

## Politics of Satire in Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*

Satire is discovered with esteem to societal responsibility, honor, self-interest and conformity of the characters in the play. It is assumed that the play *An Enemy of the People* is a socio-political satire that marks the propensity to disparage those people who do actually good things. The propensity to villain, the one who is real hero in the modern world is criticized. It is conjectured that the play satires on those who profess ideal motives but persistently display their power lust, greed and anxiety on the basis of social position. Satire usually does the corrective of human vices and folly and it resolves around an issue of general social or political significance which leads the political and social institution to the better way.

This research is an attempt to study the play *An Enemy of the People* as a comedy that contains a good deal of satire basically gyrating around the query of its elements that the play shares to make it satire for its development in the play. This study is centralized to the play as a satire. It analyses the people who profess ideal motives but constantly display their power lust, greed and anxiety about the social position. In general analysis of the play regards that satire on the people is based on the context of the contemporary society, Ibsen began to write prose and drama concerned with contemporary social issues filled with gender, political and psychological conflicts. To satirize the common majority and their leader's imagery of mongrel and common barnyard used in the play.

Problems of society of the time are represented in the play where the majority of the people do not differentiate between individual seemliness and liberty. They crave to eliminate individuality to put their faults out of sight; in fact they are ill-bred mass. For majority the individual freedom has the slightest prospect of being respected and they just use public opinion to prove their own opinion. In fact, there is the underlying struggle for individual

who fights against majority and attempts to gain his rightful position in the society and he should be ready to sacrifice everything that he has to achieve the purpose. Every social movements or changes have some effects on people who live in that society, especially those who are at the center of the movements. In the play *Dr. Stockmann*, as the protagonist, is surrounded with events which have great effects on him. One of them is isolation or loneliness so that he has to live as an outcast.

Dr. Stockmann lives in the society where the freedom and identity of individuals is ignored. He seeks to be an individual in a society that has little room for individuality, and the concept of individual is degenerating. Convinced of the need for freedom, he does not know how to take advantage of it and the ways he chooses often lead to loneliness and despair. Dr. Stockmann is unable to find any meaning in the society where all the values and measures of a meaningful life are lost and the individual and his freedom have no meaning. Although society has rejected him, he is alone and isolated and fights against the society. He believes that "the strongest man is the one who is alone" and this proves the superiority of the individual in the society. He depicts the individual's struggle versus society to prove himself as opposed to majority. In his play Ibsen shows how the powerful local democratic people; the town's politicians, sold- out journalists, short-sighted economists, and a benighted citizenry prevent Dr. Stockmann from getting his information about the contaminated water supply to the citizens. Dr. Stockmann represents the noble individual who refuses to give in to public lies and dishonesty.

This study has used a close satire on the social issues that explores the conflict between moralities, greed and power lust of the people for social and political position. As M.H. Abrams states:

Satire can be described as the literary art of diminishing or derogating a subject by making it ridiculous and evoking toward it attitudes of amusement, contempt, scorn,

or indignation. It differs from the comic in that comedy evokes laughter mainly as an end in itself, while satire derides; it uses laughter as a weapon, and against a butt that exists outside the work itself. That butt may be an individual, a type of person, a class, an institution, or a nation (285). Satire has usually been justified by those who practice it as a corrective of human vice and folly... (285).

Satire occurs as an incidental element within many works whose overall mode is not satiric in a certain character or situation, or in an interpolated passage of ironic commentary on some aspect of the human condition or of contemporary society.

If we observe someone or some group acting in a manner we reflect is decently offensive and we aspire to correct such deeds, we have a number of options. We can try to force them to alter their ways (through threats of chastisement). We can convey severe decent harangues, seeking to sway them to alter their ways. We can cheer everyone to notice them as ludicrous, to laugh at them, to submit those objects of scorn for the group. In doing so we will have probably at least two purposes in mind: first, to effect some changes in the behavior of the target (so that he or she reforms) and, second, to encourage others not to behave in such a manner. When Dr. Stockmann accused Hovstad of also being a freethinker, Hovstad defended himself on the grounds that he had never claimed to be a freethinker in print. In other words, Hovstad did not deny that he was a freethinker in private, but he merely asserts that he was never a freethinker in the public eye. He was afraid of letting the majority know that he was a freethinker. By claiming never to be a freethinker in the print, Hovstad proves the doctor's point: intelligent individuals cannot act on their opinion because of fears of the majority by staging the speech in a very public setting, Ibsen takes an opportunity to illustrate how the conversation of democracy can be manipulated by those in power.

All the citizens of the small Norwegian coastal town are very proud of the Baths for healing waters are making the town famous and prosperous. They call "magnificent" or "be

lauded Baths" or even "pulse of the town" (12) for these Baths. With many disagreements with his brother Peter Stockmann, Dr. Thomas Stockmann agrees that the Baths are the source of the town's good fortune. Peter regards these Baths make the town Prosperous "the whole life of the town will centre around the Baths" (2). Hovstad, the editor of the People's Messenger, and his sub-editor, Billing are also laud in praise of the Baths. They ever demand Dr. Stockmann to write about the Baths. It received a cordial welcome from the people and has remained one of the most popular dramas by Ibsen. Ibsen spares almost no one as he examines the power of self-interest to shape human attitudes towards truth and civic responsibility.

Critics have agreed that the play *An Enemy of the People* is a satire on the popular clichéd democracy. Ibsen has written a sharp satire on the autocracy practiced under democracy by the majority in a liberal society. Democracy supposes that whatever the majority of the people vote is right. But Ibsen believes the majority is not always right. Though Dr. Stockmann, the protagonist, the mouthpiece of the writer, is right in the discovery that the water in the newly constructed baths is contaminated with sewage, contains microbes and is spoiling the health of the people; he is howled down at a public meeting and voted a public enemy. At the meeting public representative, liberal press and the manipulated public company stand against the innocent and intelligent doctor who has truth supported by facts. Revealing such a controversy in democracy Ibsen has sharply mocked at the political hypocrisy, opportunism of the liberal press and conservation of the public.

For Evale Gillienne, Ibsen's play *An Enemy of the People* ridiculously criticized the liberal press of the time as opportunist. In his own words it is "hilarious caricature of the editor, reporter and printer of the people monitor" (Modern Library 189). Unlike them Rolf Field sees the hero of the play of *An Enemy of the people*, Thomas Stockmann as a kieke guardian hero who considers one single individual is the highest power Dr. Stockmann's last

utterance that "the strongest man in the world is the one who stands most alone" (77) echoes him as existential hero. Gellienne views that even minor groups of people do not achieve decision making position that's why, many of people are practicing autocracy in the place of democracy. This situation is caused to interrupt innovative environment in the nation and ordinary people are bound not to perform any act as their desire. But, government allows them to do same work daily through repetition for the same work but not new one. In the similar vein Ivor Brown resembles that, "this play is Ibsen's reaction to mob verdicts, when the mob has played upon by frightened, foolish leaders of Opinion' who are in fact only followers of convention their creed a mummy, stuffed and dead" (vii). Satire is a reaction against bad norms and values of authorized and powerful persons of the country. Ram Mohan Holangundi regards Ibsen as one of democracy's sharpest critics. In democracy, for him there is party politics that invites opportunism. He further writes, "Those who want to win the majority over to their side must use rhetorical tricks promise a bright future, and appeal to people's short-term interests" (51). But, Ivor Brown believes Ibsen is against only the hypocrisy, irrational autocracy and conservatism under the name of 'democracy' not against the true people's rulers.

Henrik Ibsen explores his idea of satire in his play *An Enemy of the People* in which he uncovers the social disease and corruption as a satire which persists in his mission to prove the play. It is too concerned with the relation between the individual and society. It is too concerned with the relation between the individual and society. The danger Dr. Stockmann discovers is the result of microscopic organism which finds the power of his own individual strength. In the play *An Enemy of the People* presents ridiculous physical expression and dialogue which generally prefer to those who are in power and authorized position of nation but not performing their duty properly. It tries to make laugh and entertain but express reality to memorize the authorized their duty and responsibility. We may need to go beyond our

limited experiences of life to see the lives of other people at other times. It can take us our imaginations back to literature that is preserved and studied only for historical interest. Literature turns out to be rewarding when we feel that the author has communicated something. A literary piece obviously makes room for an appreciation of the writer's language and ideas. Criticisms aid our understanding by revealing the social climate in which a work is written. Yet, at times we find criticism is more interesting than the actual work.

Sometimes the whole work is satiric; in other instances only few sections carry it. Satire has been present in many of the short stories, novels, plays and poems. Good satire always preserves a nice balance between hatred and love – a hatred for the sin but a love for the sinner. When the indignation is aimed directly at a person and not at his aberration, it becomes invective rather than satirical. When it involves criticism of worldly life with all its human vices and weaknesses and bitter humor, then it is satire. The central problem of satire is its relation to reality. Sometimes only a single character or episode is satirical in a book that is otherwise purely fictional or dramatic.

The term 'satire' commonly refers to a specific genre or simply a style or tone in literature that employs great 'wit' to point out in a mocking or humorous manner the frailties or maliciousness of individuals, groups, or the whole of mankind in order to prompt a correction. Whatever satirical writers may have said about their moral or reforming or punitive intentions, making some rather grand claims-we may be sure that writing satires never caused them any difficulty. They have enjoyed it; and we enjoy what they have written, without apology. Many of the best jokes in the world are about or against fools and hypocrites, or at least against lapses of human folly and individual hypocrisy.

This may not define satire- a famously difficult thing to do; but it imposes a limit. One can gravely say that satire postulates an ideal condition or decency of man and then despairs of it; and enjoys the despair, masochistically. Everything goes without a joke, and

we may be left with complaint, invective, or denunciation, all of which may be poetry, but of another kind that:

The genus 'Satire' and the species 'dramatic satire' are notoriously difficult to define. The term satire can be used to describe an intention or a tone or a specific type of literature. For our purposes satire will be defined as attack - attack raised to the level of art and employing the weapons of wit and humor. The humorous element may or may not be dominant (World Drama 741).

Satire is a dramatic works that derision human or social pretension. It is a protean term.

Where wit is employed to render something foolish or vicious to criticism, there exists satire, whether it is in song or sermon, painting or political debate. The Satirist has at his disposal an immense variety of literary and rhetorical devices: he may use beast fables, dramatic incidents, fictional experiences, imaginary voyages, character sketches, anecdotes, proverbs, homilies; he may employ invective, sarcasm, burlesque, irony, mockery, raillery, parody, exaggeration, understatement - Wit in any of its forms - anything to make the object of attack abhorrent or ridiculous. Amid all this confusing variety, however, there is pressure toward order - internally, from the arraignment of vice and appeal to virtue, and externally, from the often shadowy dramatic situation that frames the poem (Encyclopedia 268-272). Similarly, another critic Joches Chung doubts on the majority rules. He finds satires on the popular cliché of democracy and public empowerment in reading of *An Enemy of the People*. He views:

Except for the simple-minded discourse of 'majority rules' and the cliché that public is entitled to decide what they want it appeared to me that certain aspects had been too much neglected during the promotion of our democracy. How do we trust the expertise in a democratic society, who can never be the majority? The doubt on

'majority rules' expressed in *An Enemy of the People* can be of some consideration to us (199).

*Satire* as "The word is a specific application of *satura* medley; this general sense appears in the phrase *per saturam* (in the lump) indiscriminately; according to the grammarians this is elliptical for *lanx satura*, which is alleged to have been used for a dish containing various kinds of fruit, and for food composed of many different ingredients. Formerly often confused or associated with SATYR from the common notion (found already in some ancient grammarians) that L. *satira* was derived from the Gr. *Satyr*, in allusion to the chorus of *satyrs* which gave its name to the Greek '*satyric*' drama.

We know that Dr. Stockomann is mouthpiece of Ibsen himself. Though being a playwright he wants to show his ideology about democracy, majority, and power relative very satirically directing to society. "Horatian satire is the wilder form; named for the Roman writer Horace a member of the emperor's court who is thought to have praised the current rulers- it employs a gentle, sympathetic laughter' in its critique. Juvenalian satire is the harsher form; named for the Roman writer Juvenal-an anthropologist of his ruling government who many consider a 'bold enemy of oppression' —this form is 'angry and biting' and "tears to the bone" with contempt and moral indignation at the corruption and evil of humans or institutions" (Howard 322-33). One of the reasons for these different sorts was the varied genealogy of the two major forms: "*Horace* is jeering and so fit for *Augustus* his times; and *Juvenal* Terrible, and so most fit for *Domitian's* desperate Age" (Howard 25). The word Satire "is derived from the Latin '*satira*', a later form '*satura*', which means medley, being elliptical for *lanx satura*, '*a full dish and a hotch potch*'. The word has no connection with '*satyr*' as was formerly often supposed (Oxford Dictionary 728).



At some stage, confusion came about between Greek '*satyre*' and '*saturd*', which led, to the word being written '*satyra*' and then in English, '*Satire*', Elizabethan writers, misled by the etymology, supposed that it derived from the Greek '*satyr*', woodland demon. The French Huguenot scholar, Isaac Casaubon finally cleared up the situation in 1605" as stated in (Cuddon 584-585). In the office of the People's Messenger, the pressmen seriously talk about the proprietor of the paper if they go against the authority. So, Ibsen asserts:

Hovstad: Do you know of anyone else that will pay our paper and printing?

Billing: What a confounder nuisance it is to have no capital!

Hovstad (sitting down by the desk): Yes, if we only had that---

Billing: suppose you applied to Dr. Stockmann.

Hovstad (turning over his paper): What would be the good? He has not a rap (35).

For Aslaksen the paper is the total control over the subscribers not the editor, "It's a public opinion, the enlightened majority, the House-owners and all the rest. It is then who control a paper" (45). *The Norton Anthology* defines satire against the broad socio cultural praxis:

"Formal verse Satire, which had been a self-conscious novelty at the beginning of the 17th century, was a well-established mode of poetry by its end. Under the molding of many hands, Satire grew subtler and more various; Satirists recognized their responsibility to divert their readers as well as to insult their antagonists. Indeed a whole new mode of sharp gentlemanly discourse grew up after the restoration; it went sometimes by the name of "raillery"

sometimes "banter" and amounted to nothing more than light irony. But serious things could be said in it, about which nonetheless a gentleman might not want to show him too earnest.

Below satire, burlesque was another literary mode that the seventeenth century nurtured, with the aid of France. After the unrelieved earnestness of the puritans, derision and buffoonery delighted the popular taste, and with the advent of burlesque, we find ourselves on the very threshold of the modern novel, one vein of which reaches as far back as 'Don

Quixote' (The *Norton Anthology of English Literature* 1077).

Elizabethan writers, anxious to follow the classical models but misled by a false etymology, believed that 'Satyre' is derived from the Greek Satyr play: Satyrs being notoriously rude, unmannerly creatures, it seemed to follow that 'Satyre' should be harsh, coarse and rough. But the classical scholar Isaac Casaubon finally exposed the false etymology that derives satire from satyrs in the 17th century. The old tradition with an aesthetic if not etymological appropriateness has remained strong. The term 'satire' which derives from the Latin *Tanx satura*, meaning "full or mixed dish" originally described works involving a variety of subjects or style. Roman (Latin) *Satura* = 'medley' or 'miscellany'. Greek word for 'Satyra' (*Satyros*). The odd result is that the English 'Satire' comes from the Latin *Satura*. Subsequent orthographic modifications obscured the Latin origin of the word 16<sup>th</sup> Satire: 'Satura' becomes 'Satyra' and in England, by the century, it was written 'Satyre'.

Satire has no fixed rule and does not fit into any particular literary forms like Ode, Elegy, Epic, etc. "Satire is not limited to a particular genre or milieu, and there is no point in trying to prove that one method is best" (Gilbert 100). Invective in literature is closely associated with satire, lampoon and caricature. Many writers have employed invective for a variety of purposes, the commonest being to express, dislike, disgust, contempt and even hatred. It is often directed against a particular person occasionally against a class or group.

The play starts with different conversations between the characters. Some of the conversations are for the sake of people of the town just like Dr. Stockmann who wants to attack the corrupters of the town, and some other conversations are against the public benefits like those who stand against Dr. Stockmann and his research. The struggles between the supporters of Dr. Stockmann and his enemies continue in the play. The writer tries to tell people how the government uses their rights and prevent them from their needs.

"Dr. Stockmann: A discovery of mine. (Walks up and down) just let them come, saying, as usual. That it is all fancy and a crazy man's imagination! But they will be careful what they say this time. I can tell you!" (14). Quotation shows the significance of the pure people who are worry about their country and they care about what happens to their citizens. And at the same time, it shows those people whom the only thing they care about is their social status. Dr. Stockmann is worried about people's life. He does everything to prevent the Bath to pollute the environment of the town. He knows that there are a large number of people that stands against him, but he continues doing his work. If they do agree with him, they will lose their power and position. According to Gilbert Highet that:

The essential attitude in satire is the desire to use precisely clear language to still an audience to protest. The satirist intends to describe painful or absurd situations or foolish or wicked persons or groups as vividly as possible. He believes that most people are blind, insensitive, and perhaps anesthetized by custom and resignation and dullness. The satirist wishes to make them see the truth - at least that part of the truth which they habitually ignore. At the basis of every good traditional satire is a sense of moral outrage or indignation: This conduct is wrong and needs to be exposed. Hence, to adopt a satiric stance requires a sense of what is right, since the target of the satire can only be measured as deficient if one has a sense of what is necessary for a person to be truly moral" (27).

Satiric methods include irony, sarcasm, invective, innuendo, burlesque, parody, ridiculous, exaggeration, wit, humor, farce. Satire is never a direct and forth right expression of criticism or dislike - rather it use devices such as humor, irony, wit, persona, descriptive names, etc. Satire is almost always critical of society, but not all-social criticism is by definition satirical. All satire is moral in that it makes judgments and asserts or implies a standard of value. It often contains humor, but not all humor is satiric. Be it gentle or urbane, biting or angry the

goal is correction. "Dr. Stockmann: the whole Bath establishment is whiten, poisoned sepulcher. I tell you-the gravest possible danger to the public health! All the nastiness up at Mulled, all that sticking filth, is infecting the water In the conduit-pipes leading to the reservoir, and the same cursed, filthy poison oozes out on the shore too" (15). In this quotation, Dr. Stockmann describes the danger of the factory that pollutes the air and the water of the town. It's clear that the Doctor wants to make people to be aware about what is happening. And he knows that some people are against him. But he is still sure about his idea and he doesn't care about any obstacles. Because he knows that how this factory is dangerous to the people of the town. He describes the nastiness of the factory that mixes with the main sources of water that people use. He knows that it poisons the water and harms the health of the town residence. These reasons and many others make the doctor to be sure about what to do and what he plans to do.

Critic, Neil Heins comes up with the view of specific social issues and that explores the larger conflict between morality and greed he writes:

In this respect, '*An Enemy of the people*' likes the more ideal motif concern with the specific social issues which explores the conflict between morality and greed. He argues that this play Ibsen not only wrote a drama concerning social issues but one in which a man becomes a hero through his conformation with adversity (46).

Most critics have commented on the play in relation with democracy, middle class hypocrisy, their conservative ideas and class struggle. Those some of the comments have bordered on 'Satire'. They have not talked about in detail in the relation to the satire and society. It tries to prove Horatian and Gilbert Highet's principle of satire by means of transfiguring the self-amending faults to stabilize harmony in society. "Dr. Stockmann and the Baths – we have called them "main artery of the town's life-blood" The "nerve centre of the town" and the devil knows what else" (15). In this quotation, Dr. Stockmann explains the Bath. He tells

what really the Bath is. It's an important factor for the town. People look at it as a very significant thing. Without knowing what really is it and how really it's used by the corrupted people. Dr. Stockmann describes it as the main artery of the town's life blood. It means it's more than enough for the town's people, but at the same time, it has a negative effect on people's life. It has been used by corrupted people. They use the factory for their own purposes. They don't care about the people's health of the town.

He wants to push the authority to solve the problems of the factory in order not to harm the health of people because it polluted the air and the water of the town. But the authority doesn't care about anything. They try to stand against what is right. One of the members of the authority is the Mayor who is Dr. Stockmann's brother. He declares that the cost of the repairing of the factory will cost too much. Here, the writer wants to show the status of the rich and the authority. The only thing they care about is to get money and not pay money in any projects ever. However the factory is an important place for the town, their owners don't care about how it works and how it pollutes the environment of the town.

The other type of satire is the Informal, often called the Varronian. This type is not verse but prose and speaks in the third not first person. In, formal verse satire the events are narrated and, sometimes, acted out on the stage. The informal type includes a wider range of styles and will, essentially, harbor any form of satire that resists classification. "In the classical tradition, an important form is 'formal' or 'direct' satire, in which the writer directly addresses the reader with satiric comment. The alternative form of 'indirect' satire usually found in plays and novels which allows us to draw our own conclusions from the actions of the characters" (Baldick 198). Billing and Hovstad started to plot against Dr. Stockman. They discussed the matter of the baths; they have planned to encourage people against Dr. Stockman. Billing expected a kind of revolution by people after publishing an article. Mayor was against the idea of the baths, the struggle started between two brothers; one fights for the

sake of his own interest the other one for the sake of community. Those are working as "people's messenger" like editor; sub-editor and printer are against Dr. Stockmann's idea secretly while publicly they supported him.

Dr. Stockmann is against corruption and he is trying to stop it, and he is trying to give a warning to the people to avoid it, because it ruins unity and reformation in the society. He said he can't find the reason behind this problem hurriedly, but in time with help of the courageous and wise men would try to solve this problem. Everyone has right to live in peace and luxurious. Dr. Stockmann, Hovstad, Billing, and Aslaksen were arguing the issue of the baths. Stockmann claimed to fight against those conspiracy people and did not surrender, and would reveal their true face in front of the community, he also declared to find those who were involved in this conspiracy. He did not relinquish till catch the leader of this group. People should have knowledge about what is going on. "Mrs. Stockmann: Well, one would not give you credit for much thought for your wife and children today; if you had had that, you would not have gone and dragged us all into misfortune" (53). Mrs. Stockmann became angry upon her husband's insistence about the issue of the baths to publish the article. She could not endure that her husband made struggle against authority, she believed that Dr. Stockmann did not think about his children and their future. Carelessly ruin the life of his children and wife. She was afraid about that Dr. Stockmann's plan would destroy their luxurious. "Dr. Stockmann: Be reasonable! Can't you stand hearing the voice of truth for once? I don't in the least expect you to agree with me all at once; but I must say I did expect Mr. Hovstad to admit I was right, when he had recovered his composure a little. He claims to be a freethinker" (66). In this quotation Ibsen referred to the public as a group of citizens who were affected by the majority. They did not have deep minds in judging the case, which was related to their own life directly. The mayor also believed in the rule of an intelligent minority, and he maintained it by conspiring with others that he deemed part of the worthy

minority. Dr. Stockmann's vision of rule by the minority is different from the mayor's. The mayor really had no choice but to oppose the doctor's proposal for the baths, because he was the tool of the masses, and Hovstad could not support the doctor if he wants to because he was subject to the demands of his less freethinking subscribers.

In the beginning he is unaware of the socio-political significance of this discovery. So he immediately informs it to the director of the Baths with a statement. He believes that his brother, Peter Stockmann, the Burgomaster cannot sit without helping him and his 'great discovery'. He states, "He cannot possibly be otherwise than pleased that so important a fact has been brought to light" (13). He, after confirming the cause of the pollution by conducting laboratory test is going to alarm the town's people through an article in the daily-people's Messenger. Pressman and representative of citizens' forum (House-owner Association) assure him of their support. Hovstad, the editor of people's Messenger; vehemently agrees with Stockmann's discovery related with public health and promises him to his further activities. Similarly, Billing, the sub-editor of the same daily, also remarks positively to the doctor's discovery. They all regard Doctor Thomas Stockmann as 'a true friend of the town. In this concern, Ibsen declares, "Hovstad: You are a man to be backup, Doctor. Aslaksen: Yes, there is no doubt the Doctor is a true friend to the town; he is what I call a friend of society. Billing: Strike me dead, if Dr. Stockmann isn't a friend of the people, Aslaksen!" (34). Moreover, according to Aslaksen, the House-owner Association is going to adopt the expression for Dr. Thomas Stockmann as 'A Friend of the People' (34).

The play is based upon the effect of this 'politics of satire' that Stockmann invents just now. Though this great discovery, Ibsen not only wants to show conflict between Dr. Thomas Stockmann and other characters is not play but also shows the real visible nature of society. Doctor's discovery is not simple scientific discovery about the water supply in the town. Baths but it is at the same time his recognition of socio-political situation of truth and power.

Ibsen, through his mouthpiece character Dr. Thomas Stockmann has several times attacked the majority and its opinion among society. In this way, Ibsen reflects this view of polluted institution through this discovery where there regards majority's opinions always right. Dr. Thomas Stockmann, immediately after discovering the fact wants to reveal the truth of the pollution of the water to the public. But Peter Stockmann, the president of the Baths and the Burgomaster of the municipality, who is also the elder brother of the Dr. Stockmann, forbids him from publishing the facts as the tourist season is about to begin. In the course of the debate when the Burgomaster charges him of "wants to cut of hi town's chief source of prosperity" (28), he defends himself "that source is poisoned man! Are you mass? We live by trafficking in filth and corruption! The whole of our flourishing social life is rooted in a lie!" (Modern Library 69). The Burgomaster fears the fact that repairing of water supply network will cost a lot of money and take several months. So for Peter, closing the Baths for two years makes a loss of great financial income to the town as well as rich shareholder of the Spa.

Through his brother tries to convince him, Dr. Stockmann does not agree with him telling that it is the truth related with public interest and health. He further notifies his brother that he will publish the fact in "the liberal, independent press"(25) People's Messenger. He believes that they are waiting to publish the fact soon. They even provoke Dr. Stockmann to fight for the truth. But they are also motivated by their self-interest. They are socially and economically weak. The Burgomaster follows him these and erects the barrier on his way. He cleverly convinces the pressmen about effect of Doctor's report if it is published.

The Doctor attempts to reveal the fact by calling the meeting second time. He feels uncomfortable to get the meeting halls and finally gets in his friend Captain Horster's house. Most of the citizens who attend the meeting have already disliked him because the Burgomaster and the newspaper editors had spread the news that he wanted to close the Baths and ruin the town. Aslaksen is nominated as chairman by the Burgomaster and controls the



meeting that a discussion of the Baths is ruled out of order. Aslaksen ruled the Doctor's lecture time and again, "In the virtue of my position" (53) or "It seems to me that the honorable speaking is wandering rather far from the subject" (55). The Burgomaster provokes him to rule, "Mr. Chairman, are such expressions permissible" (Modern Library 53-55). Though there he is ruling by the chairman Mr. Aslaksen, he tries to reveal the truth of the pollution, and he convinces the people that in the name of the majority the leaders corrupt the society. He wants to talk about the pollution of the water in the Baths but he is disturbed by the provoked people. So, Ibsen presents, "Dr. Stockmann: [. . .] I am about to make great revelations, my fellow. Citizen! I am going to announce to you a far-reaching discovery, beside which the trifling fact that our water-works are poisoned and that our health-resort is built on pestilential ground sinks into insignificance. Many voices (shouting): Don't speak about the Baths! We won't listen to that! No more of that" (52). He attempts to assert the truth of the pollution without any self-interest and ego various times but he is unable to convince the public.

Peter Stockmann the Burgomaster of the municipality wants to conceal the truth of pollution of water discovered by his brother, Dr. Thomas Stockmann. From the very beginning, he is the one who opposed the discovery. Hovstad, Billing and Aslaksen support the doctor's discovery at first. Morten Kill is also the one who opposes the discovery from the very first. He calls, "I could never have believed that you would play monkey-tricks with your own brother" (16). The Burgomaster is motivated by the economic self-interest and conservatism. He wants no more risk to his position socially, politically and economically. After knowing the doctor's discovery about the Baths, the first reaction of the Burgomaster is that he had not, "succeeded in convincing myself" (24) by the doctor's report. He even says, "I believe you exaggerate greatly" (Modern Library 85). In addition, being a doctor of the Baths, he has to seek the alternative way instead of closing them "A competent physician

should know what measures to take – he should be able to obviate deleterious influence and to counteract them in case they should make themselves unmistakably felt" (Modern Library 86). He goes to doctor and insists that he keeps his knowledge himself because the income of the town would be lost if the reports are made public. Then, Burgomaster again insists Dr. Stockmann to give a statement to reassure the public, "All sorts of rumors will get abroad, and evil-disposed persons will invent all sorts of additions to them. It will therefore be necessary for you publicly to contradict these rumors" (27). He further says "we consider it absolutely necessary that you should issue a statement in the term indicated" (28). In the case of the doctor's denial, they themselves put forth a statement to reassure the public and conceal the truth.

In the public meeting called by Dr. Stockmann, the Burgomaster interrupts by choosing Aslaksen, the chairman to rule the doctor's announcement about the Baths, "I should certainly say that a chairman ought to be elected" (48). After choosing the chairman, according to their plan, the Burgomaster motivated people by giving a speech before doctor's lecture. He convinces the people cleverly that the doctor should not talk about the condition of Baths, "the meetings decline to have the proposed lecture of speech on the subject by the medical officer of the Baths" (50). Time and again he persuades Aslaksen, the chairman of the meeting, to rule Dr. Stockmann's lecture when he enters the issue of Baths, "such an insinuation (52)! Or I beg to endorse the chairman's remark" (55). Hovstad, Billing and Aslaksen are also responsible to conceal the truth. But they are only the minor actors. The Burgomaster, who previously planned to conceal the truth, succeeds by taking the help with them. He is the director of concealment of the truth. Dr. Thomas Stockmann, the medical officer of the Baths, discovers that the water of the Baths is contaminated. Peter Stockmann, the Burgomaster forbids him publish the fact to the public. The doctor tries to revolt to the power, which is exercised by the Burgomaster of the municipality. And he satirically revolts,

the power domination over Stockmann by Burgomaster and resistance by Stockmann creates a satire on human a society. Burgomaster is performing as victimizer and Stockmann as victims, and his resistance is a kind of satirical monologue. As Gilbert Highet says, "...the monologue which is delivered, not by the satirist in his own person, but by the satirist's victim" (52).

Doctor's revolt against the majority is useless because minority becomes subordinate in society. He has to follow the norms, laws, rules, etc. accordingly that majority wants. Satire makes the people aware and evokes them to correct their idiocies. Dr. Stockmann has no more self-interest than public the welfare. But it is against the authority. He is ordered by the Burgomaster not to publish the fact. The Burgomaster orders, "An official, you have no right to hold any individual conviction" (27). He revolts against the unjust authority and tries to publish the fact through the "liberal independent press" (25) but there also the institution cheats him. Instead of his article they want to publish the Burgomaster's statement, which is against his article. He again attempts to revolt by calling a public meeting. There too he is suppressed by the opinion of damn "compact majority" (54). His challenges fall on deaf ears. As he knows the majority could not understand the meaning of his words. He is voted "an enemy of the people" (59). He is dismissed from the post.

All the people who regard doctor's discovery is correct suffer in one-way or the other. His daughter Peter is fired from the school when she has been teaching for some time. Captain Horster is also dismissed from his job. Provoked crowd of mischievous men stones the Doctor's house and the landlord sends the vacation notice to him. Morten Kill, whose leather is the main source of the pollution, changes his will, which would have provided considerable money to the doctor's wife and children. The person who thinks and performs for the sake of society and humanity they may have to face obstacle and loses their portfolio

and position and those who are performing for their keen interest are always winning and winning. This is not other than satire on whole human civilization.

Other characters do not want to resist; Hovstad and Billing step back from the Burgomaster's side because both of them fear that they will lose jobs if they go for precision. Hovstad says, "I shall not print it, I cannot, and will not and dare not print it" (45). "Dare not", it is a term all of them repeat in front of the doctor to support him. The landlord of Dr. Stockmann dares not do anything else and gives him notice to leave the house "he is very unwilling to do it; but he dare not do otherwise – on the account of his fellow citizens – " (62) Peter's school principal gives her notice to leave the school, "she dares not do otherwise" (64). Accordingly, Hightet writes:

Satire deals with actual cases, mentions real people by name or describes them unmistakably (and often unflatteringly), talks of this moment and this city, and this special, very recent, very fresh deposit of corruption whose stench is still in the satirist's curling nostrils. This fact involves one of the chief problems the satirist has to face (16).

The Dr. Stockmann's mutiny makes no difference in society. The satire makes the general necessity of anything in a comic way and motivates anyone to correct their immaturity that they raise voices to reduce social chaos. Administratively, the Burgomaster is a dictator who marshals all the power of the town council, Board of the Baths and the Police. Most of the Ibsen's main characters usually against the society but we can observe these all revolts change no more but their useless effort. They want to bring change but cannot succeed is a kind of satire against power and other elite group. Individual is no more than the slave of power, it controls the people; lampoon.

The entire play is the satirically association of scheming and incisive of clout, which the result of linguistic discourse. The central issue of the play is whether to conceal revealing

the truth of pollution to the public. In this struggle the authority especially the Burgomaster wants to conceal the truth. That is because the discovered truth has endangered their position in power and may lose the profit. The authority uses pastoral power to manipulate the public to conceal the legitimacy. Before the Doctor reads his report in the public meeting, the Burgomaster has already published another statement that the doctor's would be report is no more than a rumor. According to Ibsen:

Burgomaster: In my statement in the People's Messenger I have made the public acquainted with the essential facts, so that all well-disposed citizens can easily form their own judgments. From that statement it will be seen that the medical officer's proposal – besides amounting to a vote of censure upon the leading men of the town – at bottom only means saddling the ratepayers with an unnecessary outlay of at least a hundred thousand crowns (50).

He wants to suppress the doctor's opinion not directly but to manipulate the public. The people always consider their leaders are right. Before the meeting one confused man convinced by another in such a way that each and every activities of Aslaksen should be followed "just keep on your eyes on Aslaksen and do as he does" (47). Similarly, when Aslaksen and the Burgomaster regard the need of a chairman in the meeting, they blindly follow them "A chairman!" (49), as if they have internalized the rule of the meeting. Ibsen has created the good sense of satire through the discourse by choosing the certain words and phrases in arousing voice.

As Hight write, "In discourse, in emotional tone, in vocabulary, in sentence-structure and pattern of phrase, the satirist tries always to produce the unexpected, to keep his hearers and his readers guessing and gasping" (18). Aslaksen and the mayor need not to command the public in the meeting to follow what they want but they are motivated themselves, as they want. The conflict of the play concerns the truth of the discovery Dr. Thomas Stockmann

receives from the university report stating that the water of the Baths are contaminated Dr. Thomas Stockmann, medical doctor of the Baths, also the protagonist of the play calls it "A great discovery" (11); for Peter Stockmann, the Burgomaster of the municipality, Chairman of the Baths it is "a snag". The whole play centers of the issue. Dr. Stockmann has become suspicious for the whole year about the Baths when several visitors become ill after taking the Baths. He states:

Dr. Stockmann: I have investigated the whole thing as consciously as possible/ I've long had my suspicious about it. Last year we had some extraordinary cases of illness among the patients – both typhoid and gastric attack- Mr. Stockmann: Yes, I remember. Dr. Stockmann: We thought at the time that the visitors had brought the infection with them; but afterward – last winter – I began to question that. So I set about testing the water as well as I could (11).

The unseen characters like principal of Petra's school and Ship-lord of the Captain Horster's ship without commanding by anyone dismiss them from their post. In the same way the Landlord of the Doctor's house also gives the vacation notice. They are controlled by the domination of the authority that may harm if they do not do so. They are operated by not as a direct, immediate form of domination as violence but as a type of influence. In modern time, this form of power is mostly used to dominate the individual, a group of minority or an entire people. Power is product of people and later people becomes docile, meek and submissive in front of their own production, is big paradox of human society. Ibsen is trying to bring the truth in front of the society by presenting Stockman resistance against power. In this way, Hight writes:

To describe a painful or absurd situation, or a foolish or wicked person or group, as vividly as possible. The satirical writer believes that most people are purblind, insensitive, perhaps anaesthetized by custom and dullness and resignation. He wishes

to make them see the truth—at least which part of the truth which they habitually ignore (19).

In the play most of the people use their power over others. Hovstad tries to blackmail Petra when she refuses to translate the book he had given her because it opposes her belief and the People's Messenger as well "because your father cannot do without my help" (38). Mr. Vik, the ship-lord of Captain Horster also uses his power when he gives his hall to Dr. Stockmann for the public meeting, "well captain, so you lend your house to enemies of the people" (60). When Horster replies, it is his right to use his private property. Then he indirectly threatens "then of course you can have no objection if I follow your example" (Modern Library). That's why, he can dismiss from his post because the ship is his private property. In the play, power is used by various persons at various times. Petra's school's principal, Mrs. Busk uses her power to dismiss her from the post. The landlord uses his power to send vacation notice to Dr. Stockmann. Aslaksen uses his power of printer and says to the doctor when he requests to print his article as a pamphlet with his own expenses, "no, if you offered me its weight in gold. I dare not land my press to such purpose, doctor" (46). Morten kill uses Mrs. Stockmann's inheritance to purchase the remaining stock in the contaminated Baths. He even threatens Dr. Stockmann to change his will if he wants to save this money "If its no, all the shares go to the Hospital—and that this very day" (71). In these each and every action the Burgomaster of the municipality, Director of the Bath and Police plays the role. All of the above mentioned characters are feared by his further action if they do not so.

In the disciplined society people have to follow laws, norms and rules. In the play, the mayor represents the real power holder who wants to suppress the truth of pollution of water, discovered by Dr. Stockmann by showing the rules, laws, and norms. For him Dr. Stockmann should not express his ideas without their acceptance. He calls it 'an official secret'. The mayor blames him being an insane first, "as you have not had the sense to refrain from

chattering to outsiders about this delicate business, which should have been kept an official secret, of course it cannot now be hushed up" (27). Power always makes the public unaware about many things related with public interest and health by calling the official secret. Similarly he marshals Dr. Stockmann has no right to hold any individual conviction as an official, "As an official, I say. In your private capacity, of course, it is another matter. But as a subordinate official of the Baths, you have no right to express any conviction at issue with that of your superiors" (27). In the play, the mayor is elected by people, people makes laws, rules, regulations and social norms. They produce power for their safety and social harmony but later their own products like laws, rules and power fabricates them. People become slave of their own creation. People's own production muddles their own life, their own privacy, safety and so on. If an individual official does not authority, he/she may dismiss from the post. Dr. Stockmann does not agree to issue another statement to reassure the public, the mayor threatens him, of his dismissal, "your dismissal from the Baths. I shall be compelled to move that notice be given you at once, and that you have henceforth no connection whatever with the Baths" (28). The Burgomaster exercises all his influence over the majority of the people against the innocent and truthful character of the doctor. He cares on the ways to save the position and property.

Another way of presenting authority through media is effective. Authority captures the means of communication so that they can easily manipulate the public opinion. In the play, the influence of media on people's judgment can be observed before the meeting starts in the hall. They discuss about the news published in the "People messenger" as, "Third citizen: But he's all wrong; the people's messenger says so. Second citizen: Yes, he must be wrong this time; for neither the House-owner Association nor the Citizens' Club let him have a hall. First citizen: They wouldn't lend him the hall at the Baths" (47). Here we can observe the shaping of public mind by totally the media or the newspaper. They even blindly follow



their leaders. A man says, "Just keep your eye on Aslaksen, and do as he does" (The Modern Library). Rammohan Holagundi writes:

In *An enemy of the People*, it is not readers, but capital interests which put pressure on the newspaper. Editor Hovstad wants to stand up for the right opinions but unfortunately the creditors of the paper do not agree, and they have power to stop it. The majority is not necessarily right. People may be dominated by thinking in grooves (52).

The role of the media is satirized. It is ridiculed. The Mayor through the media counter attacks the Doctor's discovery that messenger, he claims to have put the essential facts before the public in such a way that every fair-minded citizen can easily form his own opinion. It is satirical that Hovstad makes comments that portray the people's messenger positively yet it is clear that the paper is wrong. The writer uses this to satirize the media. The paper fails to portray the clear picture of the unscrupulous and poor state of affairs the society is in. Hovstad, the editor of the people's messenger is satirized. He rejects a positive comment from the doctor that he claims to be a free thinker. Hovstad in fear of the crowd is astonished. Yet as a writer and editor he ought to be a free thinker not influenced by the common majority. The Burgomaster succeeds with his discourse to control the people so that the doctor is wrong. In this way, the report, which is scientifically proved by an authentic university, has become wrong and the statement, which comes marshals the doctor's report becomes the authentic statement. The Burgomaster's power over doctor's report is the example of power exercised in society.

To satirize the common or compact majority and their leaders the imagery of common mongrel and common barnyard hen he is used. The leaders are compared to well-bred Spanish or Japanese he, good pleasant or turkey or poodle whose brain is developed to a different degree from that of the mongrel. The common people including the Mayor are

satirized—their intensive nature and twist of truth to suit them is summarized in the following imagery and comments. The political situation in the country is also satirized. Dr. Stockman says that from one end of the country to the other everyman is slave of his party, that every man had no freedom to free thinking and has to go by his party's whims. The crowd that attacked the Doctor's house is satirized. They threatened to break every bone in his body. They do not do anything apart from following each other. They do not from the fear of doing what is right for fear of the opinion the public will have.

This study has taken forward on the notion of satire analyzing the present text *An Enemy of the People* to provoke local people to remind authorized one to bring change policies of government and to fulfill duty towards local people. It has been focused on the analyses of how satire is exercised in the society to unearth the realities and suggest people to become corrective towards their vices and follies. Ibsen has done ample finishing among the common middle-class domestic and society ethics; he puts his finger for a moment on commercial and political ideals. The play pacts with a local majority of middle class people who are abnormally interested in concealing the fact that the famous bathes, which magnetize visitors to their town and customers to their shops and hotels which are contaminated by manure. When an honest doctor insists on exposing this danger, the towns' people immediately retort intensely. Feeling the drawback of appearing in their true character as a conspiracy of interested rouses against an honest man, they facade as society, as the people, as democracy. The doctor, in attacking them, has thereby been made an enemy of the people, a danger to society, a traitor to democracy, an apostate from the great liberal party.

The protagonist of the play, Dr. Thomas Stockmann, discovers that the healing water, the principal source of income for the town are polluted, causing typhoid, fever and gastric illnesses to the users. Stockmann is the honest man in the town. His honesty is revolutionary figure to prove what is right. When he realizes that all of his associates would prefer to

conceal the fact that the Baths are polluted, he is at first amazed and then infuriated. He attempts to reveal the truth many times. The pressmen denies to reveal the truth of pollution and its information to the public through the press; he at last, calls a public meeting in the home of Captain Horster to assert the real cause of the pollution. All his efforts to reveal the truth of pollution and makes public aware goes in vain when the power twists the situation according to what they want. In this stance the role of media is satirized, ridiculed. The Mayor, power holder counter attacks the Stockman through the media.

Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* foregrounds the notion of 'politics of Satire' by showing its role to correct the human follies. Satire has the remedial capacities of socio-political and economic aspects of human society which is clearly seen in the play by dramatizing the two main characters Dr. Thomas Stockmann and the Peter Stockmann, the Burgomaster. The dominant aspects of human society: media, politics, leaders are satirize in order to perform or bring human society in tidy. It can be concluded that *An Enemy of People* has two key messages. First, it is a criticism of democracy. Second, it is the story of how one man's bravery and self-respect can survive overwhelming odds. Ibsen's critique of democracy is two-fold. First, he shows the tyranny of the majority. The majority is a tyrant insofar as the leaders of society are afraid to do what is right because they are at the people's mercy. The lesson we should learn from Dr. Stockmann is that we should bear anything for the sake of truth, or, the way to freedom and right is not the easiest way to choose but if one does, he should expect anything that might happen while he is searching for truth.

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