

Tribhuvan University

Ideology in Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*

**A Thesis submitted to the Central Department of English in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

**By
Geeta Sharma**

**University Campus
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
December, 2007**

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities and Social Science

The thesis entitled "Ideology in Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* submitted to the Central Development of English, Tribhuvan University, by Geeta Sharma has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

.....

.....

Internal Examiner

.....

.....

External Examiner

.....

.....

Head

Central Department of English, T.U.

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my reverence and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the English Department, T.U., Kirtipur, for granting me an opportunity to carry out this research as well as for his supervision and suggestions that helped me to give the final shape to this thesis.

I am indebted to my teacher Sarad Chandra Thakur, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University and his family, for their invaluable suggestions and encouragement from the beginning to the final shape of this thesis. This dissertation would never have appeared in its present form without his kind response and valuable guidance. I am also grateful to my dear friends Yubraj, Durga and Govinda for their continuous and inexhaustible support in many occasions of this thesis writing. Likewise, I would like to extend my thanks to my teachers Pushpa Raj Acharya, Badri Acharya and Bal Bahadur Thapa who initially helped me prepare my thesis proposal. I would like to thank the people who helped me to give the final shape while typing the thesis.

I am whole heartedly grateful to my parents Mr. Sita Ram Sharma and Hema Kala Sharma and my dear sister Ganga Sharma without whose continuous encouragement, motivation and support my hope of achieving Master Degree would have remained a dream. I am thankful to my brother Kamal Sharma who helped me in typing the thesis. I am also thankful to my other family members for their assistance in one or the other way for getting this state in my life.

Last but not the least, I am grateful to the writers, critics and editors of the sources materials from which I've cited.

ABSTRACT

The present research is a probe into the ideological predicament of the characters, Hjalmar Ekdal and Gregers Werle in Henrik Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*. They feel alienated because the social ideology limits them to the particular definition of subjects. They are cynical subjects and know what they are doing by getting involved in the sociological activity of their society but they still keep on doing it. This social ideology regulates their behaviours and conducts. They are not conformists on the ideological belief of their society. Rather than loosing themselves in the status quo, they take recourses to alternatives ways to come out of the crises of the dominant existing ideology and live a self- determined life. For this Hjalmar leave his home, take shelter in drinks and book reading. Whereas Gregers challenges the society by the way of irrational resistance and takes shelter in Hjalmar Ekdal's house. Ironically besides their desperate efforts to free themselves from the social ideology they are enslaved by its ritual practice either knowingly or unknowingly and this leads to the tragic consequence with the death of Hedvig. In the drama they are doomed to live under the ideologies as put forth by the existing ideological society. In the eye of their society their vain efforts seem insubstantial illusion and they themselves are proved nothing more than the heroic day dreamers.

CONTENTS

I. Introduction	1
Hjalmar, the victim of ideology	
II. Ideology	10
III. Victims of ideology: Ibsen's character's in <i>The Wild Duck</i>	33
IV. Conclusion	57
Works Cited	60