THE EFFECT OF BORKMAN’S FAULTS ON THE CHANGING OF THE
THREE MAJOR CHARACTERS’ PERSONALITIES LEADING TO THEIR
TRAGIC LIVES IN HENRIK IBSEN’S JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

THESIS

A thesis is presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Letters, University of Jember
as one of the requirements to get
the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies.

Debrina Ihtiarini
Nim.000110101082

JEMBER UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
2007
APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by The Examination Committee
Of English Department, the Faculty of Letters,
The University of Jember

Jember, July 3, 2007

Secretary                      Chairman

(Erna Cahyawati, S.S, M.Hum.)   (Drs. Hadiri, M.A.)

The Members:
1. Drs. H. M. Busjairi              (     )
   (     )

2. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A.        (     )
   (     )

3. Dra. Hj. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd.   (     )
   (     )

Approved by:
The Dean of Faculty of Letters

Dr. Samudji, M. A.
NIP. 130 531 973
DECLARATION

I herewith declare that the thesis entitled “THE EFFECT OF BORKMAN’S FAULTS ON THE CHANGING OF THE THREE MAJOR CHARACTERS’ PERSONALITIES LEADING TO THEIR TRAGIC LIVES IN HENRIK IBSEN’S JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN”, is an original piece of writing. I guarantee that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have not already been submitted for any other degree or publications.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, July 3, 2007

Debrina Ihtiarini
000110101080
PAGE OF DEDICATION

With the deepest love and great thank,  
I profoundly dedicate this thesis to:

My beloved parents,

Saniran Mahmudi and Sumarni,  
who have spiritually and financially supported me in finishing this thesis,  
I have nothing to say for your love and sacrifice all this time.

My dearest sister and brother,

Hesty Prawita Soviantari and Muhammad Hadi Sarosa,  
who always give me support, motivation, and inspiration.

My dearest nephew

Muhammad Alif At Toriq,  
Our togetherness gives special meaning to my life.

My Almamater
MOTTO:

EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING
(PROVERB)
ABSTRACT


A work of literature deals with the experience of real life, whether it is the author’s own experience or the experiences of other people in the society. John Gabriel Borkman is one of Henrik Ibsen’s dramas that told about the life of John Gabriel Borkman.

The problem to discuss in this thesis is about the changing of the three major character’s personalities leading to their tragic lives, including Borkman’s faults, that finally lead him to his tragic life. Psychological approach is appropriate to use in this thesis. It can be used as a means of analyzing the mental situation and the state of mind of the character that motives their action. Another approach used in his thesis is sociological approach. It is used to analyze the relationship between J.G. Borkman and his social life.

This thesis is written by means of library research in which the materials, data, and information are collected from several books and dictionaries. Besides, inductive method is used to analyze the data. In applying the method, the author starts collecting data about specific problems in the drama itself, and drawing a conclusion to the general one.

In conclusion, the tragic lives of the three major characters are actually caused by Borkman’s faults to take wrong step to achieve his ambition. It proves that there is a corelation between the change of an individual’s personality and their life continuation. *John Gabriel Borkman* gives a massage that everyone should do everything with deep thinking. Every individual has a problem but one should choose the best way to solve it.

*English Department, Faculty of Letter, Jember University*
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am profoundly grateful to ALLAH, God to Supreme Being of the Universe, for His guidance, blessing, and love, so that I am able to finish this thesis. I am really grateful and my sincere thanks are due to some people who have helped me in the process of composing this thesis, to wit:

1. Dr. Samudji, M.A. The Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Jember University who has permitted me to compose the thesis.

2. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A. Head of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University, who has furnished me with the worthy opportunity to gain the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Studies.

3. Drs. Busjairi, my first advisor and Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A. my second advisor for the encouragement they have given me to accomplish my thesis and the precious time they have spent for giving me some advice for the benefit of finishing my thesis.

4. The lecturers of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University, who have given me knowledge of English Studies.

5. All the librarians of Jember University, who have provided me with wide range of the intended materials.

6. My family who have financially and spiritually supported me in order to finish my study.

I pray that God may bless them for their assistance and endow them with the proper virtues.

Jember, July 3, 2007                                      Debi
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FRONTISPIECE ........................................................................................................................................ i
APPROVAL SHEET..................................................................................................................................... ii
DECLARATION .......................................................................................................................................... iii
PAGE OF DEDICATION ......................................................................................................................... iv
MOTTO ...................................................................................................................................................... v
ABSTRACT ................................................................................................................................................ vi
ACKNOWLEDGMENT ............................................................................................................................. vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS ............................................................................................................................ viii

### CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale ...................................................................................................................................... 1
1.2 The Goals of The study ........................................................................................................................ 3
1.3 The Problem To Discuss .................................................................................................................... 3
1.4 The Scope of The Study ....................................................................................................................... 3
1.5 The Hypothesis .................................................................................................................................... 4
1.6 The Approaches To Use .................................................................................................................... 5
1.7 The Method of Analyze ..................................................................................................................... 5
1.8 The Organization of The Thesis .......................................................................................................... 6

### CHAPTER II. HENRIK IBSEN AND THE SYNOPSIS OF JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

2.1 The Biography of Henrik Ibsen .......................................................................................................... 7
2.2 The Synopsis of John Gabriel Borkman .............................................................................................. 9
CHAPTER III. THE MEANING OF THE TERMS

3.1 The Meaning of Effect
3.2 The Meaning of Fault
3.3 The Meaning of Major Character
3.4 The Meaning of Personality
3.5 The meaning of Tragic Life

CHAPTER IV. THE EFFECT OF BORKMAN’S FAULTS ON THE CHANGING OF THE THREE MAJOR CHARACTERS’ PERSONALITIES LEADING TO THEIR TRAGIC LIFE

4.1 John Gabriel Borkman’s Faults
4.2 The Effect of Borkman’s Faults on The Changing of The Three Major Characters’ Personalities
   4.2.1 Borkman’s Personality from Warmly to Arbitrarily
   4.2.2 Gunhild’s Personality from Warmly to Hatredly
   4.2.3 Ella’s Personality from Charitably to Indifferently
4.3 The Change of The Major Characters’ Personalities Leading to Their Tragic Lives
   4.3.1 The Death of John Gabriel Borkman
   4.3.2 The Desertion of Gunhild’s Husband and Beloved Son
   4.3.3 The Desertion of Ella Rentheim’s son

CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY