

THE FAILURES OF REBECCA'S STRUGGLES AS THE  
CAUSE HER OF TRAGIC LIFE IN HENRIK IBSEN'S  
*ROSMERHOEM*



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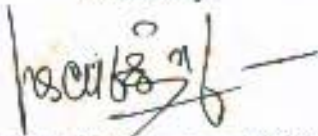
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## Approval Sheet

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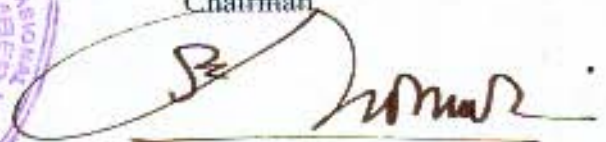
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This thesis is dedicated to:  
My beloved parents, husband to be,  
brothers, sisters, friends and  
almamater.

Motto:

Failures will be more torturing if  
preceded by unrealistic high dream  
(Joseph Conrad)



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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION



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### 1.1 The Rationale

Literature is one way for human beings to express their experiences. It is composed in an attractive language in order to enjoy it. Sometimes, the imaginations are put in the composition to make it more interesting. As Jones in **Outline of Literature** stated "Literature is simply another way we can experience in the world around us through our imagination" (1968:1). Further Hudson said in **Introduction to Literature**:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for life through all of us. It thus fundamentally an experience of life through the medium of language. (1965:10)

Drama is one form of literature which expresses the human experiences through many actions inside. Robby and Ulanov state that "a play is about an action, a happening in human life" (1962: xi). The actions in the play are presented by the actors and actresses. They try to express the writer's ideas by characterizing some characters in the play. Further, Reaske defines drama as a work of literature or composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various action of and dialogues between – a group of characters (1966:5). A play, in general consists of some dialogues. However, there are many plays that do not need any dialogues. Kennedy says that "In performance, ... there is also a pantomime, generally, a play without words (1991: 952). In addition, Reaske says that drama is designed to be acted on the stage (1966:5). It will be understood better if the readers not only read the text but also watch its presentation. At last, drama not only describes about the picture of human life but moreover, it is also an art that is presented to entertain the audience.



Henrik Johan Ibsen is a Norwegian playwright who is well known as the father of modern theatre. His creative process to write the situation that happened at that time as the theme of his plays makes his plays very famous and interesting to read. People easily accept his plays at that time because the situations of the play are not different from the situation of their daily's life. Ibsen also gives them the reality of life that is not given by the writer before Ibsen's era. The plays before Ibsen's era just tell about the imagination's situation of the past, not the real situation at that time (Ulanov, Robby ; 1962:417).

**Rosmerholm** (1886) is one of Ibsen's plays, that tells about the failures experienced by the characters in the play. Three important characters in this play fail to gain their desires. The failures lead them to undergo a kind of depression and to change their life to be a bad one. They decide to end their life in a tragic way. The characters who fail first is Rosmer, the head of Rosmerholm family, he fails to overcome his problems. In his mind, he has a dream to be a politician who is free to give his opinions to other people but on the other hand, he has a problem in realizing it. He cannot refuse his old family tradition that he has to be a priest. Second is Beata, Rosmer's wife, she feels very sad after she knows that she has lost to have a baby. The last is Rebecca. She experiences a tragic life because of her failures to realize her struggles

This thesis focuses only on Rebecca. She is one of the characters in this play who is interested to discuss because as the new member of the family she also dies in a tragic way as her mistress does. Further she understood to experience that she a tragic life because of her failures to realize her struggles. Her first struggles are to attempt to be a noblewoman and to realize her happiness but unintentionally changes into love and it becomes a big desire to win Rosmer's love. In fact, she cannot take Beata's position because of her guilty feeling toward Rosmer and Beata. Unfortunately, to prove her love to Rosmer, she accepts Rosmer's suggestion to throw herself to the millrace where Beata died. Further, she wants to make her first struggle successful. She puts away every obstacle in this case with Beata. Firstly she

wants to separate Beata from Rosmer and it becomes a pressure in her life. At last she feels very guilty because she has made Beata's condition becomes worse. The last is her failure against her own love to Rosmer.

Many experiences can be learnt through Rebecca's experiences. Rebecca's life is an example of two sides of life, in this case the failure and the success, sadness and happiness. It is also an understanding that life is not always as someone wishes. Sometimes, she also fails, falls down and experiences a sad event. In addition, the play also describes that struggles are needed but they must be followed by a wise thought in choosing the best rules to achieve the struggles.

## 1.2 The Problem to Discuss

Ibsen's **Rosmerholm** is a play that tells about the characters' tragic life. It is related with the struggles that are done by the characters in the play especially Rosmer, Beata and Rebecca. They fail to gain their ideals and to overcome their sadness. At last they end their life in tragic way.

The experiences of failures and tragic life in this play are described through the acts of the characters, for instance Rebecca. In this play, it is told that Rebecca comes to Rosmerholm with a purpose to change her status to be a noblewoman and gets happiness. Her struggles arise when she has seen the situation in her new house. She hopes she is able to bring Rosmer to be a liberal and free thinker. Unfortunately, Beata, Rosmer's wife and Rosmer's old tradition obstruct her to do her purpose from that time; she has an earnest wish to help him and removes the obstacles in her ideals. Her struggles then drive her to do a bad thing which causes Beata to die. She feels very guilty for it. Besides, she also fails to fulfil her struggles to change Rosmer's political view and to help him against his guilty. She also loses against her love to him. Her unsuccessful struggles next bring her to experience a tragic life. She gets a depression and at last, she agrees to accept Rosmer's proposal to commit suicide in the place where Beata died by throwing herself to the millrace. Therefore, the



problem which is discussed in this thesis is Rebecca's failures to realize her struggles to win Rosmer's love leading to her tragic life.

### **1.3 The Scope of the Study**

This thesis needs to be limited in order to keep away the discussion from lengthy examination. Therefore, it only focuses on one of the characters of the play, Rebecca, towards the experiences of her struggles and failures that cause her tragic life. First, it discusses what kind of struggles which are done by Rebecca. The following, it is the analyses of her failures and her tragic life.

### **1.4 The Hypothesis**

A hypothesis is a temporary conclusion of the problems that are proved (Tim Penyusun, 1998:16). Rebecca's tragic life in Rosmerholm arises because she has to struggle to realize her ideals but she fails. The failures lead her to experiences a tragic life. The hypothesis in discussing the topic of this thesis is whether or not Rebecca's failures in realizing her struggles are the cause of her tragic life.

### **1.5 The Approach to Use**

Psychological approach is used to analyze the topic of the discussion in this thesis. The meaning of psychology in general as Wortman said in **Psychology** is "The study of behavior and mental process" (1992 : 26). If it is connected with the word "psychological approach" it will mean the way of approaching a work, which is related with behavior and mental process. It explains about the observation of facts about behavior and find out more clearly the changing of mental case especially about the reason why people think, feel and act as they do (1992 : 26). According to Scott in **Five Approaches of Literary Criticism**, "psychological approach can be applied in the works of literature in three cases there are: first, to apply the new field provides a more precise language with which to discuss the creative process, second deals with the study of the lives of authors as means of understanding their art and than last is to

explain fictitious characters” (1962: 71-72). This thesis uses the third application. It concerns with the attitudes and actions of the character in the play. The character’s action reactions and the action of other character are needed to study about the character who is chosen as the subject of the discussion. It will show us that the chosen character, in this case Rebecca, has the motivation to do her struggles, then her failures and her tragic life but she is known as one who is unsuccessful to get her dreams. She cannot realize her struggles.

Sociological approach is also used in this thesis to support the main approach. It is the approach that deals with the observation of the relation of one character with the other characters. This approach is needed to observe about the relation of Rebecca with other characters. Rebecca’s failures are related with her relationship with the members of Rosmerholm family Rosmer and Beata. She wants to help Rosmer and she eliminates Beata from Rosmer.

#### **1.6 The Method of Analysis**

Literary research is done to find the sources, which are needed to analyze the discussion. It means that the information and the data that are valuable to support this thesis are found by reading many books and dictionaries and then collect them.

Inductive method is used in this thesis to analyze the data as well as the information to get the conclusion. Inductive method is a way of making a conclusion from specific understanding or events to general one (Hadi, 1987: 138). Rebecca’s tragedy in this play is begun by many experiences in this case her failures to achieve her struggles. Her failures then lead her to undergo a difficult part of life.

#### **1.7 The Goals of the Study**

The first purpose of writing this thesis is to explore that Rebecca’s tragedy in **Rosmerholm** is caused by her failures in realizing her struggles, the second is to learn about human experiences related with the topic. In this case, the topic which is taken is Rebecca’s experiences through failures and her failures are the cause of her



tragedy. Finally, it applies the theories taken during the study especially in the play entitled **Rosmerholm**.

### **1.8 The Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter one tells about the basic information of the thesis's discussion. It consists of rationale, the problem to discuss, the hypothesis, the approach to use, the method of analysis, and the organization of the thesis and the goals of the study. Chapter two deals with the play and the writer of the play. It tells about synopsis of the play and the biography of the writer. The next chapter concerns with the meaning of the difficult words that have relation with the title and the discussion. The following chapter discusses about Rebecca's failures, her struggles and the effects of her failures in her life. Finally the last chapter is the conclusion of the whole discussion.



## CHAPTER II

### THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITER AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

#### 2.1 The Biography of the Writer.

Henrik Johan Ibsen was born in the little town of Skien on the Norwegian seacoast 150 kilometres south west of Christiania (now Oslo) on March 20, 1828. His father is Knud Ibsen and his mother is Marichen. He was the second child from six child of his family. He had four brothers and one sister.

Ibsen's father was a good trader but he was not a wise man in spending his money. In the 1869, when Ibsen was six his father was bankrupt and they moved to a little town of Venstop in Gjerpen Parish. Since his father bankruptcy, Ibsen began to understand about a bitter way of life. At that time, he had a difficult life. He lived in poverty and left by his friends. From that experience, he learnt that not all of his friends were good. They were easily gone away from him when he was in a bad condition. He became to be a boy who did not like to play with another friend. He used almost all his time to read and write.

At the age of fifteen, he was brought by his father to Grimstard. There, he worked as an apothecary in Reinman's apothecary shop. He had an insufficient salary and a bad working condition. This unlucky condition was supported with his loneliness.

During his living in Grimstard, he used his spare time to prepare his university examination. He was also finding his time for writing. His first play **Catiline**, written in 1948. It was a play which concerned with the angry revolutionary related with the situation at that time. Unfortunately, he was not really successful in his first play.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1857, he left Grimstard for Skien. He visited his family and stayed there for almost two weeks. It was the last time for him to meet them because he never came back again to his village until his father and mother died. On April 28<sup>th</sup>



he arrived at Christiania to prepare for the university entrance but he lost in Greek and Mathematics.

He met Ole Bull, the violin virtuoso and the founder of The Bergen National Theatre in 1851. He gave him an occupation as a dramatist apprentice. This chance gave him an experience to work in the theatre. He was very productive because he was forced to write one play each year. Therefore, he wrote many plays during this time. They were ; **Mid Summer Night Dream** (1853), **The Warrior's Barrow** (1854), **Lady Inger of Ostraat** (1855), **The Feast** (1853) and **Olaf Liljekrans** (1857). Unfortunately, these plays were not really successful. He only published one play, **Lady Inger of Ostraat**. In this theatre he met the girl he loved. Her name was Susannah Thorensen. They were engaged in 1856 and got married on June 18, 1858. One year later, their only one son was born. He gave him name Sigurd Ibsen

During 1857, Ibsen returned to Oslo to become a new manager of Norwegian Theatre. He kept the position until 1862. In 1859 he found that the theatre got many difficulties. He was depressed at that time because he had not get any solutions to overcome his financial difficulties to make the condition of the theatre better. At last, he decided to close it. This bad condition at that time influenced his mind in writing. He could not write any works except one poem entitled **On the Fells** (1859). It told about his gloomy experience because of his failure in bettering the condition of the theatre as well as his desire in writing.

After the theater was closed, he became unemployed. He then worked as journalist. During this time, he wrote a play, **The Viking at Hegeland** (1858), a play which was influenced by his reading **Volsunagasaga**. It attended some measure of success to find a modern opportunity to the strong purposeful language of Saga (Encyclopedia of Britanica; 1973; 1027).

In December 1866, he wrote and published **Love's Comedy**. It was his chance to change his life in literary work. The publication of the play developed his career in art especially in play. There, he for the first time expressed his personalities related with love problem. It told about a commentary on conventional romantic love and

marriage. In may 1862, he received a grant from the University of Christiania to arrange and collect folk songs and tales. It let him to travel around Norway.

The following year, he wrote **The Pretenders**, a historical play in prose. It had a good production at the Christiania Theatre in 1864 and awarded a small travel grant that brought him to leave Roma. Then, it was continued with two plays which had an antithetic idea, **Brand** (1866) and **Peer Gynt** (1867). These plays were a tragic stories that were written in comic mood. In those plays, he created two main characters which had a contrast personality. In **Brand** in this case Pastor Brand, he was crushed by a weight of his idealism while on the other hand, in **Peer Gynt** was in danger of evaporating into nothing in his utter self – dedication (1974 : 695)

Ibsen began to write social problem dramas in his play **The League of Youth** (1869) and **Pillar of Society** (1877). After that, he changed his theme into modern problem plays. It concerned with human natural problem related with their life and their relationship. It told about conflicts, solution and their activities which also happened in the real life. He thought that play was one way for him to express about human life (1968: 10). Through the play, he wanted to feel about human experiences in connecting with their problems, conflicts and solutions. The first play in this theme was **A Doll's House** (1889), a strong young wife who pretended to be a pretty irresponsible in order to fatter his husband but disturbed by his experience in the past. Then, he wrote **A Ghost** (1881), a heredity insanity and the conflict of generation. The play was following with **An Enemy of the People** (1882), it told about someone who tried to struggle the truth, regardless of vested interest, much necessarily to be misunderstood and treated cruelly.

The following year, Ibsen published many plays that related with woman emancipation. They were **Wild Duck** (1884), **Rosmerholm** (1886), and **Hedda Gabler** (1890). In these plays, he wrote about people who wanted to gain their ideal life more than a normal life.



Next, he developed his problem into psychological problems with symbolic style, including; **The Lady from the Sea** (1888), **Master Builder** (1892), **Little Elyof** (1894) and **John Gabriel Borkman** (1896).

In his last play **When We Dead Awaken** (1899), he wrote about the protest against everything that took away a man from his happiness. It was his last play. After that play, he did not produce any plays anymore. At that time, he got a stroke. It made him loose his power to move the part of his body. He could not use his hand and could not write anything. He died in Christiania Oslo on May 25, 1906.

During his life, Ibsen wrote for about twenty-six plays. He was not only given his contributions on drama but also to the reader. His plays showed a picture of human life, their problems and the solutions to solve them. He is told as the motivator to other modern playwrights to create a new characteristic of drama and they can learn to him.

## 2.2 The Synopsis of the Play

The story happens one year after Rosmer's wife death. It begins with the story of the relationship between Rebecca and Rosmer. Rebecca and Rosmer become closer since Beata has died and Rosmer decides to change himself to be a free thinker, a man who can choose his way of life by himself. Rosmer thinks that Rebecca is a nice friend in discussing about politics, sharing his problems, and giving him a valuable solution. He has an unhappy marriage with Beata. Beata is an unsympathetic, neurotic woman who ends her life in the millrace.

One day, Rector Kroll, Rosmer's brother-in-law and close friend comes to visit him in Rosmerholm. He tells about political situation in their country and his desire to make a public newspaper, the County Telegraph. The newspaper is meant as the liberal's newspaper opposition. He says that their rival is very dangerous because it carries about criticism toward their party and it will bring a bad effect to them. He asks Rosmer to be an editor and joins with him against the Liberal Party. Rector Kroll was dissappointed at that time because Rosmer refuses his offer. Rosmer tells him that

he has already changed his political view. Now he joins with Liberal Party. He says that it is his time to show his responsibility for their country by helping people to raise their social status to be a noblemen. Rebecca agrees and supports his new fight.

In the middle of their conversation, Mrs. Helseth, Rosmer's housekeeper comes to announce that there is someone who wants to meet Rosmer. His name is Ulrik Brendel. He is Rosmer's old tutor and also a loyal liberalism. He comes to the village to give his service to liberal party. Rosmer and Rebecca are very proud of him, especially to his way of thinking. He is able to express his thought freely. Rosmer and Rebecca help him by giving clothes and money.

Having seen their act toward Ulrik Brendel and felt disappointed to Rosmer, Rector Kroll turns against them. He accuses Rosmer of betraying his class and has an affair with Rebecca. He also accuses her to have bad purposes in Rosmerholm especially in persuading Rosmer to change his political view and eliminating Beata. He tells further to Rebecca and Rosmer that his accusation is strengthened by Beata's confessions before she died. She has come to him twice to complain about her fear of Rosmer's political change and his desire to marry Rebecca, moreover, she is very sad when she knows that she has lost her possibility to have a baby. Therefore, she wants to make a way for Rosmer to marry Rebecca by ending her life in the millrace.

Pieter Mortensgaard, a liberal newspaper publisher comes to the house in answering the letter from Rebecca. He wants to solisite about Rosmer's new decision and wants to write it in the Beacon, Rosmer agrees with it. In addition, he also explains to him about the rules as the beginner in liberal party. He says that there is no exception for every new member even Rosmer. Further, he says that the liberal has already had a lot of freethinkers and he does not need a freethinker except a real Christians. Therefore, he is surprised when he knows that Rosmer has already changed his mind and leaves the church. He does not need Rosmer's help anymore. Then, he also accuses Rosmer has sin relationship with Rebecca and causes his wife die.



At that time, Rosmer feels he is left by everyone without any supports and fears to people and his wife's accusation. He begins to feel guilty in causing Beata to die and fears that he has not concealed his feeling to Rebecca from his wife. Really he is shocked by the rumours of the scandal, but he does not want his happy present life disturbed. He offers Rebecca to marry him but she refuses it.

One-day morning, he reads the morning newspaper 'County Telegraph'. It carries about the incorrect reports in relation to his decision to change his political view. Rosmer cannot accept this news and wants to fight back, but he feels that he cannot accomplish this task because of his guilty feeling toward his wife. He thinks that a guilty person like him cannot do anything to defend himself.

Rebecca takes a great care in Rosmer's nervousness and she wants to help him. She takes all of the responsibility on herself by confessing that it is she who is responsible for Beata's suicide.

After she confesses all of her guilt to Rosmer, she decides to leave the house but in the last minutes before she goes she explains that she still has one secret to tell. She says that there is power over her which influences her to love Rosmer. The power arises her jealousy and drives her to do many unwise actions to Beata and it causes Beata's death. After Beata's death, her love has changed. It is not so ambitiously as before but it has changed to be spiritual one. She only wants to devote herself entirely for Rosmer.

Rosmer who does not believe in Rebecca anymore asks her to prove her love by offering a proposal to her. He orders her to die as the way Beata died and she agrees with it.

At the last time when Rebecca wants to jump to the millrace, Rosmer decides to join with her. They throw themselves into to the millrace where Beata died, hand in hand.



## CHAPTER III

### THE MEANINGS OF THE TERMS

It is useful and important to give brief descriptions about the terms in order to help the reader to understand the topic. There are three important words to explain here, struggle, failure, and tragedy.

#### 3.1 The Meaning of Struggle

Hornby in his book **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English** defines struggle as : 1). To fight (with somebody), (against with somebody / something) more one body vigorously) 2). Try to overcome difficulties; make great efforts 3). Makes one's with difficulty (in specified direction), 4) Struggle along on / manage to survive in spite of great difficulties (1994 : 1276).

**Webster's Third New International Dictionary**, struggle is determined as follows : 1). To make violent, strenuous labored or convulsive exertions or effort against difficulties 2). To proceed with difficulties or with great efforts 3). A violent effort of exertion (as to obtain object; overcome a difficulty or avert an evil (1969 : 2267).

The definition which is explained before takes the means of struggle as a vigorous attempt which people have done to overcome something that is difficult to reach in order to get what they want.

#### 3.2 The Meaning of Failure

The word failure in **The American Heritage Dictionary of English Language** is defined as : 1). The condition of fact of being insufficient or lacking; failing; failing short; non performance of what is requested or expected; omission, failure to report a change of address; ones that fails 2). The condition of fact of not achieving the desired end or ends (1977:470)



Hornby in **Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Current English** remarks that failure is: 1). Failing lack of success 2). Instant of failing 3). Neglect, omission, inability to do something (1974:305)

Then, **The Random House Dictionary of English Language** states the meaning of failure as : 1). The act or instants of failing or proving unsuccessful, lack of success 2). Non performance of something required or expected (1961 : 164)

Further, Webster in **Webster's Third New International Dictionary** defines failure as : a lack of absents of something expected especially in performance or achievement (1966 : 815)

According to the explanations above, the word failure can be explained as a condition or fact of person or thing that is failed or unsuccessful to reach what he expects.

People usually have many hopes and wishes in their life. They have a great struggle to reach it. They work very hard and sometimes forget to manage their work carefully. They do not prepare themselves from bad fates or looses. Therefore, when they are unsuccessful to gain their faith, they feel very sad, disappointed and restless.

Rebecca in Rosmerholm also experiences failures in her life. She is unsuccessful to fulfil her struggle, she cannot gain his ideals because what she has arranged is not successfully done. She becomes suffering. She wants to run away from them by ending her life in the millrace.

### 3.3 The Meaning of Tragedy

The word tragedy comes from Greek, *tragoidia*, a literary goatsinger, the odd name for an originally choric ritual song and dance. There, Greek people perform a show which is attended by the sacrifice of a goat. They dressed in skin as goatlike men and there were a price for ones who has good performance. Latter the meaning of tragedy develops from time to time adapted with development of the writer's thought in every eras. (Collier Encyclopedia, 1994 : 400)

According to Cowie in **Oxford Advanced Learning Dictionary**, tragedy is :  
 1). A terrible event that causes a great sadness 2). a serious play with sad ending b.  
 the branch of drama that consists of such play (1994 : 1360)

While Drabble in **The Oxford Companion to English Literature** says :  
 tragedy is word of uncertain derivation applied broadly or by extension, other works  
 which ever more to a fatal or disastrous conclusion (1995 : 1002)

The definition above describes the understanding about tragedy to a kind of  
 experience of the characters in a play which causes her difficulties and ends with an  
 unhappy or sad event.

Corrigan, in his book **Tragedy Vision and Form** says : tragedy is about our  
 inevitable failure in everything we would aspire to because we can never be  
 consistently whole ; it is about the fact that the source of our failures resides within us  
 and is not due to the operation of some external force (1964 : 11)

Failures is one of the elements of tragedy. In tragedy, the character  
 experiences failure. It is caused by the internal or external forces of the character. He  
 is too ambitious to fulfil his desires. He easily puts a bad idea in order to succeed his  
 ambitions and does not aware about his fault. When he is failed, he will feel  
 breakdown and his tragic life begins

The meaning of tragedy itself in **Dictionary of Literary Terms** is a calamity,  
 disaster or fatal themes, carried to a disastrous conclusion. Specificity, tragedy is  
 applied to a dramatic work, in prose or verse, that traces the career of a noble person  
 whose character is flawed by some defects (jealousy, excessive, ambition, pride etc)  
 and whose actions cause him to break some moral perfect or define law with ensuing  
 downfall and destruction (1988 : 381-382). In other words, the main character in the  
 play is unsuccessful. He is unable to gain his goals. Then, it leads him to experience a  
 complex problem. He must overcome his problem and hold his moral responsibility.  
 He cannot overcome it, he will experience downfall and it is called tragedy.

Therefore, the meaning of tragedy then is the potrays of human unhappy experiences, especially showed in literary works, which are caused by the character's internal force and it leads him to his sorrow.





#### CHAPTER IV

### THE FAILURES OF REBECCA'S STRUGGLES AS THE CAUSE OF HER TRAGIC LIFE

It is important to know about some ideas as the basic elements in analyzing the problems in the story. The main ideas include the struggle of the character, the failures in realizing the struggles, and the tragedy experienced by Rebecca after she fails to realize her struggle.

Ibsen in his letter to Bjorn Kristensen says that the play deals with struggle that every serious minded must be waged himself to bring his way of life into harmony with his convictions (Sprinchorn, 1964:265). Further, Valency in *Farlane* limits the struggle that is done by the woman characters in this play is to win the man they love (1970: 407). Moreover, Benson and Littleton say that they are interested in Rebecca way of life, those are, Rebecca as the victim of her own ideas, her revelation of her illegitimate child, her struggle with the house and the drowned mistress, and her struggles against her own love (1966:227). Thus, it is so interesting to discuss further about Rebecca's struggles in this discussion of the thesis.

Naturally, everyone keeps her own efforts to realize her ideas. Sometimes, they must face the failures. The writer is interested to analyze about failures, in this case Rebecca's failures. According to Benson and Littleton that "The action provides of clinging to a house and its past; of a failure to realize when the stream of history has passed it by, is deep-rooted and evil instinct, the more insidious because it is so easily rationale into a belief in Aristocracy, price of race of birth and so on." (1966:227). The failures in this play are really influenced by the character's experiences in the past which disturb her future life especially in her way to gain her goals.

Rosmerholm is a tragic drama. The character's tragic life, in this case Rebecca, is caused by her experiences in the past that become real experience in her future as Freud says that "... what make it in tragic drama is the extra circumstance

that the heroine day dream had been preceded in her childhood by precisely pounding reality" (1970: 399). Rebecca's experience in an affair with her father in the past influences her new life because the situation of her new house is not different from hers in the past. She has a love life as her affair with her father in Rosmerholm, her new house. She is dominated by the power that leads her to eliminate her rival to win the love. This love then causes her undergoes a tragic life. It is important to analyze Rebecca's experiences especially in her failures of her struggles in realizing her ideals. However, her struggles are disturbed by her past life and it causes her undergoes a tragic life.

When Rebecca was a child, her mother brought her up to her village. They lived in a little town, Finmark. It is known as a village where the ancient superstition comes from. They believe in superstition (1963: 403).

Rebecca is an illegitimate child. Her mother is a lower class woman. Her father is Dr. West, a doctor who ever came to her village a previous year before she was born. At that time, he had an affair with her mother. It caused her mother pregnant. They never legalized their relationship and still kept it in secret until they died. Because of her unlucky position, her society never cared about her existence. She never made some social relationships with them. They never knew about everything that happened on her.

After her mother's death, she lives with Dr West. She regards him as her stepfather. She says that she gets many experiences about life during her life with him. She says to Dr. Kroll that her stepfather has taught everything about life (1966:406). In his house she learns about politics especially liberalism. At the first year, he gives her a good care. It makes her love him so much. In the long run, her love changes into a love between a man and woman that followed by a desire to live together. She wants him to be her husband. Then, she becomes her father's mistress. Then, this relationship is called an Oedipus Complex because in the coming days she is known as her father illegitimate child. Shaw in **Dictionary of Literary Terms** says, "...according to a psychiatric term, Oedipus Complex refers to the unresolved



desire of child for sexual gravitation through a parent of the opposite sex”(1972:262). Rebecca is surprised when she knows that she has a blood relation with her stepfather. She thinks that she has a guilty love and sinful marriage. Her guilt then drives her to refuse every man who loves her.

One day, her father gets an accident in his sea voyage. It is his last sea journey. He gets a paralysis. It breaks his life. He becomes easily to get angry and teaches her harshly. At the end of his life, he becomes very unreasonable. She gets difficulties to take care of him. She thinks that it is her worst experience with him. She is disappointed with him especially when he leaves her in an irresponsible way. He dies without leaving her any properties except a case of books. This experience is also the reason for Rebecca to refuse her lovers. She is afraid they will treat her badly as her father does.

Rebecca's experiences when she has lived with her parents influences her future life. Her life with her mother where her society ignores her existence leads her to reach an appreciation from her surroundings. She wants to be an important girl for other people. She wants them to accept her existence and follow all she wants. Jogerson says, “She has that self confidence.....If she changes her mind, the world must change with her.....”(1963:404). On the other hand, her experience as her father's mistress which is influenced by the Oedipus Complex disturbs her life. She loves a man, in this case Rosmer as the way she loves her father. She tries to win the love by removing her rival.

After her father died, Dr Kroll brings her up to her new house, Rosmerholm. There, she lives with Rosmer, his wife Beata and their housekeeper Mrs. Helseth. In her new home, she hopes that she can reach her ideal, to be a noble woman and happy (1966: 414) and leaves her bitter experiences in the past. She hopes that all of the family will admit and accept her. However, she delays her former purpose because the situation of the house is not suitable for her to continue her plans. She, therefore, has some struggles in the house to realize her ideals.

## 4.1 Rebecca's Struggles

### 4.1.1 Rebecca's Struggles against the Tradition of the House

When Rebecca comes to her new house, Rosmerholm, and lives in it for a few times, she has seen uncommon traditions in that house. She sees that the situation of the house is very gloomy. She does not find any children crying and she never knows everyone laughing in that house. They believe in a kind of superstition that is symbolized by a white horse. They tell her that the appearance of the white horse is a sign for all of the family that there will be some troubles in that house or there will be someone in the house who will die soon. The white horse is also told as the incarnation of the deaths of Rosmerholm family who clings in that house and live around their house. Another strange tradition is the tradition that tightens up the descendants of the house to be the ones with the occupation in medicines, laws or priests. They cannot choose their life by themselves and cannot live as the way they want. She thinks that their traditions tighten their freedom.

Having seen their traditions, Rebecca wants to make some changes toward their traditions. She hopes that the changes will be useful for her to realize her purposes in the house. Besides, she hopes that she will get a house as she wishes. Rebecca begins her struggles to change the house by changing the situation of the house to be fresh and colorful. She puts some flowers around the living room.

KROLL. ... (*Sits and looks around.*) Well, how very attractive  
you've made this old room look! Flowers everywhere.

REBECCA. Mr. Rosmer loves to have fresh flowers around.

KROLL. So, do you, I imagine.

REBECCA. Yes. I find them so beautifully soothing. In the old days,  
we had to deny ourselves that pleasure

(Act I, P 347)

She hopes the colors and the smells of the flowers will give something different into that room. They will change the appearance of the room to be more colorful, beautiful and fragrant. She also wants to make the people of the house happy when they look into the fresh flowers.



After she has changed the situation, she starts with the next struggle. She tries against their belief in the superstitions about the ghosts of the deaths in Rosmerholm.

MRS. HELSETH. Ah well, miss. It must be hard for the pastor to cross that bridge. After what happened there.

REBECCA (*gathers her crocheting*). They cling to their death here at Rosmerholm.

MRS. HELSETH. If you want my opinion, miss, it's the dead who cling to Rosmerholm.

REBECCA (*looks at her*). The dead ?

MRS. HELSETH. Yes. It's almost as though they couldn't free themselves from the ones they left behind.

REBECCA. What makes you say that ?

MRS. HELSETH. Well, other wise this white horse wouldn't keep on appearing.

REBECCA. Mrs. Helseth, what exactly is all this about this white horse ?

MRS. HELSETH. Oh, it's nothing. You wouldn't believe such things, anyway.

REBECCA. Do you believe in it, then ?

MRS. HELSETH (*goes across and shuts the window*). Ah, you'd only laugh on me, miss....

(Act. I, P 346)

Rebecca is very surprised to think of the story about the white horse in the house. She does not imagine that the members of the house believe in a story of the ghost. Rebecca who has an unpleasant experience with people who believe in superstition, hates to this belief and she wants to leave that experience. She tries against their belief by making it as a joke.

REBECCA. As long as he doesn't see the white horse. I'm afraid we may soon be hearing from the one of these ghost of yours.

MRS. HELSETH. God forgive you, Miss West! Don't say such wicked things !

REBECCA. All right, all right-

MRS. HELSETH (*lowers her voice*). Do you really think someone's going to go soon, miss ?

REBECCA. No of course not. Nevertheless, there are so many kinds of white horse in this world, Mrs. Helseth...

(Act. I, P 367)

Rebecca's struggles in the house then continues opposing the Rosmerholm's old tradition. The tradition has forced every descendant including Rosmer to be a doctor, a lawyer or a priest. Rebecca knows, that Rosmer really does not agree with that rule. He is not happy with the conditions of the house. She wants to tell him that she has different opinion from Dr. Kroll. She answers Dr. Kroll's question by telling that the tradition is very unreasonable

KROLL (*points to the portraits*). The Rosmer of Rosmerholm. Men of God and Men of War. Respected servants of their country... (*Puts a hand on ROSMER's soldier*) Rosmer you owe it yourself and to the tradition of your family to defend protect everything that has hitherto been held sacred in our society. (*Turns*). Well, what do you say, Miss West?

REBECCA (*with soft, quiet laugh*). Dear Dr Kroll! I find it all this unspeakably ludicrous.

(Act I, P 356)

#### 4.1.2 Rebecca's Struggles to Remove Beata

Rebecca wants to remove Beata because she has a different way of thinking with Beata. They have different ways to reach their happiness. Rebecca thinks happiness will be obtained if someone is free. She thinks that Liberal is the right party to realize this happiness. She is able to be a free thinker in this party. She, therefore, tries to change Rosmerholm's way of life from orthodoxy into liberalism. She tries to make up Rosmer's political view to Liberal. On the other hand, Beata thinks that someone can be happy if they are safe in their political view. Therefore she always maintains her tradition and keeps her husband in it, because she is afraid that Rosmer's political changes will affect seriously toward his safety. Moreover, she also worries it will influence his attention to her. In other words, "Rebecca is antagonism to Beata" (Danwill, -, 285).

Another reason for Rebecca to remove Beata is her jealousy toward her. The influence of the Oedipus Complex drives her to love Rosmer. She imagines that her relationship with Rebecca and Beata is not different from her relationship from her parents, Rosmer as her father and Beata as her mother. Rebecca thinks that Beata is



her rival. She wants to take Beata's position and wins his love. She has some struggles to remove Beata.

Rebecca's struggle to remove Beata begun by luring her into the labyrinth. She makes Beata confused by putting such wicked ideas into Beata's mind, as her confession belows:

REBECCA... It wasn't you John. You are innocence. It was I who lured-who ended by luring Beata into the labyrinth.

ROSMER (*jumps up*). Rebecca!

KROLL (*rises from the sofa*). The labyrinth!

REBECCA. Labyrinth-that led her to the mill-race

(Act. III, PP 406-7)

Rebecca tells Beata that Rosmer has already changed his former fight. She influences Beata's mind telling that Rosmer is a good leader for their community and he will get a good career if she lets Rosmer free to choose his way of life.

ROSMER. But what did you do ? What could you have said to her ?  
There was nothing. Absolutely nothing.

REBECCA. She learned that you were emancipating yourself from your old-fashioned prejudices

(Act III, P 407)

Rebecca's remarks make Beata confused that she has done wrong to her husband. She feels very guilty to him and thinks that she is a useless woman for him, as Jogerson says, "... yet she made Beata conscious of the wrong that was being done to Johanes. The wife grew more and more restive in the conviction that she was a millstone around his neck. She sensed herself increasingly a useless woman that occupied space without serving in any fruitful capacity" (1963:406). Beata is extremely afraid to hear the news from Rebecca. She tries to find some supports and helps from Dr. Kroll, her brother and Mortensgaard, the leader of liberal newspaper, the Beacon, but at that time, they do not care about her complaints. They think that Beata was shocked after she learnt that she had lost the possibility of having a baby.

Further Rebecca makes Beata undergo mental shock. She drives Beata into her confusion toward her marriage because of her impossibility to have a baby. She tells Beata a strange opinion about an ideal marriage by lending her a book about it.

KROLL .... Do you happen to recall whether you had any books in the house that dealt with the-purpose of marriage – from the so called “progressive”, modern viewpoint ?

ROSMER. I remember Miss West lent me a book about that....But, my dear Kroll, you surely don't imagine we were careless as to mention anything like that to poor Beata?....

(Act II, P 373)

she hopes that Beata will read the book and will be influenced by the writer's opinion about marriage in the book. She wants her to suffer. The writer looks the ideal marriage from his viewpoint and reveals that the function of marriage is only on rearing of children (1953:172). After reading the book, Beata becomes very sad. Beata becomes confused about her position in the marriage. Beata thinks that she is not an ideal wife in the family because she cannot give her husband a child to continue their blood. The condition leads her to isolate herself from her social environments. Rebecca plants to stop her action, when she feels the self-isolation is successful. At the same time, nevertheless, there is the power that forces her to do it further, and then she continues to do another struggle.

REBECCA... I begged and prayed her to let me leave Rosmerholm.

ROSMER. Why did you want to leave me then ?

REBECCA. I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay here. But, I told her I felt it would be best for us all-if I went away from a while. I let her understand that if I stayed any longer something might-something might happen-

(Act. III, P 407)

To go further, Rebecca begins to hit Beata's mind by telling the woman about her hidden relationship with Rosmer. She says that Rosmer has paid her more attentions than he has given for Beata. She also says that Rosmer wants to find another woman to change Beata's position. In addition, she lies to Beata that she is pregnant. She asks Beata to let her go to hide the affair from the people of the town. (1996, 110). All of Rebecca's actions toward Beata cause her to find depression and gradually they lead her to commit suicide.

After Beata's death, Rebecca hopes that Beata will not disturb her and Rosmer's life anymore. In fact, she is wrong. Rosmer still thinks about her wife,



especially after he knows the reason why her wife commits suicide. He feels very guilty when he knows that she died for the sake of his happiness and freedom. For that reason, Rebecca wants to remove Beata from Rosmer's mind. She struggles herself to do it.

ROSMER. How am I to explain that terrible accusation of Beata's?

REBECCA. Oh don't talk about Beata! Don't think about Beata anymore! You've managed to free yourself from her at last. She's dead.

(Act II, P 385)

Rebecca suggests him not to talk about Beata anymore. She wants the story about her is closed. She tells him that Beata is already dead now. She hopes that Rosmer never thinks about her anymore because she does not like Rosmer to think of another girl besides her.

ROSMER. Yes, it is hard. Hard, Rebecca. But I have no choice.

How could I possible forget all this ?

REBECCA (*behind the chair*). By creating a new relationship.

ROSMER (*starts and looks up*). A new relationship?

REBECCA. Yes. A new relationship to the world outside. Live, work, act. Don't sit here brooding over insoluble riddles.

(Act II, P 388)

When Rosmer still has difficulties to forget Beata, she suggests him to have another relationship with another friend outside of Rosmerholm family, where he will have many activities to forget his wife.

#### **4.1.3 Rebecca's Struggles to Change Rosmer's Political View and Forget His Guilt**

Rosmer bears in family, which follows tradition where their descendents are inheriting their ancient occupations. They are forced to take the profession of law, medicine and theology (1953: 401), as Ibsen says that the Rosmers have always, by traditions, been alternately soldiers and priest; Rosmer's father, Giler Hanibal (sic) Rosmer, was a soldier, so his son had to be priest (1966, 331)

Rosmer does not really agree with this tradition. He wants to choose his way of life by himself, but he is not brave enough to fight against his tradition. Therefore

during his life, he just follows the tradition although he does not like it. Rosmer also has a wife who always keeps him in the tradition. At that time, Rosmer has an unhappy life until Rebecca comes to his house.

Rosmer's unhappy life and Rebecca's love to Rosmer gives her an idea to bring him into her side to support her. She tries to persuade and influence him to change his political view. She wants him to compare his ideal with her. To convince Rosmer, she says that she wants to bring both Rosmer and herself into freedom. She hopes that Rosmer and her will have a harmonious family with a single purpose in their married life.

Rebecca chooses Liberal Party to realize her purpose. Besides her background is liberalism, she has already known that Rosmer has ever learnt about it from his last tutor. She thinks that it will be easier for her to bring him into liberal because she only continues what the tutor has done.

Rebecca's struggles to change Rosmer's political view begin with writing a letter to Mortensgaard. Mortensgaard is a liberal journalist. She hopes that Mortensgaard will help her to do her purpose and help Rosmer to fight his enemies. Weigand denotes, "On the her own authority, she writes Mortensgaard, asking him for a favor on Rosmer's behalf ... convinced as she is that Rosmer will find it difficult to bear up against the hostility of Kroll and his coterie, she wishes to secure for him Mortensgaard's powerful backing, .... "(1953:181).

REBECCA. Last night, when that Ulrik Brendel was leaving- I wrote him a few lines to take to Mortensgaard.

ROSMER (*a little doubtfully*). But, my dear Rebecca-! Well, what did you write ?

REBECCA. I said he'd be doing you a service if he took care of that unfortunate man and gave him all the help he could.....

REBECCA. Don't you think it might be a good idea if you made things up with him ?

(Act II, P 369)

When Dr Kroll comes to their house to talk about the political situation in their town, Rebecca asks Rosmer to tell clearly to him about his political change.



Rosmer is not brave enough to explain about it to his friend. Rebecca takes this chance. She tells Kroll about Rosmer's new fight in politics. She wishes that she could break away Rosmer's anxiety (1953: 181).

REBECCA. And I think Mr. Rosmer has come to look at life from a more liberal viewpoint.

(Act I, P 354)

Before Rebecca comes to the house, Rosmer is afraid to fight against his tradition as well as his political friends. He does not want to break their relationship. Rebecca always supports, inspires and encourages Rosmer to be a brave one. Those are done to trick him to change his political view.

ROSMER. Oh, yes it was. When I think about it honestly, there was a good deal of cowardice in it.

REBECCA. All the more credit to you, then, for managing to overcome it.

(Act II, P 369)

ROSMER. If only I could awake them to self-knowledge. Bring them to a feeling of shame and repentance. Teach them to approach one another in tolerance and love, Rebecca.

REBECCA. Yes! Only put your energies into that, and you'll see. You will win!

REBECCA. You were just beginning to live, John. You had already begun. You had made yourself free-free in every way....

(Act II, P 387)

Rebecca's next struggles then are related with Rosmer's feeling of guilt. Rosmer becomes very guilty after he knows about the real reason of his wife to commit suicide. She tries to help Rosmer to overcome his guilt. Rosmer also becomes very guilty because really he falls in love with Rebecca since Beata was still alive. He never told it to his wife at that time. Therefore, he becomes very guilty because he thinks that he cheats his wife. Rebecca gives him an understanding that they are not guilty to this case because she knows that Rosmer is not happy with his wife.

ROSMER. Happiness-my dear Rebecca - happiness consists above all else in a calm and happy sense of innocence. Freedom from guilt-

REBECCA. (*stares straight a head*). Oh, can't you ever stop thinking about guilt?

(Act III, P 396)

ROSMER. It was her love for me that threw her into the millrace. That fact remain inescapable, Rebecca. And it is useless for me to try escape from it.

REBECCA. Don't think about it! ...

(Act III, P 398)

ROSMER. ... Oh yes, Rebecca I was right to keep our relationship so jealousy to ourselves. It was a dangerous secret.

REBECCA. Oh what does it matter what other people think? We know that we are guiltless.

(Act II, P 385)

#### 4.1.4 Rebecca's Struggles against Her Own Love

Rebecca has some reasons to refuse her love. The first reason is her experience as her father's mistress in the past. The second is her guilt to Beata and Rosmer.

Rebecca has a bitter experience with her father. She loves him and becomes his mistress. In this affair, she experiences suffering because of her father bad treatments. She wants to forget and leaves these experiences by refusing every lover including Rosmer.

Rebecca's feeling of guilty also influences her to refuse Rosmer's love. Her last affair and her bad attitudes to Beata which drives her to commit suicide cause her guiltiness. Those guilt makes her difficult to accept Rosmer's love, as Ibsen says, "the sense of guilt which first causes her to reject Rosmer's proposal" (1966: 141). When she lives with Rosmer, she feels that the condition of her new family is not different with her last family. Her new family that includes Rosmer and his wife is not different with her father and her mother. She imagines Rosmer as her father and Beata as her mother. This condition influences her to love life. She falls in love with Rosmer but she refuses his proposal. Rebecca's struggles to refuse Rosmer's love shows in the quotation bellow,

ROSMER. ... freedom and joy, and love. You shall be my wife-the only wife I have ever had.



REBECCA (*controlled*). Don't ever speak of this again. I shall never be your wife.

(Act II, P 390)

Rebecca refuses Rosmer's proposal and tells him that she does not want to speak about it again. She also threatens him that she will commit suicide if Rosmer still continues his proposal to marry her.

ROSMER. Love. Yes, Rebecca, I mean that. Even when Beata was alive, I thought only of you ... wasn't that how you felt too? Tell me.

REBECCA (*torn with herself*). Oh-I don't know what to reply of that.

(Act III, P 397)

Rebecca gets difficulty to answer Rosmer's questions about her feeling to him. Although she loves him, she cannot forget about his past with her father. Therefore she just keeps her feeling in her mind and gives an unclear answer to him.

ROSMER....If I were to ask you again now – if I were to go on my knees and beg you-

REBECCA. Oh my dearest – please don't ever speak of that again. It's impossible -! You'd better know, John. Before I came to Rosmerholm – something happened to me-

(Act IV, P 417)

When Rosmer begs her to be his wife once more, she confesses him that she cannot accept his proposal because she has bad experience with her love in the past. She does not want it comes to her again. Rebecca wants the marriage because of her love for Rosmer, but she cannot go on with it because of her own conviction that she loves Rosmer with a guilty love in the past (Danwill, -: 308).

KROLL. If things should so turn out that you should fill the place left by-

REBECCA. I have the place I want, Dr Kroll.

KROLL. Materially, perhaps, but not-

REBECCA (*interrupts earnestly*). Shame on you. Dr Kroll! How can you sit here joking about such a subject?

(Act I, P 350)

KROLL. You must get him to legalize the relationship, Miss West

REBECCA. You can't rid yourself of the conviction that our relationship is of kind of the kind that requires to be-legalized, as you put it-

KROLL. I have no wish to get involved in the matter personally. But have observed in the past that the prejudices, as you would call them, which people find it easiest to overcome - hm -!

REBECCA. Concern the relationship between a man and woman?

KROLL. Yes-to speak frankly-that is my experience.

REBECCA (*wanders across the room and looks out through the window*). It was on the tip of my tongue to say- I hope you are right, Dr Kroll.

(Act II, P 404)

Dr Kroll suggests Rebecca to legalize her relationship with Rosmer. She tries to refuse that suggestion and tells it as a ludicrous idea. He tries it again by reminding her to her parent's affair. He tells her that he is afraid if it will happen again in Rosmerholm. Rosmer and Rebecca will experience the affair. Rebecca cannot avoid this fact. She realizes Dr. Kroll is right.

#### 4.2 Rebecca's Failures

In reality, Rebecca finds many difficulties to realize her ideals to get her happiness and to change her status to be a noblewoman. She finds complicated problems and never prepares herself to face it. These difficulties leads her to experience failures. Ruch and Zimbardo say that those who are worried about their failures, tend to choose the goals that has low difficulties in order to avoid the failures. (1971 : 318). In their suggestion they tell that one wants to do something it should be inline with his ability. They must prepare themselves in order to avoid failures. In addition, Rebecca is the one who has higher ideals but she does not prepare herself to face the difficulties in realizing her ideals. She never prepares and fixes precisely her ability to get the best way to reach her ideals, therefore, she easily gets lack of her success.

The problems that come to her arise her conflicts. In this case, she stands in the two different sides. She gets an anxiety to get the best way to overcome her problems. It is natural for human, as C and I. Atkinson say that someone who faces



two different sides of life's experience, in this case the interesting side and the difficult side of their goals will experience of facilitation in choosing what they have to do (1999 : 201). Rebecca in one side wants to realize or continues her struggles, but on the other side, she is afraid to the bad effects that will come in her way to continue it. On the other side, she wants to stop her struggles, and as the consequence, she will not able to realize her dream. Further, C and L Atkinson say that someone has a strong motivation to leave anything when it closes to the uninterested and dangerous things (1999 : 202). It can be seen in Rebecca, she decides to delay her dreams and stops all of her struggles because she does not want to make any troubles for the man she loves, though for it she must sacrifice her ideals. In addition, she wants to leave Rosmerholm to forget her sufferings and goes away from all of her difficulties.

The problems that cause her to experience failures come from inside and out side of her environments. From inside of herself, the problems are caused by her experience in the past. The other, they are caused by her relationship with the members of Rosmerholm family including Rosmer and Dr Kroll.

The members of the family and the situation of the house do not support her to gain her ideals. They are not interested to change their ways of life. They still follow their traditions although Rebecca thinks they tight up them from their freedom. Rebecca must struggle to change of the house by herself.

The first causes come from Rosmer. Rosmer indirectly disturbs Rebecca's struggles. He does not help her to succeed her struggles but becomes an obstacle for her. It begins with her love. Her love to Rosmer drives her to change the struggles to realize her ideals becomes the struggles to win Rosmer's love. She decides to leave her struggles because she wants to devote her life for Rosmer.

Rosmer also causes her to fail especially in her struggles to change Rosmer's political view. Rosmer is not really interested to change his political view but his love to Rebecca drives him to accept Rebecca's advises. He, therefore, easily gives up to

the power that influences his thought. He decides to come back to his former view after Dr. Kroll persuades him to make up his mind.

The other cause comes from Dr. Kroll. After Dr. Kroll knows that Rosmer wants to change his political view, Dr. Kroll is suspicious of Rebecca as the one who stands behind the change. It is the time when he tries to defeat Rebecca's struggles to change Rosmer's political view.

Dr. Kroll accuses Rebecca that her background and her status as an illegitimate child drive her to have bad purposes in Rosmerholm. He says, Rebecca is responsible for many troubles that happen in Rosmerholm including Rosmer's political changes and Beata's death. Further, he tries to intimidate Rebecca by telling the risk of Rosmer's political change. He tells Rebecca that Rosmer will get many difficulties because he will not be able to fight against his political enemies especially the conservatives. Rebecca begins to think over about Dr. Kroll's reveals. She is afraid that Rosmer will find many problems or difficulties in his new party. She also worries to make him come into troubles. At that time, she could not deny her feeling that she becomes very guilty to Rosmer. She realizes that Kroll is correct about the troubles that will be faced by Rosmer. For that reason, she accepts his accusation. She says to Kroll that he might be right (1966: 403).

When Kroll tells about his suspicion about Beata's death, Rebecca really begins to lose her self-confidence. She realizes that the cause of Beata's death is related with her. She has to be responsible for it.

Further, Kroll also tells about his distrust on Rebecca's birth. He presumes that Rebecca really is Dr West's illegitimate child. He accounts Rebecca's ages and compares it with the time when Dr West has lived in her village as a physician. At that time, they had an affair and one-year later, her mother bore her. This strange fact gives her a great shock. She does not realize that her last husband is her father. This fact reminds her to the difficult life with her father. She cannot really forget her past. It is a sign of failure in forgetting her past ( -- : 399).



After Dr. Kroll tells about his accusations, Rebecca has lost her self-confidence to continue her struggles. She confesses all of her acts in Rosmerholm, including her ideals, her bad experiences in the past and the strong power that influences her to love Rosmer and eliminate her rival, that is Rosmer's wife, Beata. Her confessions are a sign that she realizes in her failures (Danwill,—309)

From inside of herself, her failures are caused by her bad experiences in the past. She had had experiences when she lived with her father and her mother. She cannot forget and leave them from her mind. Moreover, they disturb and lead her to experience failures.

Next, the experience as her father's mistress influences her to love Rosmer and changes her ideals. She decides to leave her struggles and sacrifice her life for Rosmer. Her decision to forget about her struggles is a sign for her failure. She does not only fail to realize her struggles but also fails in getting her happiness and realizing her dreams to be a noble woman.

#### **4.2.1 Rebecca's Failures in Her Struggle against the Tradition of the House**

Rebecca has a desire to make any changes of the tradition of the house. She wants to change the situation of the house, their way of thinking, and behaving. Nevertheless, she never realizes the tradition that has been followed by the family for about 200 years (1966; 331) is impossible for her to change.

She has some problems to realize such struggles. The problems arise because the members of the family are not interested in changing their traditions. It means that Rebecca does not get any support from them. On the contrary, they try to defeat her struggles in the house. The second cause is the fact that the traditions have been followed for almost 200 years. It becomes their second nature and very difficult to change. Rebecca's failures to change the traditions of the house are shown in the quotations below:

REBECCA. Yes, But today something frightened me, Mrs. Helseth.

MRS. HELSETH. Frightened you? Mercy on us, what?

REBECCA. I thought, I caught a glimpse of white horse

MRS. HELSETH. White Horse? In broad daylight?

REBECCA. Oh, they never sleep the white horses of  
Rosmerholm.....

(Act III, PP 409-10)

Rebecca begins to accept the existence of the white horse. It is shown by her sentence that she sees for a short time the appearance of the white horse. She believes that this ghost gives her a sign that she will face some troubles in the house. She, therefore, decides to leave the house as soon as possible.

Another fact that shows her failures against the family's belief in the ghost of the white horse are said in the dialogue as follows:

MRS. HELSETH... Blessed Jesus! What's that white thing over there? ... Upon my soul, if they are not both standing on the bridge ... Ah! They're fallen both of them! Into the millrace! Help! Help! (*Her knees tremble, she holds on, shaking, to the back of the chair*). No. No. Help. The dead mistress has taken them.

(Act IV, P 425)

Mrs. Helseth still believes about this superstition in the last time when Rebecca wants to end her life. She thinks that Beata, "the death mistress", has picked Rosmer and Rebecca to their deaths. She tells about it when she sees Rebecca and Rosmer standing on the bridge. She believes it is "the death mistress" that leads them together to the millrace. The death mistress wants them to die.

Rebecca also fails against the tradition that forces the leader of the family to be a lawyer, a priest, or a medicine. However, she faces a bitter fact that Rosmer decides to return to his former political view.

REBECCA... What happens between you and Dr. Kroll?

ROSMER. We have settled our differences.

REBECCA. I see. So that's how it ended.

ROSMER. He gathered our old friends together in his house. They make me realize that their task of making the world noble is not for me. And anyway, it's such a hopeless idea, Rebecca. I shall about it.

(Act. IV, P 413)



Dr. Kroll, at last, succeeds in persuading Rosmer to stand in Conservative. It means that she cannot change his old traditions, the traditions that tight their freedom to choose their ideal life. Rosmer decides to forget his ideal to make the people noble. Rebecca does not have a chance to make up Rosmer's political view anymore. Further Rebecca thinks that the traditions of the house have influenced her mind to change her view of life. "Now she has been captured by Rosmer's world and has been transformed by it" (1963: 533)

REBECCA. It's the Rosmer view of live – or yours, anyway. It has infected my will.

ROSMER. Infected?

REBECCA. And poisoned it. Enslaved it to a law that I had not previously recognized. You – being with you – has ennobled my soul...

REBECCA. ... The Rosmer view of life ennobles. But – (*shakes her head*) – but – but –

ROSMER. But? Well?

REBECCA. But it kills happiness. John.

(Act IV, PP 416-7)

She thinks that the tradition tightens her freedom to get happiness. Although it changes herself to be a noblewoman, but she cannot realize her dream to reach a happy life.

REBECCA ... I just want to be finished with it all.

ROSMER. Be finished with it?

REBECCA. Rosmerholm has broken me.

ROSMER (*suddenly alert*). What?

REBECCA. Broken me completely. When I first come here, I was so a life and fearless. Now I am a slave to a strange and foreign law. After today, I don't think I shall dare attempt anything again.

(Act IV, P 413)

She thinks that Rosmerholm has changed her life. It closes all of her power to continue her struggle. She thinks that all of her hopes to realize her struggles in the house fail. She will never get anything from that house.

REBECCA. Because Rosmerholm has drained my strength. It has broken my courage and paralyzed my will. The time is past

when I was afraid of nothing have lost the power to take actions, John.

(Act IV, P 415)

With her failures to get happiness in Rosmerholm, she also fails to change all the sorrow of the house to be happy.

#### 4.2.2 Rebecca's Failures in Her Struggles to Remove Beata

Rebecca is successful to drives Beata into her death but she cannot really remove her from Rosmerholm and Rosmer's mind. The family believes that Beata's soul is still living around the house, as Mrs. Helseth says, Beata is not really dead. She still "clings" (1966 : 346) to the house. Mrs. Helseth and the members of Rosmerholm's family admits Beata's existence in the house.

MRS. HELSETH. If you want my opinion, miss, it's the dead who clings to Rosmerholm.

REBECCA (*looks at her*). The dead ?

MRS. HELSETH. Yes. It's almost as though they couldn't free themselves from the one they left behind.

(Act I. P 346)

Mrs. Helseth always believes that Beata is still living around them. She believes that Beata does not want really leave her husband. This fact proves that Rebecca fails to remove Beata from the house. Although Beata is dead now, they still believe that Beata's soul still lives in the house.

Rebecca also fails to remove Beata from Rosmer's mind. Rosmer still remembers about his wife. After Beata's death, he never passes the bridge when he goes outs of the town or comes back to Rosmerholm. He always takes another way because he does not want to pass the place where his wife ends her life (1963 : 407)

MRS. HELSETH (*moves back into the room*). Oh, look, miss! Fancy that! He's beginning to use the mill path again.

REBECCA. He did the day before yesterday, too. (*Peers out between the curtain and the window-frame*) but now we will see whether –

MRS. HELSETH. Will he dare take the footbridge?

REBECCA. That's what I want to find out. (*After a pause*). No. He's



turning. He's going round the top today, too. (*Leaves the window*). The long way around.

(Act I, P 346)

REBECCA. (*Speaks half-aloud to herself*). Not over the bridge today, either. Round. Never past the mill-race. Never (*Leaves the window*)

(Act III, P 409)

Rebecca needs to know whether Rosmer still remembers to his wife or not by asking his opinion if he is given a chance to call his wife come back. She is very disappointed when she knows that Rosmer still keeps his wife in his mind. He will call his wife to come back if it is possible. Actually, she wants him to answer no but the answer is just the opposite to her thought. He cannot forget Beata.

REBECCA. (*Approaches him cautiously from behind*). Now listens, John. If it lay in your power to call Beata back – to you – to Rosmerholm – would you do it ?

ROSMER. Oh, how can I tell what I would or wouldn't to do? I can think of nothing but this of nothing that can never be undone.

(Act II, P 387)

#### 4.2.3 The Failures of Rebecca's Struggles to Change Rosmer Political View and Help Him Forget about His Guilt

Rebecca has some struggles to change Rosmer's political view and tries to make him forget his guilt to Beata. She tries to persuade him to stand in her side in Liberal. Unfortunately, she is not really successful to carry out her plans. She has to face some people who bothered her way to realize her struggles. They indirectly cause her to fail, they are Dr Kroll and Mortensgaard. In addition, Rebecca also fails to help him against his guilt because he still loves Beata and cannot forget his guilt to her.

Dr. Kroll begins to fight against Rebecca after he knows that Rosmer decides to change his political view from Conservative to Liberal. As the member of Conservative, he does not agree with Rosmer's decision. He wants Rosmer to keep his position in Conservative. He, therefore, tries to bring Rosmer to come back to Conservative.

Dr. Kroll tries to fight against Rebecca. He wants to defeat Rebecca because he thinks that Rebecca has important roles toward Rosmer's political change. His fight begins by accusing Rebecca to be responsible toward Rosmer's political change and Beata's death. Then, he tells Rebecca about Rosmer's risk if Rosmer still keeps his decision. He presents his arguments that Rosmer will get difficulties to fight against his political enemies. Rosmer is not strong enough to fight against them. Next, he opens clearly about Rebecca's backgrounds including her background as an illegitimate child, her parent's affair in the past and the fact that Dr. West; her stepfather is her real father. The fight then continues with persuading Rosmer to return to Conservative. He reconciles their difference in their political fight. Rosmer at last accepts Dr. Kroll's advises. He changes his decision to join Liberal. This fact can be seen in these quotations below,

REBECCA ... What happened between you and Dr Kroll ?

ROSMER. We have settled our differences.

REBECCA ... I see. So that's how it ended.

ROSMER ... They made me realize that the task to make world noble is not for me. And anyway, it's such a hopeless idea, Rebecca. I shall forget about it.

REBECCA. Ah, well. Perhaps it's best that way.

(Act IV, P 413)

After Rosmer tells Rebecca about his decision, Rebecca understands that Rosmer, actually, is not interested to change his political view. She realizes that Rosmer's ideal is not Liberal but Conservative. Rebecca feels that she fails. Finally, she gives up by saying, " Ah, well. Perhaps it's best that way. Jogerson says," He said at the same time, however, that he was convinced of his inability to become a liberal leader. In fact his mind is free, but his feelings were tied to the older world. His sentiments, his values, his norms, and his standards of judgements were essentially unchanged. His spontaneous reactions were still those of enmity toward the ruthlessness of a primitive mind (1963, 409).

Another person who also obstructs Rebecca's struggles to change Rosmer's political view is Mortensgaard. She wants Mortensgaard to help her to bring Rosmer



into Liberal. She hopes that he will be able to change Rosmer to be a free thinker. However, he cannot fulfill what she wants. He says that his party has already had a lot of free thinkers. He does not need a free thinker anymore. He needs a real Christian. Rosmer is able to join with him with two ways, as a Christian, or as the new member of Liberal. He may begin his position as the beginner. Rosmer accepts the second way. Rebecca agrees with this deal, at least, Rosmer joins with the Liberal.

However, Rebecca becomes really depressed when she knows that Mortensgaard is a betrayer. Brendell informs her that Mortensgaard is the man who does everything only for his own advantages.

BRENDELL .... Because Pieter Mortensgaard never wants to do more than lies within his power. Pieter Mortensgaard knows how to live life without ideals. And that, you see—that you precisely the secret of action and of victory. It is the sum of all the world wisdom. Basta!

ROSMER (*softly*). Now I understand. Yes. You are leaving here poorer than you came.

(Act IV, P 420)

BRENDELL .... Blot out everything he ever imprinted on your mind...

(Act IV, P 420)

Rebecca really has big hopes to Mortensgaard. She thinks that he is a good man. She hopes that he will give Rosmer a support to be a free thinker and gives him a power against Dr Kroll and his friends. After she has known about the real fact, Rebecca is really disappointed with him. She realizes that now she really fails to bringing Rosmer to his ideals.

Besides all of her failures above, Rebecca also fails in removing Rosmer's guilty feeling. He still feels very guilty to Beata although Rebecca has tried to help him to forget about it. He says that he will never forget about his guilt because it always stands behind him and his freedom. He feels that he is not a perfect man anymore.

Although he is able to change himself to be a free thinker, in fact he has lost his self-confidence. He will never be really free from his guilt. It always disturb his mind everytime and at last, Rebecca can understand Rosmer's restlessness.

ROSMER ... I shall never again be able to enjoy the one thing that makes life so wonderful to live.

REBECCA (*over the back of the chair, more quietly*). What is that, John?

ROSMER (*looks up at her*). The sense of calm and happy innocence.

REBECCA (*take the step back*). Yes, innocence.

(Act II, PP 387-8)

Rosmer cannot forget his guilt because he thinks that he cheats Beata. He has loved Rebecca since Beata is still alive. Therefore, he feels that he really has a big mistake to his wife. He has an affair before Beata dies.

ROSMER. I'm afraid I shall never be able to forget them.

REBECCA. But how can you let anything so groundless have such power over you-? Is it.

ROSMER. So groundless, Rebecca? I've been lying awake all night thinking about it. Wasn't Beata perhaps right after all?

REBECCA. What do you mean?

ROSMER. In believing that I was in love with you, Rebecca.

(Act III, P 397)

His guilt leads him to think he is not the right man to lead people. He will not be able to reach his freedom because of it. Therefore, he does not intend to continue his efforts to get his ideal. He thinks that it is impossible for him.

ROSMER. It was her love for me that threw her into the millrace. That fact remains inescapable, Rebecca. And it is useless for me to escape from it.

REBECCA...thinks only about the great noble task to which you have dedicated your life!

ROSMER (*shakes his head*) That can never be accomplished, Rebecca. Not by me. Not after what I know now,

REBECCA. Why not by you?

ROSMER. Because there can never be victory for cause that is rooted in guilt.

(Act III, P 398)



Rosmer's guilty feeling shows her that she fails in helping Rosmer against his guilt. He still thinks about it from time to time. It influences Rebecca's mind. She realizes that someone who has a guilt will never get happiness. By accepting Rosmer's guilt, Rebecca really fails in bringing Rosmer into his happiness. She accepts that a guilty experience always influences someone who experiences it until they die.

#### **4.2.4 Rebecca's Failures in Her Struggles Against Her Own Love**

Rebecca comes to Rosmerholm with the bad experience of love in the past. She hopes that in her new home she does not face that bad experience anymore. She, therefore, always tries to refuse her love to Rosmer. She thinks that every love has the same effects. She is afraid that her love will cause her suffer. She does not want to experience the love like her love with her father.

Unfortunately, she does not realize that the domination of Oedipus Complex still follows her. It comes over her in her new house. Then, it influences her mind especially in her experience of love. In her way to realize her struggles, it comes to her like a "blinding uncontrollable passion" for Rosmer. She falls in love with him. Then, it leads her to do any wicked things to Beata. She thinks that Beata is her rival. She really wants Rosmer to become her husband. At first, her love to Rosmer is not a real love. It is like a kind passion to make Rosmer to be hers and remove every rival. After the death of his wife, gradually it changes to be a real love. She says that it changes to be a love that does not need anything except a relationship. She wants to sacrifice everything for Rosmer including her happiness. She cannot refuse her love anymore. She does not care about her first goals in Rosmerholm, except her love for Rosmer.

REBECCA. But then, when I began living here with you, - alone in peace, just the two of us-when you shared all your thoughts with me, unreservedly-every mood and feeling, just as it came to you - then the great change happened to me, I mean. Gradually you understand. Almost imperceptibly - but irresistibly. To the depths of my soul.

ROSMER. Rebecca!

REBECCA. All the rest – that blinding, sickening passion – faded away from me. All my tormenting furies fell silent and still. A calm came over me – the kind of calm you find on a bird – cliff up in the far north ...

ROSMER. Go on. Tell all you can.

REBECCA. There isn't much else, John. Only that – it was then that I began to love. The great and selfless love that asks for nothing more than companionship. The way it's been between us.

(Act IV, P 416)

KROLL. Do you plan to stay? Permanently, I mean?

REBECCA. Dear Dr Kroll, I don't really think about it one way or the other. I've grown so used to the place now, I almost feel I belong here.

KROLL. But of course. So I should hope.

REBECCA. And as long as Mr. Rosmer feels I can be of any use and comfort to him-well, I think I'll stay.

KROLL (*looks at her, moved*). You know, it's a pretty noble thing for a woman to sacrifice her youth for other people.

(Act I, P 349)

Step by step her love to Rosmer is bigger than her love to him before. She cannot blame her love anymore. She cannot refuse her love and at the end, she accepts him to be her husband. Rebecca and Rosmer get married. They realize their love in a marriage.

ROSMER. Rebecca, now I place my hand on your head. (*He does as he says*). And take you in marriages as my lawful wife.

REBECCA (*clasps both his hands and bows her head against his breast*). Thank you, John. (*Lets go of him*). And now I go gladly.

(Act IV, P 424)

They also decide to go together to the millrace. Rosmer wants to die together with Rebecca. He thinks that between a wife and her husband must get happiness together. He says that they will get happiness together. They hope that they will get happiness in other world.

ROSMER. We go together, Rebecca. I with you, and you with me.

REBECCA. Yes. I think you are right.



ROSMER. For now we two are one. Come! Lets us go gladly!  
(Act IV, P 425)

This fact shows that at the end Rebecca cannot refuse his love. She cannot refuse Rosmer and accepts Rosmer's proposal. It shows that Rebecca fails against her love.

#### **4.3 Rebecca's Failures as the Cause of Her Tragic Life**

Rebecca gets many pressures both psychological and social pressures that cause her to experience a tragic life. The social pressures are caused by her social relationships with Beata, Dr Kroll and Rosmer. The Psychological pressures are caused by her past experiences especially with her new life to realize her struggles.

The pressures from her relationship with Beata arise because of their different ways of thinking, her jealousy and her guilty to her. Their different way of thinking becomes a pressure for her because they lead her to think that Beata is an obstacle for her. Beata will obstruct all of her dreams if she still lives in Rosmerholm. For that reason, she tries to make Beata less important than her in Rosmerholm's family. She thinks that they will not listen to Beata's idea if her plans are successful. Further, she is also jealous to Beata. Beata makes her difficult to carry out her struggles in changing Rosmer's political view and win his love. She tries hard to remove Beata from Rosmer. Her guilty feeling causes the last pressures. She becomes to feel very guilty because all of her actions to Beata leads her to die. Beata feels anxious about her conditions and in order to overcome her difficulties she chooses to die. It becomes a pressure for her because she is always afraid that soon Rosmer will know what she has done to Beata and will not forgive her for it. The worst, he will refuse her love.

The other pressures come from her relationship with Dr. Kroll. As Dr West's friend, Dr Kroll knows better about her background. He tells her about the real fact that she is her stepfather's illegitimate child. She is very surprised to hear this fact. Beside she married him in the past, she falls in love with Rosmer. She thinks that this marriage is disgraceful. She thinks that she cannot continue her love anymore. It also leads her to refuse his love and every man's loves. Another pressure from Dr Kroll is

his accusations. He accuses that all of the bad things that happen in Rosmerholm are planned by Rebecca, as he says, "I think. You are the one who's behind all of this (1966 : 396)."

Except Dr Kroll and Beata, there is another man who adds her pressures. He is Rosmer. It happens because Rosmer refuses to make up his political view. Besides, he also competes against her after he knows all what she has done to Beata. He stands in Dr Kroll's side and accuses her to do many wicked things in Rosmerholm just for her own interests.

The next pressures are her psychological pressures, the pressures that come from her own experiences. They are preceded by her experiences in the past and then followed by her failures. Her experiences in the past were related with her status as an illegitimate child and her experience as her father's mistress. She is ever treated badly by her environments because of her status as an illegitimate child. Therefore, she tries to hide her status as an illegitimate child by putting her father's name behind her own name to avoid a bad treatments from her new environments.

REBECCA. I just don't want people to think of me as illegitimate.  
(Act III, P 405)

She always keeps this falsehood as long as she lives in Rosmerholm. She could not live free at that time because she is always afraid that sooner people will know about the truth and they change their attitude to her.

The other pressures that happen because of her experiences Oedipus Complex as her father's mistress. She feels that she cannot really free from the domination of Oedipus Complex. It leads her to love Rosmer and to remove Beata from their life.

REBECCA. It came over me this blinding, uncontrollable passion - !  
Oh, John - ?

ROSMER. Passion? You-For what?

REBECCA. For you.....

REBECCA. I thought it was love-then. Yes, I thought it was love.

But it wasn't. it was I tell. A blinding uncontrollable passion.  
(Act IV, P 414)



ROSMER. Then it was this that-it was this that made you "take action", as you call it.

REBECCA. It swept over me like a storm at sea. Like one of those storms we sometimes get in the winter, far up in the north. It seizes you – and carries you with it, John-with so ever it will. It's useless even to try to resist it.

(Act IV, P 415)

All of her actions to remove Beata then cause her to get pressures. She finds her fault after she has done of the bad things and finds Beata's death. She repents all what she has done to her (Beata).

REBECCA ...Every step that I ventured forward, I felt as though a voice cried within me : "No further ! Not an inch further !". But I couldn't stop! I had to venture another inch. Just one. And then another – just one more. And then it happened. That is how such things do happen.

(Act III, P 408)

The other pressures that come from the domination of Oedipus Complex is her experiences as her father's mistress. She loses her self-confidence to have another relationship with the man she loves. She always feels guilty to accept another man's love. She thinks that a woman who has a guilty love cannot get another people's affections. As Sigmund Freud says in his book **Those Wrecked by Success.** "After she had learned that she has been the mistress of her own father, she surrenders herself wholly to her now overmastering sense of guilt." (1966, 340)

Rebecca's failures also add her pressures. Her failure to change the tradition of the house causes her to think that the house and the people of the house are not compatible for her. The house cannot back up her to realize her dreams. Therefore, she wants to leave the house, she feels very sad because they cannot accept her as she hoped before.

The next is her pressures because of her failure to remove Beata from the house. She is not only fails to remove Beata, but she also undergoes a guilty feeling to Beata. She feels very guilty to her because she leads her into her suffers and chooses to end her life in a tragic way.

In addition, her failure to realize Rosmer's ideals are also caused her pressures. She feels very guilty because she drives Rosmer into difficulties by asking him to change his last political view although she must defeat her own struggle for it.

The last and the great pressure that leads her to undergo great pressure is her failure against her own love. She at last really loves Rosmer with all of her heart. Her love then breaks all of her ambitions to continue her struggles. She wants to serve all of her life for Rosmer, the man she loves.

REBECCA. There isn't much else, John. Only that-it was then that I began to love. The great and selfless love that ask for nothing more than companionship...

(Act IV, P 416)

She wants to be a faithful woman for all Rosmer's desires. This faithfulness leads her to forget and leaves her dreams in Rosmerholm. To show her love, she also accepts his proposal to die as the way Beata dies. Her love also drives her to accept that now she has failed in everything. She fails to be a woman as she dreams. Rosmer is not only the picture of her father but he also the man whom she puts her heart. She does not need anything except to give her life for him. Therefore, she easily accepts his proposal to show her love.

The pressures that are experienced by Rebecca including her psychological pressures and her failure cause her to feel that she is isolated by her environment, in this case Rosmerholm's family. She also gets many problems and difficulties. The feeling of isolation drives her to leave the reality of life. She wants to go far from Rosmerholm and leaves all of her problems. Her acceptance of Rosmer's proposal is not only to show him how deep her love is but she also wants to choose a better way to leave her pressures, her difficulties of life. She wants to finish all of her problems and her real world. She chooses to end her life by jumping into the millrace.





## CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Rebecca has experienced a gloomy side of life when she was a child. These experiences influence her behaviors, her attitudes, ways of thinking and her principles of life. Those things influence her way to face her problems and to find the way to overcome the problems. The experiences also influence her to have a desire to leave and forget her past. In addition, Rebecca tries to change her life to be happy and to become a noble woman. She has some struggles to realize her ideals. Unfortunately, her principles of life and her struggles then drive her to live under pressures and experience failures. She strictly applies her principles of life to realize her ideals in her new environment, which has different background with her, Rosmerholm.

Rebecca's social pressures arise because of her different principles with her new environment especially to gain her ideals. The first pressure comes from Beata. Rebecca wants to defeat Beata's ideal because her ideals break her struggle in Rosmerholm. Beata also arises her jealousy because of her position as Rosmer's wife. She wants to win Rosmer's love by cheating Beata and remove her from the house. Her bad attitudes to Beata then arise her guilty because her actions to Beata cause Beata's death.

The other pressure comes from Dr. Kroll. He always connects her attitudes in Rosmerholm with her family background, in this case her background as an illegitimate child of doctor West and her mother and her parents' affair in the past. He accuses her that her background drives her to have bad purpose in Rosmerholm, therefore, she accuses Rebecca of being responsible to the bad things that happen in Rosmerholm.

The next pressures are the pressures that come from Rosmer. Rosmer's weak attitude causes Rebecca to face the failures. Rebecca's struggle to change his political view fails because Rosmer gives up. Rebecca has to stop her struggle for him because

Rosmer also reminds her father. He causes her once again to experience an Oedipus Complex.

Rebecca must face the reality that she is not successful realizing her ideals. She cannot change her status as what she dreams. She cannot realize her happiness and change herself to be a noble woman.

Then, the next pressures, she has failures in realizing her struggles. She fails in changing the house to be a nice house which is full of happiness. Her failures to remove Beata not only drives her into sadness but it also causes her to feel guilty to her. Further, her failure to realize Rosmer's ideals arises her disappointment because she cannot bring him to his happiness. The next and the last failure is her failures against her own love. Rebecca falls in love with Rosmer. Her love leads her to leave all of her struggles.

Rebecca's failure against her own love is the great psychological pressures for her. Her love to Rosmer breaks all of her struggles, ambition and her ideals in Rosmerholm. She forgets all about her struggles and her ideals. She accepts Rosmer's proposal to end her life in the millrace to show her love to him. Rebecca experiences a tragic life after she fails to realize her struggles especially her struggles against the love.

All of her pressures both her social and her psychological pressures lead her to experience psychological burdens. Rebecca wants to leave the burdens by leaving the house and accepting Rosmer's idea to end her life by jumping into the millrace.

Rebecca's failures in realizing her struggles lead her to feel that her new environment eliminates her. She thinks that the house is not comfortable anymore for her. The house is not suitable for her and she wants to leave the house. She decides to end her life in tragic way. From the discussion of this thesis, it can be concluded that the failures of Rebecca's struggles as the cause of her tragic life.



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