what will come after finding out the uncomfortable truth. He does not want to face the truth that may recall him to the past of his dark secret.

There are some events that are buried in Hjalmar's memory. Firstly, there is a question of his father's disgrace that has been accepted without avenge. He never once refers to the possibility that his father may have been innocent in this affair. In fact he disowns his father when he glimpses him at the party. Then there is the fact that his wife is chosen for him by the man who succeeded blaming his father as a guilt. Hjalmar is placed in the position where he has to confront the past. But he and his wife are unable to smell the stench that shade around their lives.

In his life, Hjalmar almost cannot bear reality. There are some occurrences that he gets through. His contribution to family is almost nothing for he is too stern to face the real work. He is too weak to achieve his future. He mostly spends his time uselessly in the milieu that positively supports him to fulfill his wishes. He does not realize that it is too far for him to bring his invention of combining photography and art into the real world. All his spirit,

dream, ambition, love, care, are drained dry by the weaknesses on him. He gets the fact that he has not only ruined himself but also the persons who love him. He destroys and hunts them consciously. Consequently he has to manage not only himself but also his ruined family.

## **A.2. Plot**

*The Wild Duck* consists of events that build the story. Each event brings another following events that makes the story interesting and eventually leads to the ending. There are some conflicts that are basically based on several years before the story. The writer considers that those conflicts are important because they apparently show the situation of the main character 's mind and also explains the stages that the main character has to undergo, which later bring to the end of the story.

The story primarily happened long before the curtain raises on the first act. Old Ekdal, Hjalmar's father, was the victim of a scandal a long time ago. In his time, he was a lieutenant of an army. Significantly, he was one of Old Werle's business partners, the local big businessman. But then something happened between them. The business went bad and Old Ekdal was accused of illegal operations and was sent to prison. The details are never spelled out. The general view among Werle's staff is that Ekdal played some kinds of dirty tricks on their master, though it looks possible that it may have been the other way round. At any rate, shame and disgrace have heaped among the Ekdals' family and his son. Young Hjalmar Ekdal has to leave university. Now Ekdal shuffles around, a

broken man, having done penalty servitude, wears a wig as if to disguise himself. His past is shameful and mysterious. Whether he is entirely guilty or not is never found out. The servant, Pettersen, reckons him, and Dr. Relling describes Old Ekdal as an ass, only old Werle's son, Gregers seems convinced that his own father was an accomplice if not the main cause, and refers to a trap having been laid for lieutenant Ekdal. Another fact that seems rather unsettling is that Old Ekdal works for Old Werle who pays his former partner a disgrace to do some work in his office.

“PETTERSEN, WERLE's servant, in livery, and the hired waiter JENSEN, in black, are setting the study in order for the guests. In the drawing room, two or three hired waiters are lighting candles, moving chairs, etc. sound of conversation and laughter of many people come from the dining room. Someone signals he wishes to make a speech by touching his glass with knife. Silence follows, a short speech is made, there are noises of approval, then again conversation.”(Act I: 11)

The first act shows the situation of Werle's party in honor to his son's homecoming. Besides his influential political friends, he has also invited Hjalmar Ekdal, an old schoolfellow of Gregers. During the party Hjalmar feels out of place and uncomfortable; he is even gloomy to have conversation with the guest. During the conversation with his old friend Gregers is surprised to learn that Hjalmar is married to their former maidservant, Gina. He tells Gregers that they

are married when Gregers stays at Hoydal. Meanwhile Gregers advises Hjalmar to join the guests, but Hjalmar feels confused. The humiliation shocks him when his own father can not get out of Werle's office, he saw his father passing through the room where the guests are having their after dinner drink. Old Ekdal passes through with full of view, apologizing to everyone. Psychological conflict on Hjalmar emerges when Gregers is surprised to see his father's appearance. Through his searching questions Gregers knows that Hjalmar has denied seeing his own father. Feeling humiliated, Hjalmar finally decides to leave the party earlier.

GREGERS: “*(his voice trembles)* I know what you have in mind. But who's to blame for mother's tragic weakness? Ypou and all those-! The last one was the female you palmed of on Hjalmar Ekdal, when you yourself no longer-!

WERLE : *(shrugs his shoulder)* Word for word as if I were hearing your mother.

GREGERS : *(paying no attention)* –and there he is now, with his great, trusting child's soul in the middle of this deceit-bring his roof with the woman like that, unaware what he calls his home is based on lie! *(step closer to Werle)*. When I look back upon all you have done, I seem to see battlefield strewn with mangled human destinies.

WERLE : I almost think the gap between us is too wide.” (Act I: 21)

It is Gregers' deep bitterness toward his father when he has a private talk with him. He blames his father for framing Ekdal's life through deception in marrying Gina to his friend. He also accuses him as a source his mother's death by having a mistress. But Old Werle denies it. He tells his son to bury his past and faces the future of his marriage to Mrs Sorby and lives peacefully. Finding his father's view, Gregers concludes that he has to leave the house and hire his own life.

The story goes on to the Ekdals' family when old Ekdal returns with a package under his arm and asks not to be disturbed in his room. Gina and Hedvig realize that the old man intends to spend his evening with his cognac. At that moment Hjalmar appears into the room. As a child Hedvig asks many questions about the party. Hjalmar responds her warmly as if he is the most intellectual and vivacious man there. Here the conflict emerges on Hjalmar's psyche. He faces a contradictory fact during the party where he is humiliated and now he has to deceive his loving daughter.

Recognizing her father as the best father, Hedvig expectantly asks him a good thing he has promised. Once again Hjalmar has to deceive his daughter for he brings nothing as he has promised before. To please her, he takes a paper of menu of the party instead of real food that contains the food and beverage. He tells the taste as well as possible to cover his child's disappointment.

The conversation breaks when Gregers enters into the room. On their chatting about, Hjalmar tells that Hedvig has weakness on her sight. based on this, Gregers suspects that there is a relationship between Hedvig and his father who both have the same indications since the doctor has examined that it is a

hereditary problem. Gregers also greets Old Ekdal who is in the attic. He reminds him that he is an avid hunter who works in the forest. But now he has to live in a small room. Old Ekdal replies by drawing to the door of the garret where skylight illuminates the darkness of their room. He shows his discernible pigeons, rabbit especially pointing out their favorite treasure asleep in the basket, a duck that he admits as Werle's gift. Hjalmar is involved in the conversation by informing that the animals are apart of their survival. As far as they are talking, Gregers asks whether he may rent a vacant room. Seeing that it is a chance to get extra money, Hjalmar accepts the request and gives a short description of the neighbor living downstairs. There is Molvik, the clergyman and physician, and Dr. Relling who lives in the same room. Gladly, Gregers promises to move the next morning since he does not prepare his needs yet.

The story continues the next late morning when Gina talks to Hjalmar the havoc Gregers caused in their room.

GINA : "Remember, he was to take care of everything himself? Well he built a fire in the stove, but he had not opened the flue, so the whole room got filled with smoke. Phew! It smelled like-

HJALMAR : Oh dear-

GINA : Then do you know what he does? This really beat everything. He wanted to put out the fire, so he pours the water from the wash basin into the stove. The whole floor is sloppy with filth!"(Act III: 33)



Gregers has made trouble in his early staying in Hjalmar's residence. Gina feels uncomfortable for this situation. When she leaves her husband who works alone on retouching photographs Old Ekdal interrupts Hjalmar by discussing of the need of improvement in the attic. Seeing it, Hedvig offers help and begs him to leave his work. Suddenly Gregers enters and asks many questions to Hedvig. Here the conflicts of the play start through Gregers' searching questions. Hedvig responds to him by telling that she is too weak to attend the school and her father has promised to read with her, although he has no time yet. Gregers also asks many questions to Gina that makes her uncomfortable. He emphasizes that Hjalmar is incapable to do a real photography. When Hjalmar appears he asks his wife for a lunch he has promised to Molvik and Relling.. Turning to Gregers, Hjalmar explains the reason he leaves his business to Gina. He must concentrate to the exalt invention, something that combines art and science. Through it he convinces to return his father's reputation by honor and dignity. When they have lunch with Molvik and Dr. Relling, Old Werle comes and asks his son to inform him that he will accept allowance. Gregers refuses and convinces him that he is going to cut his ties with him.

The story continues with the late afternoon when Gina and Hedvig are wondering where Hjalmar is. Hjalmar arrives late at dinner-time, looking tired and worn. They think he is ill as he refuses to eat. He increases his anxiety by announcing that he will do all the work alone. It surprises and forces Hedvig and Gina to remind his invention and the bird. In this occasion Hjalmar suggests Hedvig to take a walk for a while as he wants to talk to Gina privately. Hjalmar

forces Gina to admit her previous liaison with Old Werle. Here the conflict rises. Gina refuses since she thinks that her home is happy, money comes everyday. Hjalmar assumes that all of his strives go fruitless with his lost dreams. Feeling satisfied, Gregers enters followed by Relling who asks Gregers's purpose in coming to the house. He responds to lay the foundation on the marriage. As physician, he reminds them that they must remember the child. She is in the critical age where everything may break her easily. At this moment Mrs Sorby comes to say good-bye to them. On this occasion, Gregers claims that his father has known the previous connection of Mrs. Sorby and Relling. Frankly Mrs. Sorby recognizes it, moreover she states that she has told it to him. They truthfully have mutual understanding since Werle is aware that he needs someone who will save him. It is caused by the doctor's diagnosis of his possibility of being blind. After Mrs Sorby exits Hedvig comes into the room. She shows a letter given by Mrs. Sorby as a birthday present from Werle's hand writing to grant a monthly allowance of one hundreds crown to lieutenant Ekdal which will continue lifelong together upon Hedvig.

HJALMAR : "Be quiet. (*Reads the letter again. He is pale, but his voice is controlled.*) It is a gift letter, Hedvig.

HEDVIG : Imagine! What is it I get?

HJALMAR : Read for yourself.

(*HEDVIG goes over to the lamp and reads.*)

- HJALMAR : *(in a low voice, clenches his fists)* The eyes, the eyes! And now that letter!”(Act IV: 55)
- HJALMAR : “I don’t want to attain it! Never! Never! My hat! *(Takes his hat)*. My house is in ruin about me. *(Bursts out crying)* Gregers! I have no child!
- HEDVIG : *(Who have opened the kitchen door)* Fther! What are you saying!
- GINA : Oh dear!
- HJALMAR : Don’t come near me, Hedvig! Go far away from me. I can’t stand looking at you. Oh those eyes-! Goodbye. *(Is about to go out)*
- HEDVIG : *(cling to him, cries)* No! No! Don’t leave me!
- GINA : Look at the child, Ekdal! Look at the child!
- HJALMAR : I will not! I cannot! I must get out –away from all this! *(He tears himself loose from Hedvig and exit)*”(Act IV: 56)

This is the climax of the story when Hjalmar shows his anger after he acknowledges Hedvig’s eyes and the letter. He turns Hedvig out of the room and asks her wife whether the child is really his daughter. Gina pleads that she does not know it exactly. Feeling of suspicions, Hjalmar immediately rejects Hedvig as his daughter. It is the top crisis when his utterance breaks the child. He can’t bear to see the weak eyesight as old Werle’s sickness. He admits that there is clear connection between them.

Knowing this tragedy, Gregers keeps on his searching question. He persuades Hedvig to kill the duck to show her love to her father. It will offer

dearest sacrifice that will prove her love. At this moment Gina comes and says that Hjalmar has gone with Relling and Molvik. It inspires Gregers to go out confronting himself.

The story continues at the next morning when Hjalmar has not returned yet. Dr. Relling informs that he is asleep on the sofa in his apartment. Hedvig in her despair wonders how her father can sleep there. There is different from Gregers' explanation who tells that Hjalmar needs to take a rest after having spiritual conflict, Relling notices that there is no confusion in him. Gregers wonders why Relling can not see the greatness of Hjalmar's character. The doctor tries to respond his greatness by observing the man living around them. He regards that Hjalmar has passed away a long time ago. Now Hjalmar needs someone to wake him up from his unconsciousness. His father has successfully cured himself as an ass on his days. The doctor also diagnoses young Werle as a sick man who needs a different remedy from the others.

After Gregers and Relling go out Hjalmar appears bleary-eyed and disheveled. The child cries for joy, but Hjalmar turns her away. She moves out to look for the pistol in the studio and softly steal into the garret. Meanwhile Hjalmar asks his wife to pack up the clothes and some preparations he needs. As Gina points out his difficulty, he decides to stay until an available apartment turns up. He also saves Werle's letter as he thinks it belongs to his father and he has no right to tear it up. Gregers enters at this point to find out Hjalmar gluing the torn pieces of papers together. He is disappointed to find Hjalmar ready to leave the house and reminds the invention he must finish. Hjalmar argues that it is Relling's

idea because Hedvig believes in it. On this occasion, a quacking duck is heard in the garret as Gregers succeeds in persuading Hedvig to sacrifice the wild duck to show her sake to her father.

RELLING :” How did it happen?

HJALMAR : Oh, I don’t know-

GINA : She was going to shoot the wild duck.

RELLING : The wild duck?

HJALMAR : The pistol must have gone off

RELLING : H’m. I see.

EKDAL : The woods avenge themselves. But I’m not afraid.*(Enters the attic and closes the door behind him)*

HJALMAR : Relling why don’t you say anything?

RELLING : The bullet has entered her chest.

HJALMAR : Yes, but she’s coming to!

RELLING : Can you see that Hedvig is dead?” (Act V: 67)

Unfortunately she does not kill the wild duck, but instead she kills herself by using her grandfather’s pistol as an answer of her difficulties toward her father’s rejection of her origin.

### A.3. Setting

The setting in *The Wild Duck* shows the great impact toward the main character. It can be seen through his personality, his action, his behavior and the

way of thinking. There are two different milieus in the play that interlock. The milieu presented in the play, from social and psychological sides, has influenced his attitude, action toward family and society. The places that have great influence on Hjalmar are mostly from Werle's family and his residence.

Werle's house shows a house of a wealthy industrialist whose expensiveness and comforts furnished the house with a folding door, lamps, and candelabra.

“An expensive-looking and comfortable study in Werle’s house; bookcase and upholstered; in the middle of the room a desk with papers and ledgers; lamp with green shades give the room a soft, subdued light. In the rear, open double doors with portieres pulled apart reveal a large, elegant drawing room, brightly illuminated by lamps and candles. Front right, a small door to the office wing. Front left, a fireplace with glowing coals in it. Farther back on the left wall, double doors to the dining room.”(Act I: 10)

A quotation above gives impression of the rich family. This is where Werle spends his time to work. Most of the furniture shows how Werle has been successful on his business. This house is always busy since some servants are working there, so does old Ekdal who does some work, copying documents and the like. Old Ekdal is a former partner of Werle's business but they have contradictory fate in which old Werle has succeeded, on the contrary old Ekdal

shuffles round, a broken man, even he often uses wig to disguise himself. The house influences Hjalmar socially and psychologically, especially when he is invited to join the homecoming of Werle's son, an old friend of Hjalmar. All the guests are Werle's partners. The surrounding of the party is not comfortable to Hjalmar. He has nothing to discuss with those people from the high-class society. Fortunately Gregers welcomes him warmly, but he still feels uncomfortable to join them. It embarrasses him when Gregers asks him to join the conversation. He only becomes the laughing object since he does not understand what the guests are talking about. How to adapt and comprehend people attacks his heart. A humiliation emerges when his father cannot go out of the room since the door is closed. There is no way except by passing the guests at the dining room. Hjalmar neglects to acknowledge that his own father who shows self-pity, apologizing to the people is an object of laughing and mockery.

Hjalmar Ekdal's residence is another place that attacks him deeply. This place is where Hjalmar always gets warmth, happiness, love, and self-confidence. Only by staying he feels as a great person who is loved and exalted by his wife and his daughter. His family keeps showing him as the great, treats him well and supports his wishes.

“Hjalmar Ekdal’s studio, a large attic room. To a right, a slanting roof with skylight, half covered by blue cloth. The entrance door from the hallway is in the far right corner; the door to the living room farther forward on the same wall. There are two doors to the left, as well, with

the iron stove between them. In the rear, wide, sliding, a double doors. The studio is unpretentious but cozy. Between the two doors on the right and a little out from the wall is a sofa with a table and some chairs in front of it. On the table is a lighted lamp with a shade. Near the wall by the stove is an old armchair. Various pieces of photographic equipment here and there in the room. In the rear, to the left of sliding door, a self with a few books bottle with chemical solutions, tools, and some other objects. Photographs, brushes, papers, etc. are lying on the table.”(Act II: 21)

The description of Hjalmar’s residence as showed above is contradictory to Werle's house. The house gives impression of poverty and gloom, which is simply furnished. The room is divided; half is for work and the other is for staying. Even though the house is not well furnished, Hjalmar always feels happy. His wife skillfully keeps the work on the studio. Moreover most of the work are done well here. In this place Hjalmar is never neglected. The people care for him sincerely. They support all his needs. They are ready to help him especially his daughter, Hedvig, who readily offers her help. She has quitted studying in school since her eyes are getting weak. She spends her time by doing some work at home, doing photography and household activities. She devotes her life to her parents. She is an extraordinary girl who spends her life staying at home. She almost knows nothing outside the house since she quits studying. Feeling deep love to her father, the child treats him as a great man he pretends to be. However Hjalmar is too



weak to accept the love, he only tries to compensate her by giving a menu that shows his weakness to return his child's love.

There is particular atmosphere that emphasizes the relationship between the families, Werle's and Ekdal's family that is showed by using different illumination. Most of Werle's room is dominated by green color. It emphasizes Werle's beginning to loose his sight. Green is known to be the most helpful color shade to prevent blindness. It relates him to Hedvig, where there is probability that she will lose her eyesight. Further green is a symbol of fantasy used to diverge oneself from reality. The green shade is a link of two plots of the story. First, it hints the losing of sight which suggest an affair between old Werle and Hedvig's mother, Gina. Second, it correlates fantasy with the *duck* which involves Old Ekdal, an angry man living in the past on the hunting grounds of the duck. The color also emphasizes on Hedvig's committing suicide after Hjalmar finds out that she is not his biological daughter. It finally provokes her to commit suicide.

The moonlight also effects situation of the members. When Hjalmar and his father show the attic where the wildlife lives, "moonlight fall through several skylights, illuminating some parts of the room, while others are in the deep shadow."(Act III: 29) The glow of the moon illuminates this setting. Though the room is small, in term of space, it seems great because of fantasy and illusion that is created by the shadow of the moonlight. The moon symbolizes illusion, lights the attic where the wildlife lives. Old Ekdal is also satisfied by the illumination of the moon. He introduces the animals which he regards as wild to Gregers whereas at daylight there is different reality. Sun and moon represent different condition in

which at night dreams are dreamed and at daytime they are reality. It is contrasted with the previous scene from the present scene by means of light. During the daytime of the third scene Gregers tells his father that he has to thank him for being haunted by a guilty partner. Hjalmar is also informed by the affair between old Werle and Gina. The weather shows the exact time, time to face reality.

The fourth scene represents the dusk when it is half dark and bright. "Afternoon light. The sun is about to disappear. After a while darkness begins to fall." (Act IV: 46) The quotation above shows the circulation. The sun is going to disappear. It establishes the reality that the coming moon symbolizes fantasy, illusion and dreams. Both cannot be found in the present. There is no source of light, the room is dim and shaded as the mood of the play deteriorates. Gina admits her affair with old Werle and tells that he discards her until she gets her own way.

The function of the light in the last scene gives the shadow of the tragedy. The weather of "cold grey morning light. There is a wet snow on the big panes of skylight," (Act V: 58) which corresponds to Hedvig's death. The snow and cold weather add to the day's gloom. This illustrates that setting is parallel to the grotesque suicide of Hedvig. The fact that this day is Hedvig's birthday suggests that she is a whole human being who is supposed to live for a number of years. It is Hjalmar's fate that he loses his future and daughter.

## **B. Psychological and Sociological Analysis**

### **B.1. Psychological Conflict on Hjalmar Ekdal Viewed from Maslow's Concept of Hierarchy Needs**

The main purpose of this thesis is to describe the psychological and sociological conflicts on Hjalmar Ekdal as the main male character in the play. The analysis technique used is qualitative-descriptive because the data selected to be analyzed are in the form of statements, behavior and inner life which reflect the psychological conflicts of the main character notably found in the play. The mentioned forms are qualitative. These are then described in more detail based on psychological approach. Here, the psychological approach is very important concerning the main character's behavior toward the family and social life that he undergoes during his lifetime. However the writer thinks that behavior cannot be separated from the people around him who are psychologically related to his affairs.

In this part, the writer tries to use the humanistic psychological theory by Abraham H. Maslow. The theory explains what human being undergoes to reach the peak of his/her effort. The highest level that people reach success is called self-actualization, in which the person really becomes what he wants to be. There are two contradictory families in which Hjalmar interacts with. The first is his-own family: his wife and daughter who stay at home to help him doing the work besides household routine. Gina Hanson has been Werle's maid before their marriage. The marriage occurs in the same year with the death of Werle's wife

who was suffering from Werle's affair. Gina always keeps thinking positively although she has been discarded from Werle's house. She is an obedient woman who accepts her fate sincerely. She is engaged to Hjalmar through Werle's arrangement without trying to reject it. She is a strong woman who throws her past for the sake of her future. She thinks about it positively without trying to make revenge. She understands clearly that her husband is incapable to handle household responsibility since he is some years younger than she is. She covers it through her effort to support the family by working hard in the studio. She has strong faith that it is her duty to maintain her family. She knows exactly about life and would prevent making mistakes that may hurt her husband. She is a wife who really loves her husband and is ready to do everything although she has to sacrifice herself. She cleverly hides her past from her husband. She lets Hjalmar do his wishes to make him happy. She realizes that she has to serve people as she has done as a maid some time ago. She keeps it so until Gregers Werle reveals her past. With his idealism he captures her and Hjalmar to look back at their marriage, to construct a genuine relationship that weakens Hjalmar's spirit and dream. In responding to Gregers' assumption, Hjalmar tries to reject that he has been lying all these years during their marriage. He refuses to accept the original family that he has built. He is too weak to maintain himself so he tries to run away but somehow he cannot. He is aware that his wife is devoted to him. Gina has calmed him down but it is too hard for him to accept the fact.

Hedvig is a fourteen year old, a girl who stays home since she quited studying. She loves her father more than herself, supports and tries to please him.

She is the kind of girl who thinks that the world is her family and a wildlife on the attic. She loves her father profoundly. However Hjalmar is too self involve to return it. It is shown when he tries to compensate Hedvig's disappointment by presenting her a bill from the dinner party rather than bringing her some tidbits from there. It represents his way to return the depth of feeling he cannot achieve. Hedvig is not an ordinary who captures herself in poverty and the attic where the duck, a gift from werle, stays. She regards it as part of her life that has to be taken care of. She is too sensitive and inexperienced to recognize the shallow affection Hjalmar accords her. She has had no contrasting experience in life to provide herself with perspective on those she lives with. When she realizes that her father rejects her, she plans to sacrifice the duck to show her love and recall him. This is her attempt to adjust to the new truth, however she goes further and kills herself. With this suicide, the duck and Hedvig join together. Hedvig with a glimpse of truth of her father's feeling for her dies because she cannot bear to live with the knowledge of her origins.

Old Ekdal is a former lieutenant that had a scandal with Werle along time ago. In his prime days he is a hunter and gentleman who is a business partner of Werle. Something happens between them that causes him to be imprisoned. In his old ruin age, he still spends his life doing some work in Werle's office. This is why there is a relationship between these two families. formerly, Werle has broken Ekdals' family through the accusation that leads Old Ekdal to prison but he returns it attentively by letting Hjalmar learns photography, supporting him financially, marrying Gina and giving Old Ekdal a job. Hjalmar is aware of it and

knows that his father has lost his honor since that occurrence. Now he is completely a broken man who lives in the fantasy world, accompanied by the animal on the garret, chasing rabbit in the loft, believing them to be the bear that he used to shoot during his youth when he was a lieutenant and a partner of Werle. It enables him to forget the catastrophe that sends him to prison. Like many others, he finally turns to alcohol and additional solace. It inspires Hjalmar to do something that rehabilitates his grace but he is too weak to bring his dream to reality.

Gregers Werle is the son of old Werle who has avoided his father by spending the past fifteen years in Høydal, in the northern forest of Norway. He tries to rescue the Ekdals from the swamp of self-deception. He thinks Hjalmar as a wounded bird who will be drown in the depths of the sea. Encountering failure at proclaiming the truth and discovering his admired friend to be a hollow-souled egoist, he recognized that Hjalmar life is based on lies that are necessary so that he can existence. However Gregers himself is influenced by the Ekdals. He observes the truth of the family. Hjalmar unaware of what Gregers does on him has changed his point of view toward the family. He turns his attitude and accepts Gregers' idea, searches his past to construct genuine marriage, that finally breaks his own happy family.

Haakon Werle is a successful businessman who has been old Werle's partner. He is the man who has great role on Hjalmar's life. He has allegedly driven his sick wife to her death by carrying on a love affair in his own house. First, he made his young serving girl, Gina, pregnant. Then he arranged her

marriage with Hjalmar. It continued with his providing money for Hjalmar to take up the profession of photography. It covers his sin by assuring Hedvig as Hjalmar's biological daughter.

The explanation given above is the people who influence Hjalmar psychologically. He interacts with those people frequently. During his interaction, Hjalmar has often found difficulties. He is the real victim of the deception that he never does. He has to face a ruin family that is mainly caused by his father that he never knows what actually happens.

People to whom Hjalmar interacts with have influenced him positively and negatively. Positively, he is always supported by his family especially his wife, Gina, and his child, Hedvig, who keep helping him to do their routine. Gina skillfully operates the studio that enable them to maintain their daily needs so that Hjalmar can concentrate on his effort of combining photography and art that he hopes to recover his weakness. His child often inspires him to act warmly to please her. The negative side is from people outside his family. His father's friend, Old Werle who supports him to build studio and marry Gina, is a person he cannot forget easily. His kindness rends him to adapt to people who worthy for him. The homecoming of his friend, Gregers Werle, also shocks him since Gregers wants to open Hjalmar's eye toward family background. The revelation of the fact that he has buried affects his personality. Hjalmar who loves his family even he regards them above everything changes his attitude and behavior into rude and anger. It shows that there is relationship between *The Wild Duck* and Hjalmar Ekdal. *Duck* may represent Hjalamar Ekdal who is kind, loving, and caring before he know



the fact of his family becomes *wild* after he realizes that he has been lain for years. The revelation of his family forces him to run away by rejecting Hedvig as his own daughter and blaming Gina as source of his failure.

GREGERS : “(*looking straight ahead*) Oh well maybe he was right, at that-. But tell me, Hjalmar- do you feel you have adjusted pretty well to your situation?

HJALMAR : (*with a small sigh*) Oh yes. I think I have. Can’t say I haven’t anyway. At first, of course, things seemed very strange. My circumstances were so completely different. But then everything had changed. Father’s great, ruinous tragedy-The shame-The disgrace-“ (Act I: 13)

This is Hjalmar’s changes after Gregers’ leaving the house. The tragedy on his father changes his life. He used to live peacefully, comfortably in his youth when he often wrote exciting poems that attracted people. At that time he is an idol gentleman. Furthermore, many girls are interested in him. Gregers is one of his friends who idolizes him very much. The fact in his youth is totally different from the present. He has lost all his talent, he even forgets the poem he often performed when the guests in Werle’s party ask him to declaim it. The honor of his father ruins into shame and disgrace.

Being shame and disgrace, Hjalmar easily accepts humiliation whether it is on purpose or not. No one means to humiliate him but some occurrences attack



his heart that finally cause disgrace on him. These circumstances discourage him to associate with Werle's guests who are mostly rich gentlemen. He never feels confident to stay, moreover he feels underestimate to talk to them when Gregers suggests him to join them. His father's ruinous influences his self-confident. It blocks him to interact with the people who are better than him.

Hjalmar's family is a happy family. It is a place where he always gets his self-confident. His daughter and wife love him so much. They always support him, recognize him as a great man. All Hjalmar's wishes and kindness are pleasant for them. After Gregers' coming, he changes his character; he becomes rude and is always angry.

- HEDVIG : "And the wild duck, father. And the chickens and the rabbit and-
- HJALMAR : Don't ever mentioned all that junk to me again! Starting tomorrow, I'll never more set foot on the attic.
- HEDVIG : But father, you promised that tomorrow we're having a celebration-
- HJALMAR : H'm that right. Day after tomorrow then. That damn wild duck. I'd like to wring its neck!
- HEDVIG : (*with a cry*) The wild duck
- GINA: Now I've heard everything!
- HEDVIG : (*shaking him*) But father it's my wild duck!
- HJALMAR : That's why I won't do it. I don't have the heart- for your sake, Hedvig. But deep down I feel ought to do it. I shouldn't harbor

under my roof a creature that has been in those hands.” (Act IV: 47)

This is Hjalmar's anger after he takes a strenuous walk with Gregers. This occurrence has influenced his love to the daughter. He accepts Gregers' idea that the animal on the attic influences the entire Ekdal family. Gregers also suggests him to see the past when he firstly arranged his marriage. It shocks him when he finds out the truth. He is faced by several choices that seem impossible to choose. Any choices will give bad impact on him and his family. If he accepts the origin, it means that he has to live under a lie. On the other side, if he rejects it, he would never feel peace to ignore someone who always pleases him for years. He has no strong faith to choose one of them until the outsider argues. Unfortunately these choices do not benefit him. He decides to accept the idea by observing his past and takes the consequences of letting down his family that means a lot to him.

Based on Maslow's Hierarchy Needs, the changes on Hjalmar become easier to understand. Maslow regards that human motivations are conducted gradually from the lowest degree until they reach the highest degree. He shows a human being as a "wanting organism" who rarely reaches a complete total satisfaction. When one general type of need is satisfied, another surfaces and demands for the person's attention and efforts. It is human characteristic that human are always desiring something (p.448). Maslow proposes human needs in an ascending hierarchy of priority or prepotency. The needs in order priority are;

psychological, safety and security, belongingness and love, self-esteem, and self-actualization needs or the need of personal fulfillment.

The first priority is psychological needs. It concerns with biological maintenance, and is essential to physical survival. Those who cannot fulfill this need will not survive long enough to become concerned at higher levels. In this case Hjalmar accepts Werle's financial support to attain this level.

GREGERS : "Father helped you?"

HJALMAR : Yes, surely you know that? Where do you think I got the money to learn photography and to set up my own studio? Things like that are expensive, I can tell you." (Act I: 13)

Hjalmar accepts an idea to build a studio that may maintain his survival. It seems that Werle's arrangement is an obligation to do like his biological maintenance. It relates to basic the needs of human being that are the needs of food, drink, oxygen, exercise, sleep, etc, that does not need further explanation so does safety and security needs. Hjalmar has also fulfilled it as Maslow stated that safety and security needs are most readily observed in infant and young children.

Belongings and love need is the next level that Hjalmar has to undergo to the next levels. The person at this level needs affectionate relationship with others, her/his family or reference group. Accordingly the person will feel the loneliness, social isolation, friendlessness and rejection moreover when encouraged by the absence of friend and the loved one. In his family Hjalmar is

always regarded as a great and a loved person. Since the early years of his marriage he has been supported by Old Werle, who pays attention to his future by establishing a studio where he earns family needs. He does it accompanied by his daughter and wife who are ready to help.

HEDVIG : (*Happy in tears*) Oh father! You are so sweet and good!

HJALMA : No, no, don't say that. There I was -seated at the rich man's table-gorging myself on his ample fare-and I couldn't even remember-

GINA : “(*seated by the table*) Nonsense, Ekdal.

HJALMAR : It is not nonsense. But you must to reckon too strictly. You know I love you regardless.

HEDVIG : (*throwing her arm around him*) And we love you, father, so much, so much!”(Act II: 26)

It shows that Hedvig and Gina truthfully love Hjalmar. Hjalmar experiences this level since he has nothing to give to his loving daughter. Gina, a wise wife, always pleases him when Hjalmar is sad and so does Hedvig. His neighbors also show their love for they feel that it is their responsibility to rescue Hjalmar from the misery that clouds him. Beside Relling, there is Gregers Werle, a man who wakes him up to acknowledge the origins of his family. In this difficult situation Relling comes to calm him down for a while, to cure the pain that he calls it as national disease. From the explanation above it is obviously understandable that Hjalmar has accomplished this level that enable him to go on to the next level.

The next level is self-esteem needs. It consists of two basic types, self respect and respect from others. Self-respect concerns desire to competence, confidence, achievement, independence and freedom. A person needs to know that he/she is worthwhile capable of mastering tasks and challenges in his life. Respects from others entail such concerns as desire for prestige, recognition, reputation, status, appreciation and acceptance that is recognized and valued by others.(1992:453) Earlier, Hjalmar has enough confidence for he is sure to rehabilitate his family's honor. He knows that he has to use the potency to achieve his dream. He is ready to fight against the world which has suffered him for years by discovering invention, a combining photography and art. Respects from others are supported by his family and Hjalmar's other acquaintances who assure him that he can be successful if he keeps striving. Relling is a person who really knows what Hjalmar wants to be. He really understands that it is important for Hjalmar to run after his dream and he supports him. Somehow, Hjalmar still has obstacle that drives him to failure. This discourages him to achieve a peak potential he has and renders him hardly to the next levels that is self-actualization.

The highest level is self-actualization. It is a level where a person desires to become everything that she or he is capable of becoming. The person who has achieved this highest level presses toward full use and exploitation of his or her talents, capacities and potentialities. In short, to become socialize is to become the kind of persons that are capable of reaching the peak of potentialities (1992:454). Unfortunately, Hjalmar has totally failed to attain this level. He is too easy to accept one's opinion without considering the consequences. It is showed in

his acceptance on Gregers' idea toward the family he has built up. Gregers introduces the odd occurrence before he left his house. He describes it well with the evidence that support his suspicion. It is only his view that impact Hjalmar deeply and drives him to blame Gina as guilty of his failure as Gregers' description.

HJALMAR : "I, too, though our home a pleasant one. That was a mistake. Where I do gather the necessary inner resilience to bring my invention into the world of reality? Perhaps it will die with me. If it does, it will be your past, Gina, that has killed it.

GINA : *(on the verge of tear)* Please, Ekdal-don't be saying such things! I that have all my days only to make things nice and pleasant for you!"(Act IV: 49)

This is said when Hjalmar Ekdal tries to search the truth after Gregers tells a relationship of his wife and Old Werle. He judges it as the source of his failure. It prevents him to become the person he wants to be. The past has haunted him. The potentials he has are buried by the previous mistake that is brought to the present.

Hjalmar's failure to bring his dream into reality shows that he has failed to reach the highest degree of needs. He is not able to become the person he really wants to be. In fact it does not only break himself after blaming the past but it also ruins his family. His searching for the truth throws his happiness away and discards everyone who loves him.

## **B.2. Sociological Conflict on Hjalmar Ekdal Viewed from George Herbert Mead's The Self**

Human being is a social creature that lives among others, depends on others, and socialized with others. They live in social organization that has social pattern or norm, stimulate them to interact and influence what people do. It becomes an important reason of the act of each other. It forms what the individual becomes. This is why the writer thinks that it is important to analyze the work using this approach.

As a human, Hjalmar has to interact with the people around him. The writer considers that people around is sufficient enough to influence him mentally and physically.

In this chapter the writer uses sociological approach distributed by George Herbert Mead. In his concept of self, Mead distinguishes two different phases, "I" and "me". "I" is an unorganized response of the organism to the attitude of other, whereas "me" is a depiction of perspective of people and the generalized others. (1990: 116) The writer considers focusing on these phases.

As the "I", Hjalmar can be positioned as a subject. From the study of his life, he tries to respond society in certain behavior. He tries to get his dignity that has lost by his father's ruination. His dream to combine art and photography is only to convince himself to return family honor without considering the situation during his effort. As Mead states that the self cannot appear in consciousness as an

“I” and always as an object, “me”, writer considers that it does not need further explanation for this phase.

The next phase is “me” that locates Hjalmar as an object. There are several occurrences that prove Hjalmar in this position, enter his consciousness, influence and mostly come from the perspective of the people and are generalized from other. As an object, Hjalmar has to live in the society he interacts with. Discussing Hjalmar’s society in the study means to analyze the relationship he makes and its consequences. Hjalmar Ekdal lives as a father of a humble family. He lives with his wife, daughter and his father, a former lieutenant. Their acquaintances are much from the people around his house.

Living in a poor condition, Hjalmar is satisfied enough. His family respects him well, regards him as a great person who is loved and honored. In this case Hjalmar believes that he also needs respect outside his family. He wants to turn his prestige and charm back as he has before. He assumes that prestige and family honor are the important matter for his life.

Hjalmar’s father, Old Ekdal, is a former soldier who is fired of illegal operation. He is a former partner of Old Werle, a local big businessman. His ruin leads him to lose his honor and prestige. It is, as has been mentioned above, the source of Hjalmar’s changes on attitude and behavior. Losing the honor, makes him loose his self-confident, becomes shameful and becomes an object of pity and mockery. The charm he usually shows, is gone. Moreover he has to leave the university.



Seeing that Hjalmar is ruined, Werle tries to rescue him. He takes pity and benefit from this condition. He arranges an engagement by wedding Hjalmar to Gina, his maidservant, gives him money to learn photography and to set up his own studio.

GREGERS : “Father helped you?”

HJALMAR : Yes, surely you know that? Where do you think I got the money to learn photography and to set up my own studio? Things like that are expensive, I can tell you.

GREGERS : And father paid for all that?

HJALMAR : Yes, didn’t you know? I understood him to say he had written to you about it.” (Act I: 13)

It is Hjalmar’s explanation when he is invited to Gregers’ homecoming party. Hjalmar tells Gregers that his father is also the one who paid Hjalmar’s wedding and he does not want anyone to know about it. At first Gregers is glad to hear that his father still has a heart. He thinks that his father helps his friend’s son because Hjalmar is the son of his friend, Old Ekdal. but he is surprised to learn that Hjalmar has married Gina, a house-maid in Gregers’ house when his mother was ill. For Gregers it seems that everything has been arranged for Hjalmar’s marriage with Gina, their meeting, engagement, and the wedding, by his father.

When Greges comes to Hjalmar’s house, Hjalmar tells that Hedvig is his only child. Greges is surprised that Hedvig has a hereditary disease and Hjalmar

tells that it may be from his mother though actually he does not remember. Gregers suspects that there is a relationship between his father's eyesight and Hedvig's symptom.

Learning about Hjalmar's life, Gregers wants to save him. He believes that Hjalmar is a precise man. He wants to wake Hjalmar up from a married life since it is not based on truth.

**GREGERS** : "I want to lay the foundation for a true marriage.

**RELLING** : So you don't think the Ekdal's marriage is good enough as it is?

**GREGERS** : I daresay it is as good as marriage as most, unfortunately. But a true marriage it has yet to become.

**HJALMAR** : You have never had an eye for the claim of ideal Relling!

**RELLING** : Nonsense, boy!-Begging your pardon, Mr. Werle-how many-roughly-how many true marriages you have observed in your life?

**GREGERS** : Hardly a single one.

**RELLING** : Nor I have

**GREGERS** : But I have seen a number of the other kind. And I have had occasion to witness what havoc a marriage like that can work in a pair of human beings."(Act IV: 50)

From the conversation above, it is Gregers who takes pity on Hjalmar's life. Gregers wants to lay a true foundation of Hjalmar's marriage though he knows that Hjalmar is satisfied with his family. Gregers realizes that he wants to reveal

Hjalmar's deceptive life which he has lived with for fifteen years. He believes that the wild duck symbolizes the entire Ekdal family who will be drown in the ooze of fantasy and self delusion. He feels that it is his obligation to rescue them from his father's deceitfulness.

Based on Gregers' assumption, Hjalmar tries to search the truth of his married life. When he has been told about Gina's past he asks her for some explanations.

GINA :” (*firmly*) You might as well tell me straight, Ekdal. What has he been saying about me?

HJALMAR : Is it true –can it be true –that there was some kind of affair between you and Werle while you were in his house?

GINA : That not so. Not then. He was after me, though. And Mrs. Werle though there was something going on and she makes a fuss and big hullabaloo about it, and she beat me and pulled me around-and so I quit.

HJALMAR : But afterwards-!

GINA : Well, then I live with my mother. And you see-mother-she wasn't all the women you though she was, Ekdal. She talked to me about his, that and the other. For Werle was a widower by the time-

HJALMAR : And then-?

GINA : You might as well know it I guess. He didn't give up until he had his way.

HJALMAR : (*striking his hand together*) And this is the mother of my child!

How could you keep a thing like this from me?

GINA : Yes, I know I was wrong. I should have told you long ago I suppose.

HJALMAR : You should have told me right away; that what you should have. Then I would have known what sort of woman you were.”(Act IV: 48)

The revelation of Gina's past leads to the other revelation that he has been living under Werle's financial support. Hjalmar does not realize about it, so it shocks him because he used to think that their household is supported by him.

Hjalmar's suspicion to Gina leads him to search the origin of Hedvig whether she is his biological daughter or not as it is supported by Gregers' opinion toward her. The fact that Hedvig has the same disease as the Old Werle and that on her birthday Old Werle writes a letter to Hedvig that her grandfather will accept the sum of five pound a month as long as he needs it and that money is to be paid to Hedvig strengthen his suspicious. This present makes Hjalmar believes that Hedvig is the one to whom he remembers. Then he asks Gina to tell the truth. When Gina unable to answer, he makes his own judgment that Hedvig is not his own daughter. He immediately decides to reject her although he loves her so much.

HJALMAR :“I don't want to attain it! Never! Never! My hat! (*Takes his hat*). My house is in ruin about me. (*Bursts out crying*) Gregers! I have no child!

- HEDVIG : *(Who have opened the kitchen door)* Father! What are you saying!
- GINA : Oh dear!
- HJALMAR : Don't come near me, Hedvig! Go far away from me. I can't stand looking at you. Oh those eyes-! Goodbye. *(Is about to go out)*
- HEDVIG : *(cling to him, cries)* No! No! Don't leave me!
- GINA : Look at the child, Ekdal! Look at the child!
- HJALMAR : I will not! I cannot! I must get out –away from all this! *(He tears himself loose from Hedvig and exit)*”(Act IV: 56)
- HEDVIG : “*(in the kitchen door)* Mother don't you want me to – *(see Hjalmar, gives a shout of joy and runs toward him)* Father! Father!
- HJALMAR : *(turning away, with a gesture)* Go away! Go away! *(to Gina)* Get her away from me, I say!”(Act V: 61)

The conversation above shows that Hjalmar does not care about his daughter's feeling and he decides to neglect her although he knows that she loves and depends on him so much; she even begs him not to leave her. When he finds out that Hedvig does not his biological daughter, he becomes blind, genuine with his anger.

Besides Gregers Werle, there is Relling who stimulate Hjalmar's respond toward his idea in making invention to return family honor.

- HJALMAR : “Oh don’t talk about invention. It may take a long time yet.
- GREGERS : So?
- HJALMAR : Well, yes, for heaven’s sake, what do you expect me to invent, anyway? The others have invented it most already. It’s getting more difficult everyday.
- GREGERS : But all the labor you have put into it-?
- HJALMAR : It was the dissipated Relling who got me started on it.
- GREGERS : Relling?
- HJALMAR : Yes, it was he who first called attention to my talent for making some fabulous invention or other in photography.
- GREGERS : I see. It was Relling-!
- HJALMAR : Ah- I have been so wonderful happy about it. Not so much about the invention itself, but because Hedvig believed in it-believed with all the strength and power of a child’s soul.-That is, I though she did- fool as I was.”(Act V: 65)

The conversation above shows that Hjalmar finally is aware that the invention is only his illusion and he tells Gregers that it was Relling who has the idea. Hjalmar realizes that he has deluded himself. It makes him happy because Hedvig believes it.

Hjalmar’s happy marriage is really ruined when Hedvig dies, since she loves her so much. Hjalmar regrets that he has rejected Hedvig. He realizes that he will never be able to show his love. It is irreparable since Hedvig will not get her

life back. Hedvig's death is the product of Hjalmar's weaknesses in filtering the outsider's idea, in this case his acquaintances'. It destroys Hjalmar's happiness since he depends on Hedvig's love.

As Mead mentioned that "I" only reveals as "me" and it always appears as "me", it can be said that Hjalmar's respond to the society he interacts with is a representation of "me". Most people who know him have an impression that what Hjalmar's suffer is terrible. They assume that they have to take responsibility after they find out what really happens. They show their sympathy and pity for what Hjalmar undergoes. The behavior of his acquaintances to whom he interacts with somehow affects him deeply. Unconsciously he is brought to the condition that drives him to act rudely. Further, Hjalmar's acceptances of the idea of his acquaintances give consequences that he has to lose his daughter and reestablish new relationship with his wife.

Moreover, from the explanation given above, it is clear that society takes an important role in one's life. It is a decisive factor that encourages right or wrong behavior. A person may accept one's idea as long as it benefits him. In this story the failure is represented by Hjalmar Ekdal as he responses his society in a wrong way.

# CHAPTER IV

## CONCLUSION