The Underlying Causes of Hedda’s Tragedy
In Henrik Ibsen’s “Hedda Gabler”

A THESIS
As a Partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree
In English Language Teaching Faculty

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The writer

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Abstract


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Keywords : Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler, Drama, Causes, Tragedy.

Literature is an art of writing by using human language. Literature can be interesting because it gives pleasure and enjoyment for the students. The writer takes drama as her study because drama contains the record of the people’s values, thought, problems and conflicts. In short, it is concerned with their whole way of life. The writer chooses one of Henrik Ibsen plays, that is Hedda Gabler, one of the greatest plays of all time. It is a story about a complex character named “Hedda Gabler”. She is a character that dares to defend her freedom, faith, and status as a woman at that time. The study attempts to answer the one and only research question: “What causes lead to Hedda’s tragedy in Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler?” To find the causes of the tragedy that happened to the main character, the writer uses objective theory of M. H. Abrams (1953).

In conducting this study, the writer used qualitative method. She also applied the intrinsic approach that covers the elements of drama: setting, characters, plot, and theme. Thus, the researchers tried to find out the causes of the tragedy by analyzing any information related to the causes of tragedy found in the setting, characters, plot, and theme. From the analysis, it could be conclusively stated that the tragedy happening to Hedda Gabler was caused by several reasons. The first reason is that her environment has to become personally desperate. The second is Hedda the one who has the manuscript from Tesman, pretends not to know the manuscript when Lovborg tells about that. Hedda does it on purpose since she wants to have power over Lovborg and Mrs. Elvsted. However, she falls into her own trap by encouraging Lovborg to use her gun to end his life and under Brack’s blackmail (sexual affair and controls over her life) so that she decides to end her life.
In the literary work, the writer finds a lot of moral values that are useful for the readers to learn for their life. The writer hopes that by understanding the drama, other researchers and readers will be more interested in reading and analyzing literature, which usually presents human values. The writer suggests that researchers and readers analyze other works by Henrik Ibsen who is the father of modern drama.