

## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND OPERATION OF CONCEPT

#### 2.1. Theoretical Framework

A literary work does not only mean anything written in verse or in prose that is created to be enjoyed, used, and understood by the society, but it means rather a complex organization as Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated that a literary work of art is not a simple object but rather a highly complex organization of a stratified character with multiple meanings and relationships (1956, 27). The complex organization consists of some complex elements. It means that a literary work of art is greater than its interpreters.

Because of the complexity of elements in literary work, so there are number of theories and approaches to analyze literary work. Danziger, Johnson and Abrams separated those theories into four points : (1)the theory of imitation (or mimetic theory) which treats literature in its relation to real life (describe literature in relation with something outside itself), (2)the theory of effect or pragmatic is defining literature in relation to its public, (3)the theory of expression which looks at literature in relation with its creator, and (4)the

theory of structure (Danziger and Johnson) or objective theory (Abrams) which regards the work of art in its relation to its form (in their internal relations). Besides that there are numbers of approaches dealing with internal and external aspects.

Dealing with the objective of the study in analysing A Doll House, the writer of this thesis would like to use two theories : objective and mimetic theory as the limitation of the scope of her analysis. She also uses three approaches, literary, psychological and sociological approaches, as the basic principles to analyze the play.

### 2.1.1. Objective Theory

By using the objective theory the writer of this thesis will be interpreting and analysing a work of art especially the play A Doll's House through its internal structures without reference from the external aspects or circumstances in which the play is produced. As Abrams said about it :

.....'the objective orientation which on principle regards the works of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyse it as a self sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being (1953,26)

It means that the writer of this thesis wants to make the intrinsic analysis based on the intrinsic elements of the

play itself.

#### 2.1.1.1 Literary Approach

The above objective theory is the frame of thought that limits the scope of analysis. Based on the objective theory, she wants to focus her attention first in how the internal structures of the play contribute to the subject matter that she will find. The internal structures here means the element of the play itself. For that reason she uses literary approach as her means to analyze the internal structure of the play as a literary work.

##### 2.1.1.1.a Play

The element of the play are very broad in connection with its functions. The functions of the play are as literary work and as a theatrical presentation or as a performance. As Graham Little stated : drama is a peculiar literary form, in that it maybe treated as literature to be read privately or as theatre, to be seen in public performance (1966,112). And in this case, the writer of this thesis treats the play as literary work, so here she will be delineating the elements of the play as a literary work.

The elements of the play consist of theme, plot, characters, background and atmosphere or setting, and language. And in this thesis, the writer will be deline-

ating plot, characters, and setting in isolation. It is purposed to make an easy analysis in finding her subject matter of her thesis. Graham Little said : Drama being. in sense, a narrative form of writing, the theme will be found by examining the trend of the whole work - the conflicts with which it deals, and the nature of its outcome (1966,113). Because the trend of the work is implied in the three elements above, in plot , character and charactererization, and setting will be discussed later, so through those elements are reflected woman's defense of huuman rights against the uunfair social attitude and notion.

#### 2.1.1.1.b Plot

Robert and Jacobs said that 'the interrelationship of incidents and character within a total design is the plot of the story' (1989,57). According to Danziger and Johnson : Plot is a narrative of motivated action, involving some conflicts or question which is finally resolved (1985,19). Their further explanation is, plot is a narrative, then, not necessarily chronological but often varying the normal pattern of sequence in time, and, a narrative of motivated action (1985,20). On its simplest level, plot, according to Guches, may be only a sequence of action that embodies some sort of conflict one force opposing another (1980,63). And there are many

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other definition of plot.

From those definitions, the writer of this thesis gets a conclusion that plot is a sequence of action involving some sorts of conflicts, often varying the normal pattern of sequence in time.

In general, the elements of plot are rising action, climax (turning action), falling action, and resolution or conclusion. Rising action is first part of the play that consist of exposition and exciting action. Exposition is the introduction to the situation and to the characters, their relationship with one another, the physical background in which they find themselves and so on. Exciting action, according to Reaske, is the few events or ideas which excite the play into motion. For example, a certain character is stirred up when he hears a report that his close friend or relative has been murdered. The rising action carries the hero through a series of events which enlarge and intensity his conflict (1966,28).

Those conflicts develops until the play reach the climax. Reaske explained that the first major pause in the play occurs when the hero makes a decision or makes some all - important discovery about either himself or someone else in the play, the act which interupts everything else that is happening, is always reffered to as the climax action (1966,28). After climax, the play

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reaches the falling action in which the hero is slowly overpowered and becomes increasingly helpless. After that the play reaches the final portion of the story. It is called resolution, in which the conflict's settlement.

In tragedy, the resolution is often referred to as the catastrophe, which means the ruin of the fortunes of the hero. In comedies, mystery stories and other kinds of plots, the resolution is often called the denouement. It is used to refer to the unravelling of the complication of the plot.

The nature of the elements of the play is static and timeless. As Reaske said that thus basic dramatic structure - in its essence - is virtually static and timeless (1966,37). Structure here is basically another term for plot. If plot is discussing everything that happens in the play, structure, more or less, refers to the total organization of literary work.

In modern time, exactly in the nineteenth century, plot is not arranged necessarily chronological in time but often varying the normal pattern of sequence in time. This technique is called 'flashback' technique. It means that the author develops the events in his work not chronological in time, from now up to next time, but by tracing events back into the past. Sometimes the author presents this technique through one character who tells what happened in the past to other character, so the

readers know what really happened. It suits with Danziger's and Johnson's statement about flashback technique.

"Strickly speaking, the flashback is a shifting of focus, not just an extended reference by either the characters or the narrator to past occurrences, but sometimes the same effect can be achieved by the writer's introducing a story within his story. This technique allows one character to tell other character about what happened earlier, at such length and in such detail that we become more fully conscious of the past actions being described than of the narrative present in which the person is speaking. (1965,19)

Besides that there are certain plays that have a multiple plot. According to Graham Little, a multiple plot is weaving of several plots together, linking them by means of characters who are involved in more than one plot (1966;88-87).

#### 2.1.1.1.c. Character and Characterization

Another element of the play, more important than plot, is characters. According to Harry Shaw, there are several meanings of character, in literature, notably that of a person represented in a story, novel, play, etc. (1972,71). And characters in literary work can be divided into several types.

Based on their involvement in the play's action, characters are devided into two types, as major characters and as minor characters. Major Characters are char-

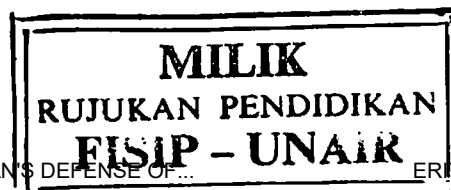
acters involved in most of the play's action. They have an important function in the play, such as establishing plot. While minor characters have less important function than major characters. It does not mean that they have no essential role in the play, as Guches said :

The minor characters are present to create the illusion of populated setting. Often, they are important in successfully moving the plot forward. Sometimes they serve an essential role in the environment because their presence can help shed light on the major character's personality. (1980,70)

Based on their complex characteristic, characters can be divided into two groups, round characters and flat characters. Edgar V. Roberts gave a long explanation about round characters and flat characters in his book entitled Literature An Introduction to Reading and Writing (1989,145-146). Here the writer of this thesis tries to get essence of Roberts' explanation about them.

Really round character, usually one of the major figures in the work, have many individual and unpredictable human traits. They are relatively fully developed, so they may be considered dynamic. They are just as complex and as difficult to understand as living people. As contrasted with the round characters, the flat characters are usually minor, although not all minor characters are flat and static.

Dealing with the identification of character in a drama, characterization is important thing. Characteriza-





tion is the way of the author to reveal his characters in his work. Harry Shaw gave five basic means of characterization :

.....a character is revealed by (1) his actions, (2) his speech, (3) his thoughts, (4) his physical appearance, (5) what other characters say or think of him (1972,71)

#### 2.1.1.1.d. Setting

The term, setting, is usually applied in literature to the locale or period in which the action of a play, novel, motion picture, etc. takes place. More than that, sometimes the setting establishes the atmosphere which helps create the mood, reveals to readers about characters, and is related to the plot. Finally, according to Guches, setting may be simply where a story takes place, or the setting may relate to the characters, plot, or the ideas on symbolic levels (1980,68). William Kenney devided setting into four elements as he said :

What are the elements of which setting is composed ? They may be listed under four headings : (1) the actual geographical location, including topography, scenery, even the details of a room's interior; (2) the occupations and modes of day-to-day existence of the characters; (3) the time in which the action takes place, e.g. historical period, season of the year; (4) the religious, moral intellectual, social, and emotional environment of the characters (1966,40).

Setting itself can be devided into two kinds as physical setting and psychological setting. Physical

setting deals with place and everything in certain environment where the readers of literary works can catch the meaning from its appearance only. While psychological setting or spiritual setting has deep meaning besides its appearance meaning on symbolic level. But between physical setting and psychological setting can be separated because the meaning of the psychological setting implied by the physical setting, as William Kenney said :

.....as the physical setting becomes more specific and more vividly rendered, so does the spiritual setting. By the spiritual setting, then, we mean the values embodied in or implied by the physical setting (1966,34).

## 2.2. Mimetic Theory

Based on the statement in the background of the problem that drama offers the best examples of human problem of the virtual world, a world which seems to be but is not the real one, and reflects how people live, the writer of this thesis thinks that objective theory is not enough to analyze the play, because the objective theory emphasizes only on the intrinsic analyzes without concern the external circumstances where and when the play was written or without concerning the aspect of life itself. While drama offers and reflects human problem and human action in the reality.

For that reason, the writer of this thesis also uses the theory of imitation or mimetic theory in analyzing the play. Besides that this theory is the common

theory to find characters imitating human action and some aspects of real life in the play, and between the objective theory and mimetic theory is completing each other.

As Abrams's explanation about the mimetic theory in his book entitled The Mirror and The Lamp that 'mimetic orientation' is the explanation of art as essentially an imitation of aspects of the universe (1978,8). They gave further explanation that it is apparent however that the mimetic concept is the reference of work to the subject matter which imitates their character, as an imitation of human action, is what defines the arts in general, and the kind of action imitated serves as one important differentia of an artistic species (1978,10). To support mimetic theory, the writer of this thesis use two approaches dealing with her objective of the study. They are psychological approach and sociological approach.

#### 2.1.2.1. Psychological approach

Dealing with the character as an imitation of human action, in this thesis the writer uses psychological approach. In psychological approach Rene Wellek and Austin Warren divided it into four scopes of study :

By 'psychology of literature', we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology) (1958,81)

In this thesis, the writer would like to study the psychological types and laws present within works of literature. She would like to apply psychological ideas to judge the motives of characters of the play, in this case is the defense of human rights. It is based on Rene Wellek and Austin Warren's statement : There remains the questions of psychology in the works themselves. Characters in play and novels are judged by us to be 'psychologically' true.

Here the writer of this thesis will apply the psychological laws and types having relationship with the term of defense. Precisely, she will apply the theory of defense mechanism of Sigmund Freud and Alfred Adler. This theory is the means to prove that in the play really there is a woman's defense.

According to Sigmund Freud, there are three points that should be recognized concerning the defense mechanisms :

1. Defense mechanisms are used to avoid or reduce negative emotional states (i.e. conflict, frustration, anxiety).
2. Most defense mechanisms involve a distortion of reality.
3. Persons are usually not consciously aware of their use of most defense mechanism.

Defenses as components of a general style is solving emotional problems the purpose of these defenses is to enhance self-esteem when any form of information or

attitudes threatens to lower it.

Then a number of defense mechanisms, according to Sigmund Freud, can be identified including repression, suppression, denial, projection, displacement, regression, identification, compensation, reaction formation, sublimation, rationalization, isolation, undoing, and intellectualization. In this thesis the writer will delineate some of them that are reflected in the play. They are :

**Denial.** In denial a person does not attend to the threat-provoking aspects of situation and changes the interpretation of the situation so as to perceive it as less threatening. Persons spontaneously use this defense and that it is affective for reducing both subjective and physiological arousal in the face threat.

**Displacement.** It is divided into two types. First is the *object displacement*, occurs when a person expresses a feeling toward one person or object that in fact should be expressed toward another person or object. Second type is *drive displacement*, a person displace the energy associated with one feeling different from the one originality elicited. So the subject remains the same but the feeling is changed.

**Regression** suggest that when faced with conflict, stress and particularly frustration, a person may return to an earlier stage of life in which the person was

secure, and so avoid the present conflict or stress

**Compensation.** When a person believes that he or she is inferior in some way, the person may attempt to overcome the feelings of inferiority and related anxiety by devoting additional effort to the area of the inferiority (Alfred Adler). In many cases compensation would be an effective and appropriate response.

**Undoing** occurs when a person acts in an inappropriate way which arises anxiety, then behaves in the opposite way so as to reverse or balance the original behavior and thus eliminate the anxiety that the first behaviour engendered.

Those are the concept of psychology that will be applied in analyzing the play.

#### 2.1.2.2. Sociological approach

Related with literary work as an imitation of aspects of the universe, hence, the writer of this thesis also uses sociological approach. Indeed, literature has close relationship with particular social institutions. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren explained that there are three types of sociological approach to literature :

"First, there is the sociology of the writer and the profession and institutions of literature, the whole question of the economic basis of literary production, the social provenance and status of the writer, his social ideology, which may find expression in extra-literary pronouncements and activities. Then there is the problem of the social content, the implications and social purpose of the works of literature themselves. Lastly, there are

the problems of the audience and the actual social influence of literature (1956,95-96).

Those explanation is the same with Ian Watt's explanation about sociological approach to literature which is quoted and translated by Sapardi Djoko Damono in his book entitled Sosiologi Sastra Sebuah Pengantar Ringkas (1978: 3-4). His translation, more or less. in English means that there are three clasifications of sociological approach to literature. First, the social context of the writer; second, literature as the mirror of society, and third, the social function of literature.

In sociological analysis, the writer of this thesis uses the second clasification that literature as the mirror of society. It does not mean that literature expresses the whole aspects of social situation precisely and exhaustively but only depict some aspects of social reality. As Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated :

The relation between literature and society is usually discussed by starting with the phrase, derived from De Bonald, that 'literature is an expression of society'. But what does this axiom mean? If it assumes that life, at any given time, mirrors the current social situation 'correctly', it is false; it is commonplace, trite, and vague if it means only that literature depicts some aspects of social reality (1956,95).

They gave further explanation that much of the most common approach to the relations of literature and society is the study of work of literature as social docu-

ments, as assumed pictures of social reality. And used as a social document literature can be made to yield the outlines of social history (1956, 102-103).

So in this thesis the writer will be delineating some aspects of social reality that is reflected in the play.

A Doll's House is not written in sudden time. It was written, more or less, during 1878 until 1879. It was the Victorian period. For that reason, the writer of this thesis will delineate the condition of Victorian society during it was written. Her description is limited on the condition which is reflected in the play itself.

During Victorian time, the Industrial Revolution developed in England. It means the world of machinery, commodities, and parliamentary majorities. To escape from the world, romanticism appeared during 1830 until 1878. The term romantic itself, according Guches, came to denote things that were unreal or opposed to fact. During the next century the term came to mean that which was extravagantly fictitious in creating scenes that are pleasing but far from an accurate definition of truth (1980, 57).

Besides that materialism arised during the era from 1870 to 1910. According to Hayes, materialism means a denial or ignoring of any spiritual conception of the universe and an explanation of all phenomena by reffer-



ence to the existence and character of matter (1951,254). It means that person more concerns in practical matters or in material such as making money, directing Banks, organizing industrial corporations, devising machinery, otherwise 'applying' science. They ignore about the spiritualism. Such persons had little time or inclination to thinks about the ultimates of human life and destiny.

On the other hand, at that time there was The England Common Law which distinguished the legal rights between a single woman and a married woman. An unmarried woman was recognized as a person under the law, possessed of almost all the rights of males. On the other side, a married woman was restricted by law in respect to a large list of matters. Her dissabilities affected all areas of private legal relations. The basic possition of wife in marriage was well expressed by the quip "husband and wife are but one, and the husband is that one". It means that all real property which a wife held at the time of marriage became a possession of obedience rather than equality. The teachings of the Bible, particularly, those of St. Paul, placed women in a positon of obedience rather than equality. The doctrine that a married man and woman became one flesh in the eyes of God had a profound influence, not only in creating the legal doctrines, but also in achieving threw acceptance of those doctrines in the community.

On the other cases, a wife's earnings were the property of her husband. A wife was incapable of bringing a law suit in her own name. The suit had to be brought by herself and her husband. She retained her husband's domicile throughout marriage. A wife also could make presume to be acting under his coercion and therefore would be excused from the consequences of criminality unless it could be shown that she was acting of her own free will. And a husband is responsible for his wife's torts.

The above conditions will be used as a means to see the unfair social attitude and notion towards woman in A Doll's House.

## 2.2. Operation of Concept

In operating the concept, the writer of this thesis tries to explain the title of this thesis, woman's defense of human rights against the social attitude and notion.

Woman is adult female human being. In general, there are two kind of woman, a married woman and an unmarried woman. And woman, in this case, is a married woman. A married woman defends human rights.

According to Mario Bei and Prof. Emeritus, defend means to protect or support against any assault or attack; to protect by opposing or resistance; to vindicate,

uphold, or maintain uninjured by force or by argument, as rights and privileges (1976,261). While defense, itself is the noun form of the word defend. It means resistance against attack; protection, the practise or art of defending oneself against attack; the defending or maintaining of cause or the like by speech or argument or by force (1976,261). In psychology the term of defense has the meaning as unconcious strategies by which person protects himself against the harsher aspects of reality ( Bruno : 1986,57).

Based on the upon meaning, the writer of this thesis get the meaning of defense. It means the unconcious resistence or strategies to protect or to maintain of a cause against the harsher aspects of reality or any assault by speech or argumaent or by force or action.

Then human rights, in this thesis, is woman's rights. According women's legal rights, women, whether married, unmarried, or widowed, could legally dispose of property by will the same as men, and daughters were allowed to inherit equally with sons ( The Ensvyclopedia Americana vol. 30<sup>th</sup> : 1949,130). It means that wives shall have the same right as their husband. It is called "equal righ statutes".

According women's legal rights, actually a husband is not responsible for the torts of his wife, and a wife need no longer turn her earning over to her husband.

About domicile, a married woman does have the power to establish a separate domicile of her husband objects. It is true that in great majority of cases of woman takes the domicile of her husband upon marriage, but she may choose another as freely as a man. She should have not to be acting as her own free will. Man and wife are one found expression in still other areas of the criminal law.

The equal right statutes is not only of removing the disabilities of a wife and equalizing rights between husband and wife, but also of equalizing rights between the spouses. Finally, related to the human rights that people has human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. So in all respects, as law is concerned, men and women are to be treated equally.

Social is a group of people living in communities. Then, attitude means the way of feeling, thinking or behaving. And notion is an idea or opinion. So the unfair social attitude and notion means wrong, dishonest and dishonorable manner of the way of thinking, feeling, behaving and the idea or opinion of a group of people living in communities.

In conclusion, the meaning of woman's defense of human rights against the social attitude and notion, in this case, a married woman who has the unconciuos resist-

ance or strategies to protect or to maintain woman's rights against the way of feeling, thinking, behaving, and the idea of a group of people living around her towards woman, especially married woman. And she does this strategies or resistance by speech and action.