

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Analysis of Symbol

In this chapter, the problem that was stated in the previous chapter will be discussed. The discussion concerns with the symbols that used in *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. The discussion has purpose to analyze the possible meaning of the symbols in *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. Eleven symbols that are important of the story have been selected. All of them will be analyzed one by one as follows:

4.1.1 Christmas Tree

The first symbol that will be analyzed is Christmas tree. It appears from the 1st act opening when Nora enters her house after bought some parcels to celebrate Christmas day. It is shown by the sentence below:

Enter Nora, humming a tune and in high spirits. She is in outdoor dress and carries a number of parcels; these she lays on the table to the right. She leaves the outer door open after her, and through it seen a porter who is carrying a Christmas Tree and a basket, which he gives to the maid who has opened the door (Sharp, 1959: 3).

Christmas tree derived from the word Christmas and tree. Louis (2012) states "Christmas/Christmas season is symbolized as birth, change for better" (www.scribd.com/Symbolism-in-Literature.html). Meanwhile, tree is symbolized an upward trend, with its roots underground and its branches rising to the sky (Eliade in Cirlot, 1971: 347). In another case, tree is interpreted as the spirit; green color of the

tree symbolizes hope and new life. It is personal and cultural symbol, because its meaning based on not only the context of the story but also the Christian cultural that uses Christmas tree when Christmas day as the symbol of Jesus birth.

Based on the above views, Christmas Tree is interpreted as a new spirit of Nora to her new family life which has been changed become better. It is supported that Christmas/Christmas season is symbolized as birth, change for better. Meanwhile, tree is symbolized an increasing trend, with its roots underground and its branches rising to the sky (Eliade in Cirlot, 1971: 347). By buying a Christmas tree, Nora wants to show us about her new family life which has been changed better. Her family has been recovered from bad situation. She can save Helmer's life from the sickness. She wants to celebrate Christmas after Helmer was heal from his sickness and will become manager of a bank. His family becomes better, especially in financial in this year. It is can be shown by the dialogue between Nora and Helmer below:

NORA. Yes but, Torvald, this year we can really let our selves go a little. This is the first Christmas tree that we have not needed to to economize.

HELMER. Still you know, we can't spend money recklessly.

NORA. Yes, Torvald, we may be a wee bit more reckless now, mayn't we? Just a tiny wee bit! You are going to have a big salary and earn lots and lots of money (Sharp, 1959: 4).

Christmas tree shows us about the setting of the story that is take place in Christmas day. Another interpretation of Christmas tree that is given of this story is about Nora's character according to Helmer as her husband. Helmer considers Nora is spendthrift by

buying some useless things. He suggests Nora can't manage family financial and always spend much money to buy useless things. It is like Helmer said to Nora below:

HELMER (*smiling*). Indeed it is. That is to say, if you were really to save out of the money I give you, and then really buy something for yourself. But if you spend it all on the housekeeping and any number of unnecessary things, then I merely have to pay up again (Sharp, 1959: 5).

HELMER. You can't deny it, my dear little Nora. (*puts his arm round her waist*). It's a sweet little spendthrift, but she uses up a deal of money. One would hardly believe how expensive such little persons are!

NORA. It's shame to say that. I do really save all I can.

HELMER (*laughing*). That's very true, all you can. But you can't save anything! (Sharp, 1959: 6).

Another Nora's character is Nora likes to keep secret something. On the opening 1st act she asks the maid to hide the Christmas tree in order to surprise her family at Christmas night. It is can be shown by the dialogue below:

NORA. Hide the Christmas tree carefully, Helen. Be sure the children do not see it till this evening, when it is dressed. (*to the PORTER, taking out her purse*) how much? (Sharp, 1959: 3).

HELMER. No, I am sure of that; besides, you gave me your word-(*going up to her*) keep your little Christmas secrets to yourself, my darling. They will all be revealed tonight when the Christmas tree is lit, no doubt (Sharp, 1959: 6).

4.1.2 Macaroons

Macaroons appear at the 1st act. Based on Dictionary of the English language (2000), macaroon is a chewy cookie made with sugar, egg whites, and almond paste or coconut. Too much eat

macaroon can destroy the teeth. Nora is really like to eat macaroons. It is can be shown by how often she eats some macaroons and repeatedly.

NORA. There is a shilling. No, keep the change. (*the PORTER thanks her, and goes out. Nora shuts the door. She is laughing to herself, as she takes off her hat and coat. She takes a packet of macaroons from her pocket and eats one or two; then goes cautiously to her husband's door and listens.*) yes, he is in. (*still humming, she goes to the table on the right.*) (Sharp, 1959: 3).

NORA. Just now (*puts the bag of macaroons into her pocket and wipes her mouth.*) Come in here, Torvald and see what I have bought
(Sharp, 1959: 4).

NORA. Oh, well, don't be alarmed! You couldn't know that Torvald had forbidden them. I must tell you that he is afraid they will spoil my teeth. But, bah!-once in a way- that's so, isn't it, Doctor Rank? By your leave! (*Puts a macaroon into his mouth.*) You must have one too, Christine. And I shall have one, just a little one-or at most two. (*walking about.*) I am tremendously happy. There is just one thing in the world now that I should dearly love to do (Sharp, 1959: 17).

Helmer as her husband forbids her to eat macaroons because they will spoil her sweet teeth. It is personal symbol because the interpretation based on the context of the story and may have different meaning if it takes place in another story. Besides that, each people will give different interpretation depend on their knowledge and understanding of the story. The symbol of macaroons or the forbidden macaroons in *A Doll's House* are interpreted as egoistic and bad opinion of Helmer to Nora. Helmer forbids her to eat macaroons because they will destroy her teeth. On the other hand, by eating them, she is destroying her beauty. Therefore, she is destroying the main reason why Helmer married her. Helmer is only concern to Nora's

beauty in order to fill his happiness and satisfaction of his wife without care about Nora's desirability. It can be shown by the dialogue below:

RANK. What, macaroons? I thought they were forbidden here.

NORA. Yes, but these are some Christine gave me.

MRS. LINDE. What! I?

NORA. Oh, well, don't be alarmed! You couldn't know that Torvald had forbidden them. I must tell you that he is afraid they will spoil my teeth. But, bah!-once in a way- that's so, isn't it, Doctor Rank? By your leave! (*Puts a macaroon into his mouth.*) You must have one too, Christine. And I shall have one, just a little one-or at most two. (*walking about.*) I am tremendously happy. There is just one thing in the world now that I should dearly love to do (Sharp, 1959: 17).

Another interpretation of macaroon is the characteristic of Nora. It shows us that Nora likes to hide something. It can be shown that she always eat macaroon secretly from her husband. She doesn't want Helmer know her habit because it is the forbidden habit in Helmer's house, especially to Nora.

4.1.3 Skylark

Skylark or lark is the next symbol will be analyzed. It is one of the terms that used by Helmer to call Nora. Skylark is a bird that has beauty twitter. Its habit is usually chirrup in early morning. Lyman (2009) states "skylark's song is common interpreted as a cheerful one; to be joyful is to be as happy and people interpret the skylark's song as a cheerful thing, joyful, and happiness, singing beautifully is looks like skylark's song" (contributor.yahoo.com/user/Darryl_Lyman.html). So, skylark is universal symbol because people commonly have same interpretation about it.

Skylark in *A Doll's House* is interpreted as the Nora's feeling at the opening 1st act. She comes home after bought some parcels cheerfully and happily. She wants to show us about her feeling and high spirit in the Christmas day and to celebrate her better family life. It can be shown from the dialogue below:

NORA. There is a shilling. No, keep the change. (*The PORTER thanks her, and goes out. NORA shuts the door. She is laughing to herself, as she takes off her hat and coat. She takes a packet of macaroons from her pocket and eats one or two; then goes cautiously to her husband's door and listens.*) Yes, he is in. (*Still humming, she goes to the table on the right.*)
HELMER (*calls out from his room*). Is that my little lark twittering out there? (Sharp, 1959: 3).

The dialogue above shows us about Nora's activity who is humming when she come home. It shows us that Nora is cheerful, happy, and in high spirit. The next interpretation of skylark is Nora's feeling who is really wish Helmer to give her money in order to buy some requirements for housekeeping at the Christmas. She wants to persuade Helmer that she can manage financial for housekeeping well.

It is based on the dialogue below:

NORA (*moving towards the stove*). As you please, Torvald.
HELMER (*following her*). Come, come, my little skylark must not droop her wings. What is this! Is my little squirrel out of temper? (*taking out his purse*) Nora, what do you think I have got here?
NORA (*turning round quickly*). Money!
HELMER. There you are. (*gives her some money*) do you think I don't know what a lot is wanted for housekeeping at Christmas-time?
NORA (*counting*). Ten shillings-a pound-two pounds! Thank you, thank you, Torvald; that will keep me going for a long time.
HELMER. Indeed it must (Sharp, 1959: 4).

Another interpretation of skylark is about Nora's activity who likes to sing beautifully amuses Helmer and she will do that to Helmer's satisfaction and happiness. The dialogue is below:

NORA. Your skylark would chirp about in every room, with her song rising and falling

HELMER. Well, my skylark does that anyhow.

NORA. I would play the fairy and dance for you in the moonlight, Torvald (Sharp, 1959: 34).

Skylark is the symbol that often appears on the story. It is the term that used by Helmer to call Nora. Helmer deems Nora as the weakness wife; he can control her and asks her to do whatever he likes. Helmer likes Nora's voices in singing so that he calls her by used skylark. It is symbolized about the character of Nora, especially physical appearance. Nora is drawn as the beautiful woman whose beautiful voices when she is singing. It is based on Lyman's opinion (2009), "skylark's song is common interpreted as a cheerful one; to be joyful is to be as happy and people interpret the skylark's song as a cheerful thing, joyful, and happiness, singing beautifully is looks like skylark's song" (contributor.yahoo.com/user/Darryl_Lyman.html). Once again, it shows us that Helmer uses Nora as his happiness and satisfaction object.

4.1.4 Squirrel

The next symbol is Squirrel. It is one of the some terms which is used by Helmer to call Nora. The squirrel is often considered as message for us to have more fun and little less seriously. It is like

Nora's feeling at the opening 1st act. She feels fun and in high spirit after bought some parcels to the Christmas day.

NORA. There is a shilling. No, keep the change. (*The PORTER thanks her, and goes out. NORA shuts the door. She is laughing to herself, as she takes off her hat and coat. She takes a packet of macaroons from her pocket and eats one or two; then goes cautiously to her husband's door and listens.*) Yes, he is in. (*Still humming, she goes to the table on the right.*)

HELMER (*calls out from his room*). Is that my little lark twittering out there?

NORA (*busy opening some parcels.*) Yes it is!

HELMER. Is it my little squirrel bustling about?
(Sharp, 1959: 3-4).

Venefica (2011) states "the common meaning of squirrel is energy, play, prudence, balance, socializing, preparation, and resourcefulness". She adds "the squirrel's habit is hide and save its food and return to it when the winter months" (www.whats-your-sign.com/animal-symbolism-squirrel.html). Squirrel is universal symbol because it is commonly symbolized by people as the sign to prepare their provision.

Based on above views, the possible meaning of squirrel symbol is interpreted as the Nora's character substantively. Squirrel is as the symbolic character of the story. Symbolic character is more a portrait than a person (Kennedy and Gioia, 2005:201). Squirrel is the term that is used by Helmer in calling Nora. It shows us about Nora's character indirectly. Basically, she can manage financial family well. Besides that, she can prepare and save all of the requirements for housekeeping. It is supported that "the common meaning of squirrel is energy, play, prudence, balance, socializing, preparation, and resourcefulness" (Venefica, 2011 in [www.whats-your-](http://www.whats-your-sign.com/animal-symbolism-squirrel.html)

sign.com/animal-symbolism-squirrel.html). She adds “the squirrel’s habit is hide and save its food and return to it when the winter months, and it is usually symbolized by people as the sign to prepare their provision”.

Although Helmer admits Nora is a spendthrift wife. During his married with Nora, Helmer looks her as extravagant woman. It is supported by Mrs. Linde (Nora’s school friend). Nora is known as the great spendthrift when they were at the same school. Helmer is often judge that Nora is extravagant and always uses his money to buy useless thing. It is can be shown by the dialogue below:

NORA (*smiling quietly and happily*). You haven’t any idea how many expenses we skylarks and squirrels have, Torvald.

HELMER. You are an odd little soul. Very like your father. You always find some new way of wheedling money out of me, and, as soon as you have got it, it seems to melt in your hands. You never know where it has gone. Still, one must take you as you are. It is in the blood; for indeed it is true that you can inherit these things, Nora (Sharp, 1959: 6).

MRS. LINDE (*smiling*). Nora, Nora, haven’t you learnt sense yet? In our school days you were a great spendthrift.

NORA (*laughing*). Yes, that is what Torvald says now. (*wags her finger at her.*) But “Nora, Nora” is not silly as you think. We have not been in position for me to waste money. We have both had to work (Sharp, 1959: 9)

4.1.5 Clothes/Dress

“Clothing/dress is an important symbol because it effects first impression as well as subsequent judgments of a person”(Hurlock in Khotimah, 2007: 12). Nora wants to look for a beautiful dress which she calls it by fancy-dress ball. It is the dress that she wants to wear in Stensborg’s festival. It can be shown from the dialogue below:

NORA. I am looking forward tremendously to the fancy dress ball at the Stenborg's the day after tomorrow.

HELMER. And I am tremendously curious to see what you are going to surprise me with

NORA. There is no one has such good taste as you. And I do so want to look nice at the fancy-dress ball. Torvald, couldn't you take me in hand and decide what I shall go as, and what sort of a dress I shall wear?

(Sharp, 1959: 26-27).

Dress or in this play named fancy-dress ball is symbolized as the way of Helmer uses Nora as his pleasant, the pride, and his high social status in the society. He wants to show them about his success because he has high position in Bank. Dress is universal symbol because people commonly interpret persons' personality by their dress or clothes. Hurlock in Khotimah (2007: 12) states "by their clothes, people try to symbolize there: desire for attention, individuality, sex appropriateness, autonomy, maturity, identity with a specific group and success".

NORA. Yes, I was passing by. As a matter of fact, it is something you could help me with. Let us sit down here on the sofa. Look here. Tomorrow evening there is to be a fancy dress ball at the Stenborg's, who live above us; and Torvald wants me to go as Neapolitan fisher girl, and dance the Tarantella that I learnt at Capri.

MRS. LINDE. I see; you are going to keep up the character.

NORA. Yes, Torvald wants me to. Look, here is the dress Torvald had it made for me there, but now it is all so torn, and I haven't any idea (Sharp, 1959: 30-31).

Based on the analysis above, Helmer often uses Nora as his pleasure and desire, moreover as his pride to the society. So, he asks Nora to wear a beautiful dress that is named fancy dress ball in Stensborg's festival. By

wearing fancy dress ball, all people will admire his wife and it is as his pride of the society. Helmer is only concern to his position and status in the society.

NORA. Yes, nobody is to have the chance of admiring me in my dress until tomorrow.

HELMER. But, my dear Nora, you look so worn out. Have you been practicing to much?

NORA. No, I have not practiced at all.

HELMER. But you will need to
(Sharp, 1959: 46).

4.1.6 Tarantella / Tarantella Dance

Tarantella is little spider. According to legend, the town of Taranto in southern Italy was afflicted with an epidemic of poisonous spiders in the 13th century and it was going on during 400 years, primarily in the hot summer months of July and August. “Legend also states that when bitten, a victim would jump up, run outside, and suddenly begin dancing with great excitement, other victims were also bitten by spiders would join and they would dance to tarantella music in order to reverse the spider poison in their blood” (Woodling, 2007).

Based on the story above, Tarantella becomes one of the Italian folk dances. The instrumental music of Tarantella dance is a rapid score characterized by brief, rhythmic phrases, which rise in intensity. Nora learned the Tarantella dance during the year she and Helmer lived in Capri Italy. It is based on the dialogue below:

NORA. Yes, I was passing by. As a matter of fact, it is something you could help me with. Let us sit down here on the sofa. Look here. Tomorrow evening there is to be a fancy-dress ball at the Stenborgs’, who live above us; and Torvald wants me to go as a Neapolitan fisher-girl, and dance the Tarantella that I learnt at Capri (Sharp, 1959: 31).

Helmer wants and asks Nora to perform the Tarantella dance at the fancy dress at the Stenborgs'. The possible meaning of Tarantella dance is interpreted as the way of Helmer who uses her wife to satisfy his desire. But, it is personal symbol because the interpretation based on the context of the story and may have different meaning if it takes place in another story. Besides that, each person will give different interpretation depend on their knowledge and understanding of the story. Nora performs it to increase her attractiveness to him. It is shown by the dialogues below:

HELMER (following her). You have still got the Tarantella in your blood, I see. And it makes you more captivating than ever. Listen—the guests are beginning to go now. (in a lower voice.) Nora—soon the whole house will be quiet (Sharp, 1959: 55).

Besides that, Helmer uses Nora as his arrogance. Nora can make Helmer proud of her if only she can perform the Tarantella dance successfully in front of the people. The dance, which involves fast and brief motions, can be done by Nora successfully. Even though, Helmer doesn't appreciate it. He says that the dance is a trifle too realistic. It is one of the bad treatments of Helmer to Nora. It is based on the dialogue below:

HELMER. Listen to her, Mrs. Linde! She had danced her Tarantella, and it had been a tremendous success, as it deserved—although possibly the performance was a trifle too realistic--a little more so, I mean, than was strictly compatible with the limitations of art. But never mind about that! The chief thing is, she had made a success--she had made a tremendous success. Do you think I was going to let her remain there after that, and spoil the effect? No, indeed! I took my charming little Capri maiden--my capricious little Capri maiden, I should say--on my arm; took one quick turn round the room; a curtsey on either side, and, as they say in novels, the beautiful apparition disappeared. An exit ought always to be effective, Mrs. Linde; but that is what I cannot make Nora understand. Pooh! this room is hot. (*Throws his domino on a chair, and opens the door of his room.*) Hullo! it's all dark in here. Oh, of course--excuse me--. (*He goes in, and lights some candles.*) (Sharp, 1959: 53).

4.1.7 Black Cross

Black cross is the next symbol in *A Doll House* that will be analyzed. It appears two times in the story. It is universal symbol because people commonly interpret as the symbol of dead. Black cross derived from the words black and cross. Conroy (1921: 48) states “black color is purely the color of sadness, a sign that our lives have been lost of the happiness and the existence of someone’s love”. It is commonly known that black color symbolizes death. Meanwhile, “cross is symbolized for agony, struggle, and martyrdom” (Cirlot, 1971: 70). Black cross symbol shows us about the conflict between Dr. Rank and Nora in the story. Dr. Rank tells to Nora that he suffers serious disease. It is based on the Dr. Rank’s statement below:

RANK. Who else? It is no use lying to one's self. I am the most wretched of all my patients, Mrs. Helmer. Lately I have been taking stock of my internal economy. Bankrupt! Probably within a month I shall lie rotting in the churchyard.

RANK. I won't have him there. Not on any account. I bar my door to him. As soon as I am quite certain that the worst has come, I shall send you my card with a black cross on it, and then you will know that the loathsome end has begun (Sharp, 1959: 37).

After reveals his death, Dr. Rank shows his feeling to Nora. He is falling in love to Nora. He hopes a mercy from Nora by showing his death, so that his love will be accepted by Nora. But, Nora is really love her husband (Helmer) and can’t accept Dr. Rank’s love.

RANK. To have loved you as much as anyone else does? Was that horrid?

NORA. No, but to go and tell me so. There was really no need— (Sharp, 1959: 40).

RANK. It is just that, that put me on the wrong track. You are a riddle to me. I have often thought that you would almost as soon be in my company as in Helmer's.

NORA. Yes--you see there are some people one loves best, and others whom one would almost always rather have as companions.

RANK. Yes, there is something in that.

NORA. When I was at home, of course I loved papa best. But I always thought it tremendous fun if I could steal down into the maids' room, because they never moralized at all, and talked to each other about such entertaining things.

(Sharp, 1959: 40-41).

Based on above views, Black cross is interpreted as the sign and the announcement from Dr. Rank to Helmer's family, especially to Nora that he suffers a serious disease and close to his death. It is supported that "black symbolized power, sexuality, sophistication, formality, elegance, wealth, mystery, fear, evil, unhappiness, depth, style, evil, sadness, remorse, anger, anonymity, underground, good technical color, mourning, and death in Western cultures" (Rohrer, 2012). Besides that, it is interpreted as the sadness of Dr. Rank because he lost his love which is Nora. It is based on the meaning of color black that symbolized as the color of sadness, a sign that our lives have been lost of the happiness and the existence of someone's love (Conroy, 1921: 48). It can be shown the dialogues below:

HELMER. There is a black cross over the name. Look there--what an uncomfortable idea! It looks as if he were announcing his own death.

NORA. It is just what he is doing.

HELMER. What? Do you know anything about it? Has he said anything to you?

NORA. Yes. He told me that when the cards came it would be his leave-taking from us. He means to shut himself up and die (Sharp, 1959: 58).

Besides that, it is symbolized as the hope and mercy from Dr. Rank to Nora, so she can accept his love. It is the symbol that appears in the important event between Dr. Rank and Nora. Based on the interpretation of Black Cross,

we know that during his life with Helmer's family, Dr. Rank truly admires Nora. Finally, he expresses his feeling to Nora when he closes his death. According to Stanton in Wulan (2010: 30) that symbol that is appeared in an important event in the story shows us the meaning of the event.

4.1.8 Letter

Letter is the next symbol that will be analyzed. It is the important symbol in *A Doll's House*, especially for the plot of the story. Many important events in the plot use letter to reveal the truth and the message. Dr. Rank uses letter to send the message about his death. Another is the letter from Krogstad that can cause climax in *A Doll's House*. This is the letter which is contains the big secret of Nora in the past. Letter is interpreted as the way to reveal the truth and the importance message of the story. It is personal symbol because the interpretation based on the context of the story and may have different meaning if it takes place in another story. Besides that, each people will give different interpretation depend on their knowledge and understanding of the story.

4.1.9 Doll

The possible meaning of doll symbol is interpreted as the drawn of the Nora's role in *A Doll's House*. But, it is personal symbol because the interpretation will be different for each people. Besides that, the interpretation based on the context of the story and may have different meaning if it takes place in another story. During her life with Helmer, Nora is only as the plaything of Helmer to fulfill his pleasant, happiness, and desire. Moreover it is like her father's treatment to her in the past. It is supported that doll is

symbolized as a pretty girl or woman of little intelligence, sometimes used as a term of address and it is commonly used a plaything for people's happiness (thefreedictionary.com: 2012). According to Rousseau in Cirlot (1971: 84), doll or puppet symbolized as a form of deviation of the maternal instinct; in short, a hangover from, or regression to an infantile state.

Another interpretation of doll based on the quotations above is the bad viewed of Helmer to Nora. Helmer views Nora is childish and incapable. So, he never believes in Nora to manage all important business in his family. Doll is a replica of human that is played as entertain and happiness thing. At the end of act 3, Nora is conscious that during his life with Helmer, she is only like a doll for Helmer. Helmer is never really loves her. Helmer is only loves her for his pleasant and his happiness.

NORA. That is just it; you have never understood me. I have been greatly wronged, Torvald--first by papa and then by you.

HELMER. What! By us two--by us two, who have loved you better than anyone else in the world?

NORA (*shaking her head*). You have never loved me. You have only thought it pleasant to be in love with me.

HELMER. Nora, what do I hear you saying?

NORA. It is perfectly true, Torvald. When I was at home with papa, he told me his opinion about everything, and so I had the same opinions; and if I differed from him I concealed the fact, because he would not have liked it. He called me his doll-child, and he played with me just as I used to play with my dolls. And when I came to live with you-- (Sharp, 1959: 63).

Doll symbol appears at the climax of the story. It is the symbol that has a function to create a plot and a role character of Nora. As Helmer reads the letter from Krogstad, and finally he knows what Nora has been done in the past. Nora made a big mistake by falsifying her father's sign in order to get money for Helmer's recovery cost in the past. But, she hides it from Helmer until Krogstad reveals Nora's big secret to Helmer. Without any little

appreciated to his wife, Helmer speaks out to Nora rudely. He judges Nora with all rude words because of only one mistake. He is never appreciates everything that Nora has been done to him and her family.

HELMER (*walking about the room*). What a horrible awakening! All these eight years--she who was my joy and pride—a hypocrite, a liar--worse, worse--a criminal! The unutterable ugliness of it all!--For shame! For shame! (*NORA is silent and looks steadily at him. He stops in front of her.*) I ought to have suspected that something of the sort would happen. I ought to have foreseen it. All your father's want of principle--be silent!--all your father's want of principle has come out in you. No religion, no morality, no sense of duty--. How I am punished for having winked at what he did! I did it for your sake, and this is how you repay me.

NORA. Yes, that's just it.

HELMER. Now you have destroyed all my happiness. You have ruined all my future. It is horrible to think of! I am in the power of an unscrupulous man; he can do what he likes with me, ask anything he likes of me, give me any orders he pleases—I dare not refuse. And I must sink to such miserable depths because of a thoughtless woman! (Sharp, 1959: 59-60).

4.1.10 Ring

Ring is universal symbol because people commonly interpret as the bond of marriage. Cirlot (1971: 273) states “ring is a symbol of continuity and wholeness, it has been used both as symbol of marriage and of the eternally repeated time-cycle”. Based on the opinion above, Ring in *A Doll's House* is interpreted as the bond of marriage between Helmer and Nora that is ended finally in the denouement of the plot. It is the symbol which has a function to create a plot. The plot of *A Doll's House* is a bad ending, and without clear solution. Nora gives back Helmer's ring and asks Helmer to give back her ring too. It is the sign from Nora to leave Helmer, moreover her children. Even, it is difficult option especially to leave her children. It is the controversial ending

of *A Doll's House*. Ibsen was asked to make an alternative ending because there is no wife leaves her children.

NORA. Listen, Torvald. I have heard that when a wife deserts her husband's house, as I am doing now, he is legally freed from all obligations towards her. In any case, I set you free from all your obligations. You are not to feel yourself bound in the slightest way, any more than I shall. There must be perfect freedom on both sides. See, here is your ring back. Give me mine (Sharp, 1959: 67).

During Nora's life with Helmer is only for Helmer's happiness. All of Nora's sacrifice didn't appreciate by Helmer. The consciousness of Nora happens on the climax of the story. Because of Krogstad's letter, Helmer knows about Nora's secret who has been falsified her father's sign on order to get money. Helmer is really angry to Nora. It is show to Nora that Helmer is only concern to his business.

4.1.11 Doll's House

Doll's House is personal symbol because the interpretation will be different for some people depend on their knowledge and understanding about the story. Besides that, the interpretation based on the context of the story and may have different meaning if it takes place in another story. Doll's House is the symbol and the title of the story. Maybe many readers and audiences are still don't understand, why Ibsen gives his story that is entitled *A Doll's House*. But, by interpreting the symbol of doll as the role of Nora the woman main character of the story we can understand why the story is entitled *A Doll's House*.

Doll's house derived from the words Doll and House. Based on the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2000), "Doll is a

child's usually small toy having the likeness of a human, a pretty child. In slang, doll is an attractive person, a woman, a sweetheart or darling, a helpful or obliging person". According to Rousseau in Cirlot (1971: 84), "Doll or puppet symbolized as a form of deviation of the maternal instinct; in short, a hangover from, or regression to an infantile state". Meanwhile, in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1995), "House is building made for people to live in, usually for one family".

Doll's House is interpreted as a place of a family that lived by nice and attractive woman. The husband and other members of family can feel happy because of her. She can entertain her family. Moreover, she looks like a plaything to her family's happiness. Nora looks herself as doll for both her father and her husband. She is only as the plaything and happiness for them.

NORA. It is perfectly true, Torvald. When I was at home with papa, he told me his opinion about everything, and so I had the same opinions; and if I differed from him I concealed the fact, because he would not have liked it. He called me his doll-child, and he played with me just as I used to play with my dolls. And when I came to live with you-- (Sharp, 1959: 63).

Based on the meaning of doll and house above, *Doll's House* symbol is interpreted as the drawn of Nora's life in her family. It is the symbol that reflects the theme of the story. Nora is only like doll to both her husband and her father, on the other hand she is like the plaything for both her father and Helmer's to fulfill the happiness, pleasant, and desire in their life. In the end of the story, she realizes about that and decides to leave her Husband and children.

4.2 Interpretation

With the symbolism theories perspective, the interpretation of this study will be given that symbol is a thing that suggest more than its literal meaning, it can suggest many things based on the context of the story. The interpretation of the symbol may be different for some people especially for personal symbol. Symbols can have variety meanings depend on their association. There are personal, contextual, cultural, universal, and conventional. Personal is a meaning of symbol associated with our experiences. Every people who use this way may have different interpretation. Contextual is a private meaning created by the author. Cultural is a meaning of the symbol that influenced by culture. Universal is a meaning that is given to a thing by most people and cultures. It is the composite between personal from most people with cultural. Universal symbols have the same meaning for the people, because they have same and agreed meaning for all people.

After having an analysis of symbols in *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, can be concluded that the concept of symbolism theories are widely applicable. Most of the symbols in *A Doll's House* are universal symbol such as skylark, squirrel, clothes or dress, black cross, and ring. Other symbols are personal symbol such as macaroons or forbidden macaroons, tarantella or tarantella dance, letter, doll, and Doll's House. Meanwhile Christmas tree is both personal and cultural symbol. The interpretation of all symbols in *A Doll's House* is dominantly related to the theme, character, setting, and plot of the story.