

*ALLMERS' AND RITA'S MORALITY IN HENRIK IBSEN'S  
LITTLE EYOLF*

*(MORALITAS ALLMERS DAN RITA DALAM KARYA HENRIK IBSEN "LITTLE EYOLF")*

Yessika Kristanti, Eko Suwargono, Irana Astutiningsih

English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Jember (UNEJ)

Jln. Kalimantan 37 Jember 68121

*E-Mail*: kirengging@yahoo.co.id

**Abstrak**

*Little Eyolf* adalah drama karya Henrik Ibsen yang menjelaskan tentang moral manusia dan mempresentasikan sebuah percakapan mengenai kebaikan dan kejahatan seseorang. Skripsi ini mempelajari tentang moralitas Allmers dan Rita. Pada akhir pembahasan, diskusi ini juga menganalisis tentang moralitas Allmers dan Rita yang membawa dampak buruk pada kehidupan mereka. Ada tiga permasalahan pada skripsi ini. Pertama, mengenai moralitas Allmers dan Rita. Kedua, dampak moralitas Allmers dan Rita terhadap anak mereka, Eyolf. Ketiga, pengaruh kematian Eyolf pada kehidupan Allmers dan Rita. Jenis penelitian yang digunakan adalah penelitian secara kualitatif. Selanjutnya, skripsi ini menerapkan pendekatan moral untuk menganalisis moralitas yang dimiliki oleh para tokoh pada drama. Data-data pokok diambil dari sumber buku-buku dan internet yang berkaitan dengan topik diskusi. Metode analisis yang digunakan adalah metode induktif. Hal ini menganalisis data dari kasus yang spesifik ke kesimpulan umum. Analisis mengenai moralitas pada tokoh Allmers dan Rita dalam drama "Little Eyolf", tahap pementasan drama adalah menggali dan menganalisis beberapa kejadian-kehadian khusus, roman muka, dan pernyataan-pernyataan yang dikutip dan diperankan oleh Allmers, Rita, dan tokoh lainnya. Oleh sebab itu, penggunaan teori moral oleh Immanuel Kant, diantaranya kemauan, kewajiban, alasan dan kebebasan, dan kesadaran, moralitas Allmers dan Rita dianalisis.

**Kata kunci:** Moralitas, Kemauan, Kewajiban, Alasan dan Kebebasan, Kesadaran, Teori Moral.

**Abstract**

*Little Eyolf* is a drama written by Henrik Ibsen tells about an exploration of human morality and presents a constant conversation regarding the basic goodness and badness of people. This thesis studies about the morality of Allmers and Rita. In the end, the discussion is ended with the analysis of Allmers' and Rita's morality that bring consequences to their life. There are three questions in this study. Firstly, it is about Allmers' and Rita's morality. Secondly, it is the impact of Allmers' and Rita's morality for their son, Eyolf. Thirdly, it is the influences of Eyolf's death for Allmers' and Rita's life. The type of research is qualitative research. Furthermore, this thesis applies moral approach to analyze morality that characters have. The primary data are taken from books and internet resources related topic discussion. Here, the method of analysis is inductive method. It analyzes the data from specific cases to a general conclusion. In analyzing morality on Allmers' and Rita's character in "Little Eyolf", the initial stage is exploring and analyzing some particular events, features, and statements that are cited and acted by Allmers, Rita, and other characters. Hence, using moral theory by Immanuel Kant, such as good will, duty, reason and freedom, and consciousness, Allmers' and Rita's morality are analyzed.

**Keywords:** Morality, Good Will, Duty, Reason and Freedom, Consciousness, Moral Theory.

**Introduction**

Literature and human being have a close relation because the object of literature is human experience. A drama is one of the literary forms besides novel and

poetry that uses the interpretation of human life. Moral is derived from the Latin word 'mos' which has meaning as attitude and habits. This attitude is based on the determination of right and wrong. According to

Meyer Fortes in *Facts, Values, and Morality* states: "Every social system presupposes . . . basic moral axioms. They are implicit in the categories of values and of behavior which we sum up in concepts such as rights, duties, justice, amity, respect, wrong, sin. Such concepts occur in every known human society, though the kind of behavior and the content of the values covered by them vary enormously" (Brandt, 1996:75).

From the definition above, it is explained that value and behavior are the standard used to define something and attention as a convention. In other word, Morality can be assumed as the unspoken standard of right and wrong which can only be determined through principles.

Drama *Little Eyolf* (1894) is a tragedy play by Henrik Ibsen which portrays Norway society. It portrays the life of a child who lacks of love in his life. Tragedy drama is a drama that the main character is brought to ruin or suffers extreme sorrow, especially as a consequence of a tragic flaw, moral weakness, or inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances.

This thesis is focused on Mr. Allmers' and Rita's morality. They have vicious attitude for their child, Eyolf. Their characters suggest how readers should not have vice as parents. This research finds Mr. Allmers' and Rita's moral they have. Mr. Allmers' and Rita's moral include self-interest, without love or good will, and imperfect duties. In the end of the story, Allmers and Rita become virtue such as good will, bravery, and good duty.

Drama *Little Eyolf* is interesting to discuss about morality of Mr. Allmers and Mrs. Rita as Eyolf's parents. Finally, the writer chooses morality because it is really important in life. This thesis analyzes Mr. Allmers' and Rita's character through moral approach to show moral of their character using ethical theory by Immanuel Kant. An ethical theory by Immanuel Kant is suitable to analyze this drama. Therefore, understanding of Mr. Allmers' and Rita's moral through the drama is interesting to analyze. *Little Eyolf* is interesting to discuss because there are so many problems in his life. Most plays are not only entertained to watch or read, but it also gives moral values to the readers.

### Research Methodology

Since this research is the qualitative research, the data uses the qualitative ones. The qualitative data are non numeric data. It is used in order to comprehend the meaning of verbal words in the story. The data are collected through numerous written texts sorted from

the analyzed story. In this case the data will be in the written yet verbal form. The qualitative data are gathered taken from *Little Eyolf* written by Henrik Ibsen and any supportive literary criticism books, especially the ones that are related to the theory of Moral by Immanuel Kant.

This research is indeed inductive one. It is started with the analysis of the play in conjunction with the issue occurs in Allmers' and Rita's morality where give bad impact for Eyolf, their child because Eyolf feels lack of affection, love and intimacy from his parents. Next, Kant's theory of moral will give a result in how far the morality have been analyzed. In short, the analysis of the issues in the play will show how could possibly a human could react to the morality such as good will, duty, consciousness, reason and freedom. As the result, the theory will clearly explain how could possibly with morality could end up to tragedy. Fortunately, this research also displays how to prevent the issue in such way by giving a more scientific study over the character.

### Result

From the data of Allmers' and Rita's morality in Hendrik Ibsen's *Little Eyolf*, it finds that *Little Eyolf* portrays about morality where the vice and virtue of Allmers and Rita give impact for Eyolf because Eyolf feels lack of intimacy and love. The Kant's moral is established good will, duty, freedom and reason, and consciousness.

First it shows that good will is one that is motivated by reason and acts. Mr. Allmers and Rita have not perfect good will to Eyolf. They are lack of intimacy to Eyolf. In the last play, Allmers and Rita have good will for the others after Eyolf's died. Second, theory of duty is an act in morally right way, and people must act for the sake of duty. Mr. Allmers' and Rita do not have good duty as Eyolf's parents because they never care about him. So, they do not have perfect duties but in the end of the play, Allmers and Rita become care with other children after Eyolf died. The third, Reason is the process where Eyolf uses his intriguing mind to get love from his parents and freedom is shown when he decides to jump in the sea. He gets freedom of decision himself for his life. the reason in this case is Allmers and Rita also want to get affection but Rita never give affection for Eyolf because she hates Eyolf. The fourth Freedom is an idea of reason that serves an essential practical function. In this case, Rita and Allmers want to get affection in their family. So their freedom such as go for travelling and never care about the others. The last, consciousness is

considered to be a mental state where a person learns to realize what good for him and also consider the response of the society to accept his/her action. The consciousness plays a big role to decide Allmers' and Rita's act. The consciousness play as the reason should consolidate and adjust itself into a more supportive context. In this Allmers and Rita take decision to be good people and care with the other child after their child, Eyolf's death, in which since Eyolf alive, Allmers and Rita always think themselves and they are lack of intimacy to Eyolf.

This thesis concludes that there are two kinds of morality such as vice and virtue. In this play, virtue of Allmers and Rita such as good will, love and bravery. The vice of Allmers and Rita are self-interest or stubborn, despair, un-responsibilities, jealousy, and ruthless. The vice of them makes Eyolf feels lack of affection and love. So, it makes Eyolf jumps in the sea. Because of Eyolf's death, Rita and Allmers become good people who always help the others and full of love in their life. It calls recuperation of life from vice become virtue people.

### Discussion

Morality is viewed from the actions and the conduct of the characters in the play. What is taken as the examples from the drama are the most interesting actions and behaviours which relate to the points showed. Moral here mean an attitude that belongs to someone personally. They are pegged on a person's perception on what is vice or virtue to do. The individual has a sole mandate to decide on what is virtue or vice.

Eyolf environment never supports him to do so. Her mother is never patient to deal with Eyolf fantasy, it is not only because she is not patient but she even does not love Eyolf at all. Her mother sees Eyolf as a hinder between her and her husband. In the end of the story, he has to live with his outmost challenge of life. He has loosened everything, his loneliness and disability lead him to the indiscretion. He was following his illusionary image of life by getting in to sea. Noticing he could not swim, Eyolf is dragged into the depth of the ocean and drowned with his memory of wonderful life.

Tragedy is indeed in the end of the story. Eyolf has found its own redemption by going to the sea. This is another interesting assumption, that Eyolf must have experienced a mental disorder, or it is just another symbolism of helplessness of having no genuine love from his parents or people around him. Living in fantasy and imagination brings him peace, only in that

place he could gain acceptance. However this kind of acceptance does not come cheap. His death might also his dying effort to show his existence to the people around him and yes he succeeds. This subchapter discussion is integrated to the other subs since one data to another are highly related. To know the link of them is to comprehend the relation of each data.

Immanuel Kant puts forward a theory that there are five kinds of morality which the individuals need have to be act and habit in his life. Those are good will, duty, reason and freedom, and consciousness. All of the moralities are finds in every people such as good or bad, vice or virtue.

Morality are awfully crucial to the understanding of human behaviour. It is the biggest effect compared with all attitude. Parents have very important role to teach their children about love, they must be taught about it as well as how to apply this love in their life. The children will follow what they see and hear from their parents, every act which they do will be known and followed by their children. In the home, the parents to speak, to eat, to sleep and to behave as they are taught by their parents because the first education for children begins from their house and it will influence their future life. However, the only morality that is given by the parents is limited. This shows how lame the parents kids relationship in the story. Hence, Eyolf is the symbolism of the unwanted child. His paralyzed legs make his life even worse.

It is not clear enough to explain about the morality of Allmers and Rita. They have vice and virtue on their attitude. Eyolf, as their child feels lack of love of his parents. The message is learned for the parents, it is essential for the parents to provide love and care for his child, parents is the mirror for his children.

Childhood experiences are memorable. Whatever has happened in the last time when he was a child, it will be always kept in his mind until he grows up. It is really essential for all parents to give a good education to their children, especially in their childhood. It will much influence to their growth of manner. Hence, it is the basic knowledge for them to become a good boy. In the drama *Little Eyolf*, the main character, Eyolf needs love and affection from his parents. His father Mr. Allmers and his mother Mrs. Rita always do not give suggestion whether Eyolf asks or not. He never imagines that his problem is so hard. As the result it is unhappy and bad experiences for Eyolf's development.

Kant's theory is relevant theory to match with the character of Mrs. Allmers and Rita as the antagonist in "Little Eyolf". Firstly, good will is one that is motivated by reason and acts. Mr. Allmers and Rita have not perfect good will to Eyolf. They are lack of intimacy to Eyolf. In the last play, Allmers and Rita

have good will for the others after Eyolf's died. Secondly, theory of duty is an act in morally right way, and people must act for the sake of duty. Mr. Allmers' and Rita do not have good duty as Eyolf's parents because they never care about him. So, they do not have perfect duties but in the end of the play, Allmers and Rita become caring with other children after Eyolf died. Thirdly, reason and freedom are part of ethical theory by Immanuel Kant. We find that the more a cultivated reason applies itself with deliberate purpose to the enjoyment of life and happy, so much the more does the man fail of true satisfaction. Reason is not competent to guide the will with certainty in regard to its objects and the satisfaction of all our wants and freedom is an idea of reason that serves an indispensable practical function. Lastly, consciousness of self (apperception) is the simple representation of the ego and if by means of that representation alone, all the kind representations in the subject were spontaneously given, and then our internal intuition would be intellectual. However, this theory is relevant with Mr. Allmers' and Rita's morality have.

Rita has turned into an evil mother, she could barely think of something logical. The depiction of above quotation of saying her son as worse being is the ultimate symbolism of hatred and jealousy. Rita only spends a little quality time with her husband and by the time her husband comes from a long journey she wants more affection for her and nothing for Eyolf. Speak of evil, Rita has entirely devoured by her madness. To think the son as the gap between her and Allmers is the summit insanity that can not be put into logic. By the quotation above, it is crystal clear that Rita does not care about Eyolf, her son. She demands her husband as she has right to do so. Given this situation, Allmers is put into inconvenient situation. He loves both Eyolf and Rita, but from the conversation below, readers could see that the Allmers love is not in balance. Rita puts herself into a conditional questions, where Eyolf existence was never existed what would it be?. Allmers unexpectedly answers to this question that he will only have her to love. Rita is more assured that Eyolf should not be around.

Rita is indeed mad. She could not use her logic or her senses back. Rita is a mother, but her stand in the story is quite contrary. Eyolf is left alone, with only a little affection of his father and no love from his mother. As the result, Rita and Allmers are lack of attention and lack of virtue for Eyolf, their child.

Eyolf needs the parents' attention because his father Mr. Allmers and his mother Mrs. Rita do not care of the affection to Eyolf. The condition of Eyolf, is depressed and very confused that is caused by his parents. He never thinks that his problem is so hard.

So, Eyolf may develop balanced and pleasant personalities and those become a pride and satisfaction of his parents.

Eyolf could only sit nearby the house or the sea since he does not have any supportive motive from his parents. Eyolf is the representation of a loner. His childhood had created a desire to be accepted and valued by parents. He needs the parent's attention because his father Mr. Allmers and his mother Mrs. Rita do not care of giving affection to Eyolf. It may be noted, Allmers and Rita always busy and self-interest, they lack of intimacy in their family. Hence, Eyolf escapes from reality and lives in his world of fantasy. In the world of fantasy he could do as he wants and get what he needs. It is caused by lack of affection and lack of good morality.

Unlike any other boys Eyolf has problem, even when he wears a new clothes. His existence is never accepted by his surroundings. Since he has no complete legs then his dream of becoming a soldier becomes a subject of mockery to other boys on the beach. Eyolf is better off with the books. However, his parents never give a solution of motivation. Eventually, Eyolf must face his own problem all alone.

Actually Mr. Allmers becomes a type of what we may roughly call the free moral agent. Eyolf becomes a type of humanity conceived as passive and suffering, thrust will less into existence with boundless aspirations and cruelly limited powers. Mrs. Rita becomes a type of the egoistic instinct which is a consuming fire. Next, there is a shocking event from Eyolf as he has grown tired to see madness inside his family. The event is also a sign of his final act to draw attention from his parents.

Last, his desperate need of acceptance leads him into an epic end. Ignorance makes his family blind. One time, Eyolf is missing and no one knows about his whereabouts. The next thing they know that there is a child that is drowned. They never really know and care about Eyolf. The last thing they will know is remorse. In the final subchapter there will be more clearly explanation about Eyolf death as symbolization of his dying effort to get attention from his family, from people whom he knows. Eyolf death makes his parents Mr. Allmers and Mrs. Rita unhappy. Eyolf falls down in the sea and he has passed so far the sea. Eyolf is suffering over there. Besides Allmers and Mrs. Rita want to help his child Eyolf, they also want to see his child Eyolf before his death and say sorry for do not care of him in his whole life.

His father Mr. Allmers and his mother Mrs. Rita have neglected his child. They do not think it's vain to care about their child's wants. They have played with life and death and now the great open eyes of the stranger boy will be for ever upon them. Mr. Allmers

egoism prevented him from really loving child but himself. He was badly affected by desertions. No child deserves to suffer for a parent's mistakes. This condition makes Allmers and Rita feel consciousness and regret their vice attitude. So, they become good people and help children in their environment because their morality become full of virtue. Because of this tragedy, they think that self-interest, stubbornness, jealousy and without affection bring bad impact for Eyolf and another people. So, the consciousness leads them become good people, full of love and good duty.

### Conclusion and Suggestion

The moral voice of *Little Eyolf* is embodied by Allmers and Rita who are viciously unique in the play and the end of the play, their morality become full of goodness. All of people have both virtue and vice. The necessary thing is to appreciate the virtue and understand the vice by treating others with sympathy and trying to see life from their perspective. Henrik Ibsen trusts that men are equal in the sense of their desire to be loved and given affection each other.

After Eyolf's death, Rita and Allmers are the characters in the play who are the most caring person. They are caring parents, and they always display care for other people. Lastly, love is deep emotion that Allmers and Rita have after recuperation of his family. Allmers and Rita loves people who gives love, tolerance, forgiveness for others, and keep the other children.

Finally, the play gives a message that in the future men must live in harmony, love and good duty. As the result, only the good morals share the idea of good will, duty, consciousness, reason and freedom in which the vice is the contrast of the virtue. New finding is gained, the conclusion is written to answer all problems related to character's moral. In conclusion, morality is extremely important for our overall well-being. We will also have peace and harmony in our life because of love and affection we give to others. Through this play, they can be example for us to elevate our morality in society and in family.

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