

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This study presents five subchapters. They are background of the study, statements of the research question, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Some of them are necessary to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

Marriage is a called contract between man and woman (Pateman.1988:154). The man and woman each say the words “I do” in weeding ceremony. These words transform man and woman become new status. From this contract man becomes husband and female becomes wife (Pateman.1988:164). Actually, this new status gives them new position in family; wife is as housewife and husband is as worker. From these positions, Marriage contract is any relationship of subordination with woman as an object of subordination (Pateman.1988:115)

If marriage is a proper contract, women should have the same footing as their husband (Pateman.1988:155). So that marriage is a hope to be better life. In fact, Marriage is more than the law of the strongest, enforced by men over weaker woman. In the marriage contract a wife explicitly must agree and obey her husband. Women are forced to enter into this supposed contract. This condition put a marriage become one of the problems in women’s life. If she enters marriage she will have no occupation to develop herself. Marriage is no more than an

institution to serve man. In other word, marriage contract reflects patriarchy system to treat woman.

Patriarchal system has been used to refer male domination and the power relationships by which men dominate women (Millet. 2000:25). Some people believed that patriarchal system that has been acknowledged has caused discrimination and unfair treatment to women in the society. Hence, women experience different treatment in any aspect such as in economic, family, sexuality etc. Patriarchy cast men as rational, strong, protective and decisive; they cast women as emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing and submissive. These statements appropriate with Tyson (1950:85)

Patriarchal woman I mean, of course, a woman who has internalized the norms and values of patriarchy. Traditional gender role cast men as rational, strong, protective and decisive; they cast women as emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing and submissive. Women had internalized very successfully to justify inequalities in the family as well as in politics, academic, and the corporate world.

Today, if we pay attention more to the development of women's problems, especially in the discussion of the equality on the right between men and women, we will find that the issues on women are controversial and complex. Those problems need more solution and discussion. Those problems are not only the responsibility for the government, but also our responsibility to solve the problems. Those women's problems are the problems of society, because women are the important part of society. Men are considered as the first class in society, while women are the second. This conception eventually leads to the role

distinctions between men and women in society. This fact has shown us that in the whole of the life aspects, women are always dominated by men (Walby.1990:19)

Related with statement above, Marriage contract may be bad status but it still occurs in patriarchy system (Pateman.1988:168). So, practice of patriarchy becomes serious problem in society. When women are lower position than men, women become subordinate people. Men have authority to oppress women as the consequence of concept of patriarchy. Hence, this study discusses a drama. Drama is one of literary work that can be performed in stage or theatre even, in television and radio. Drama is usually written in text or called as script written. This study analyzes the drama written by Hedrik Ibsen entitle *A Doll's House*.

A Doll's House drama is chosen as the source of data because it's one of Ibsen's the most interesting works. Moreover, *A Doll's House* is the best of Hendrik Ibsen's works because the idea of this play shows men power and woman condition in society. Woman should be submissive and obedient on men. It is also one of popular drama that had been translated in any languages. It published on 1879 in Rome and Amalfi. This Drama contains some moral lessons because it describes how the condition of women's life who get discrimination in society. Subordinate women are really seen clearly in this drama. Women must really take care of their family. It also shows how men oppress women. Men can control women by his pretension. Women always get bad treatment from men. He thinks his wife's happiness only in his perspective. He never thinks anything about his wife feeling except he can need his necessary and his pretension complete.

While, literary work is product of author idea. The idea can be expressed become creative process to produce literary work such as drama, novel, poem, etc. The expression of author's idea called as 'Literature'. Literature represents life which deals with internal and external factors of human life. Sometime only author's imagination, author's experiences, author presented people experiences etc. All of literatures really connect to social condition, psychology, history, sciences, kinds of event around the world etc. It's interested in analysis because we can get a lot of knowledge by this criticism. But before we criticize literature, we need several understanding about literary criticism. Literary criticism is the analysis of a conception account of literature such as inspiration, as imitation, as imagination, as impressionism, as a form of ideology and as a means of affirming identity (Gery.2008:02). When we talk about the influence of the literature to the society or it's opposite, we have to relate this aspect to the society and reality. This influence is also appeared in men or women as part of society.

Based on the previous statement, this study applies marriage contract as the theoretical analysis and patriarchy in four structures; there are family, culture, sexuality, male violence to support and strengthen the analysis. This theory is chosen because this study discusses about men's domination over women in society. It concerns with women treatment in this drama. Patriarchy as concepts marriage contract of toward the some characters becomes very interesting topic from this drama. Walby (1990:20) discusses what she calls "the six structures"; Patriarchal Production or family, patriarchy-paid work or the economic level, patriarchal state, male violence, sexuality and in cultural institutions. The six

structures of patriarchy are real necessary to capture the variation in gender relation in society and all of them have any relation one another. Therefore, we focus to elaborate four structures in society

Furthermore, there is a previous study that had already analyzed the same source of data, *A Doll's House* by Hendrik Ibsen. The title is "Patriarchy in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*" that had been written by Ishomuddin, English Department, Faculty of Adab and Culture Science, State Islam University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta. The previous study focused on patriarchal system and used Marxist feminist approach. The scopes of his study focused in analyzing gender inequality especially in economic that had any relationship with capitalism and patriarchy in Islamic perspective. However, the previous study was different with the present study. The difference was the theory he used. The previous study used Marxist feminist perspective while, the present study uses marriage contract theory to analyze the source of data and it's supported by patriarchy to strengthen the analysis. This study analyzes four structures in society with patriarchy theory as a concept of marriage contract; they are family, culture, sexuality, and male violence. So, this study is really different with other researchers.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Related to the background of study above, some question is formulated as follows:

1. To what extent Tolvard Helmer's domination manifested in Hendrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*?

2. How do women respond toward Tolvard Helmer's domination in Hendrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*?

1.3 The Objectives of Study

Based on the statement of research question above, this study is intended:

1. To know in what extent Tolvard Helmer's domination manifested in Hendrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.
2. To describe women's responses toward Tolvard Helmer's domination in Hendrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

1.4 Significances of Study

Dealing with the previous discussion, this study has some benefits and gives significance in both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study enriches the reader's knowledge about how patriarchy as a concept of marriage contract can be appropriate in drama. Practically, this study hoped to assume to be able to give benefit to the society especially for husband about how to treatment women in family life so that be able to create a happy family.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study

The scope of this study is marriage contract system and patriarchy theory as a concept of marriage contract to support the analysis. This study concerns for four structures in society; there are family, culture, sexuality, and male violence. In order to help this study to be successfully achieve the object of the study, it limits on the characters' utterances and author's narrations which answer the research problems focused in *A Doll's House* written by Hendrik Ibsen.