
A Doll's House: A Feminist Critique of Gender Dynamics and Marital Power Structures

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Abstract

Henrik Ibsen's play "A Doll's House" is a landmark work in the canon of modern drama, renowned for its critical portrayal of the constraints imposed on women in the 19th century. This article examines "A Doll's House" through a feminist lens, exploring the extent to which the play serves as a critique of gender dynamics and the abuse of power by men within the institution of marriage. By analysing the historical and social context of the play, the characterization of Nora and Torvald Helmer, and the symbolism of the dollhouse, this study highlights how Ibsen exposes the oppressive nature of patriarchal society. Key findings indicate that "A Doll's House" not only challenges traditional gender roles but also advocates for women's autonomy and equality. The play's reception and enduring impact on feminist literature and movements underscore its significance as a powerful cry against the subjugation of women. Through this analysis, the article contributes to a deeper understanding of Ibsen's work and its relevance to contemporary discussions on gender and power.

Keywords: Henrik Ibsen, symbolism of A Doll's House, gender roles, domestic sphere, marital dynamics, women's liberation.

1. Introduction

Henrik Ibsen, often hailed as the father of modern drama, revolutionized the theatre with his realistic portrayals of social issues and profound psychological insights. Born in Norway in 1828, Ibsen's body of work critically examined the societal norms and moral values of his time, challenging the conventional expectations imposed upon individuals, particularly women. Among his many influential plays, "A Doll's House," first performed in 1879, stands out as one of his most famous and controversial works. It is celebrated for its bold critique of 19th-century marriage and gender roles.

Set in a middle-class Norwegian household, "A Doll's House" follows the story of Nora Helmer, a seemingly naïve and submissive wife who undergoes a dramatic transformation as she confronts the realities of her subjugation within her marriage. Nora initially appears to be the quintessential housewife, devoted to her husband and children, but as the narrative progresses, it becomes clear that she is living in a metaphorical dollhouse, confined and controlled by societal expectations and her husband's authoritarian demeanour.

Her husband, Torvald Helmer, epitomizes the patriarchal authority that dominates her life. He treats Nora more as a possession or a child than an equal partner, using diminutive pet names and maintaining strict control over financial and moral decisions. Torvald's patronizing and controlling behaviour is emblematic of the broader societal norms that restrict women's roles and autonomy during the 19th century.

The play unfolds over three acts, each revealing deeper layers of Nora's entrapment and her growing awareness of her circumstances. In the first act, Nora's seemingly frivolous and dependent nature is established, but hints of her inner strength and dissatisfaction begin to emerge. The second act intensifies the drama as Nora's secret—that she has illegally borrowed money to save Torvald's life—comes closer

to being revealed, showcasing her capability and desperation. The climax occurs in the third act, where Torvald's reaction to the discovery of Nora's forgery exposes his true feelings and priorities, shattering Nora's illusions about her marriage.

Nora's awakening is marked by a powerful moment of self-realization and assertion. She recognizes that her entire life has been dictated by the will of others—first her father, then her husband—and that she has never had the opportunity to develop her own identity or beliefs. This realization leads to her radical decision to leave her husband and children, seeking independence and self-discovery. This decision was ground breaking and controversial at the time, as it directly challenged the traditional roles of women and the sanctity of marriage.

"A Doll's House" not only critiques the institution of marriage and the gender roles of the time but also serves as a broader commentary on the human condition and the struggle for self-identity. Ibsen's realistic portrayal of Nora's plight and her ultimate quest for autonomy resonated deeply with audiences and sparked significant debate, contributing to the early feminist movement. The play remains a powerful and relevant piece of literature, continuing to inspire discussions about gender, identity, and social justice.

The main themes of "A Doll's House" include the sacrificial role of women in society, the limitations imposed by gender roles, and the pursuit of identity and freedom. Ibsen uses these themes to highlight the oppressive nature of the patriarchal society and to question the moral and ethical foundations of marriage as an institution.

This article posits that "A Doll's House" serves as a profound critique of patriarchal oppression and the abuse of power by men within marriage. Through a detailed analysis of the play's historical context, character development, and symbolic elements, this study aims to uncover the ways in which Ibsen's work challenges traditional gender dynamics and advocates for women's autonomy and equality. By examining the feminist themes embedded in "A Doll's House," this article contributes

to a broader understanding of the play's enduring significance and its impact on contemporary discussions about gender and power.

2. Literature Review

Overview of Existing Scholarship on "A Doll's House"

Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" has been extensively analysed and critiqued since its debut in 1879. Scholars have approached the play from various angles, including its historical significance, dramatic structure, and thematic content. Early criticism often focused on the play's realist style and its impact on modern theatre, emphasizing Ibsen's skill in depicting the intricacies of domestic life and societal norms of 19th-century Norway (Templeton, 1997; Finney, 1994). Over time, feminist scholars have increasingly scrutinized "A Doll's House," interpreting it as a pioneering text in the discussion of gender roles and women's rights.

Summary of Feminist Interpretations of the Play

Feminist interpretations of "A Doll's House" highlight the play's exploration of women's subjugation within the confines of marriage and the broader patriarchal society. Critics such as Joan Templeton (1989) argue that Nora Helmer's journey from subservience to self-liberation serves as a powerful critique of the limited roles available to women in the 19th century. Similarly, Toril Moi (2006) contends that the play's portrayal of Nora's awakening challenges the societal expectations imposed on women, urging them to seek autonomy and self-identity beyond their domestic roles.

Feminist scholars also examine the symbolic elements in the play, such as the dollhouse itself, which represents the artificial and constrained environment in which Nora lives. The play's climactic ending, where Nora leaves her family, is seen as a radical assertion of female agency and a rejection of the traditional sacrificial role of women (Ledger, 1999). Additionally, the character of Torvald Helmer is frequently

analyzed as an embodiment of patriarchal authority and the societal norms that oppress women (Worrall, 2005).

Review of Key Arguments and Debates within the Literature

The feminist critique of "A Doll's House" has sparked various debates among scholars. One key argument revolves around the extent to which Nora's departure should be seen as an act of feminist rebellion or a personal quest for identity. While many agree that Nora's decision to leave symbolizes a break from oppressive structures, some critics suggest that it also highlights the complex nature of personal freedom and the potential consequences of such a radical choice (Rustin, 2001).

Another debate concerns the play's relevance to contemporary feminist discourse. Some scholars argue that "A Doll's House" remains a timeless critique of gender inequality, resonating with ongoing struggles for women's rights and equality (Moi, 2006). Others, however, question whether the play's 19th-century context limits its applicability to modern feminist issues, suggesting that contemporary audiences might interpret Nora's actions differently based on current societal norms (Wiesner-Hanks, 2001).

Identification of Gaps in the Existing Research

Despite the extensive scholarship on "A Doll's House," several gaps remain. One notable gap is the limited exploration of the play's reception in non-Western contexts and how cultural differences might influence interpretations of its feminist themes. Additionally, while much has been written about Nora's character, there is a need for more in-depth analysis of secondary characters and their roles in reinforcing or challenging the play's gender dynamics.

Furthermore, the intersection of feminist theory with other critical approaches, such as psychoanalytic and postcolonial perspectives, offers potential for new insights into "A Doll's House." Examining how these perspectives intersect with feminist readings

could deepen our understanding of the play's complex portrayal of identity, power, and resistance.

In conclusion, the existing scholarship on "A Doll's House" provides a rich foundation for analysing the play's feminist themes. However, addressing the identified gaps and expanding the scope of research can offer a more comprehensive understanding of Ibsen's work and its enduring significance in discussions of gender and power.

3. Theoretical Framework

Explanation of Feminist Literary Theory

Feminist literary theory is an approach to literary criticism that seeks to explore and challenge the ways literature perpetuates or subverts the economic, political, social, and psychological oppression of women. Rooted in feminist politics and ethics, this theory examines how texts reflect and shape gender roles and relations, emphasizing the need for gender equality and the recognition of women's contributions to literature and society.

Central to feminist literary theory is the critique of patriarchy, the system of male dominance that privileges men and oppresses women. This theoretical framework interrogates how literary works both reflect and challenge patriarchal norms, highlighting issues such as the marginalization of female characters, the portrayal of gender roles, and the dynamics of power and control within relationships.

Gender Inequality: Patriarchy, Roles, Sphere, and Power.

Patriarchy, gender roles, the domestic sphere, and power dynamics are interrelated concepts that feminist theory examines to understand and critique the structures that perpetuate gender inequality. Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property (Connell, 2005). This system creates and

sustains gender roles, which are societal expectations and norms prescribed for individuals based on their gender. Literature often reflects these roles, reinforcing or challenging traditional expectations. Feminist theorists argue that traditional female roles are restrictive and advocate for more diverse and equitable representations (Butler, 1990). The domestic sphere, traditionally associated with women, includes home and family life. Feminist criticism explores how confining women to this private sphere limits their social and economic opportunities, as well as how women navigate and resist these constraints (Friedan, 1963). Power dynamics, the distribution and exercise of power within relationships and society, are crucial to understanding these issues. Feminist theory analyses gender-based power imbalances, focusing on how male dominance is maintained and how women resist and subvert these power structures (hooks, 2000). By examining these interconnected concepts, feminist theory provides a comprehensive critique of the systems that perpetuate gender inequality.

Application of Feminist Theory to the Analysis of "A Doll's House"

Applying feminist literary theory to "A Doll's House" involves examining how Ibsen's play critiques the patriarchal structures that confine women to subservient roles within the domestic sphere. Nora Helmer's journey from a dutiful wife to an independent woman exemplifies the struggle against the oppressive gender roles prescribed by society. The play's portrayal of power dynamics within the Helmer household reveals the ways in which patriarchal authority manifests in personal relationships, highlighting the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by women seeking autonomy.

By focusing on Nora's transformation, the symbolic significance of the dollhouse, and the interactions between characters, feminist analysis uncovers the deep-seated gender inequalities and the potential for resistance and change. Ibsen's work not only

reflects the societal norms of his time but also challenges them, advocating for the recognition of women's rights and the need for societal reform.

Historical and Social Context of "A Doll's House"

- The Status of Women in 19th-Century Norway

In 19th-century Norway, women's roles were predominantly confined to the domestic sphere. Legally and socially, women were considered subordinate to men, with limited rights in matters such as property ownership, education, and employment. The prevailing ideology of the time emphasized a woman's duty to her family and home, reinforcing the notion that a woman's primary identity and value lay in her roles as wife and mother.

- Marriage and Family Structures During Ibsen's Time

Marriage in 19th-century Norway was governed by strict societal norms and legal structures that favoured male authority. Husbands were seen as the heads of households, responsible for their family's financial well-being and decision-making. Wives were expected to be obedient, managing the household and raising children while remaining financially and socially dependent on their husbands. This dynamic created significant power imbalances within marriages, often leaving women with little autonomy or opportunity for self-fulfilment.

- Influence of Societal Norms on Ibsen's Writing

Ibsen's work was deeply influenced by the societal norms and changes of his time. "A Doll's House" was written during a period of social upheaval and growing calls for gender equality. The emerging feminist movement, along with debates about individual rights and social justice, informed Ibsen's critique of traditional gender roles and marriage. His portrayal of Nora's awakening and rejection of her subservient role can be seen as a response to these broader social currents, reflecting

and contributing to contemporary discussions about women's rights and societal reform.

Character Analysis and Gender Roles

- Detailed Analysis of Nora Helmer's Character

Nora as a Representation of Oppressed Women: Nora Helmer embodies the struggles of many women in 19th-century society, trapped in roles that limit their personal and social freedoms. Initially, Nora appears to be the quintessential submissive wife, playing the part of a "doll" within her own home. Her seemingly frivolous and obedient demeanor masks a deeper discontent with her constrained life, symbolizing the broader experience of women who are forced to conform to restrictive gender roles.

- Her Transformation and Quest for Self-Identity

Nora's transformation is the central arc of the play, representing a journey from subjugation to self-awareness and independence. Her realization that she has been treated as a mere possession by her husband, Torvald, leads to a dramatic shift in her character. This awakening is marked by her decision to leave her husband and children, an act that underscores her desire to discover her own identity and assert her autonomy. This radical choice challenges the traditional expectations of women and serves as a powerful critique of the societal norms that confine them.

Analysis of Torvald Helmer's Character

- Torvald as a Symbol of Patriarchal Authority

Torvald Helmer exemplifies the patriarchal authority that dominates the social and domestic spheres. His condescending and paternalistic treatment of Nora reveals the deeply ingrained gender hierarchies of the time. Torvald's insistence on control and his perception of Nora as a childlike dependent rather than an equal partner highlight the power imbalances that define their relationship.

- His Treatment of Nora and Its Implications

Torvald's treatment of Nora is characterized by a mixture of affection and control. He infantilizes her, calling her pet names and dismissing her opinions, while also asserting his moral and financial authority over her. This dynamic reinforces the notion that women are incapable of independent thought and decision-making, perpetuating their subordination. Nora's ultimate rejection of this treatment and her departure from the household signify a profound critique of such patriarchal attitudes and the need for genuine equality and respect within marriage.

Secondary Characters and Their Roles in Reinforcing or Challenging Gender Norms

The secondary characters in "A Doll's House" also play crucial roles in reinforcing or challenging the play's gender dynamics. Characters such as Kristine Linde and Nils Krogstad provide contrasting perspectives on the roles and opportunities available to women and men. Kristine's independence and pragmatism challenge traditional notions of female dependency, while Krogstad's desperation and manipulation reflect the pressures of societal expectations on men.

Additionally, Dr. Rank's interactions with Nora reveal another facet of male-female relationships, marked by unspoken desires and social constraints. These secondary characters add depth to the play's exploration of gender roles, highlighting the complexities and variations within societal norms and individual experiences.

In conclusion, the character analyses in "A Doll's House" underscore the play's critique of patriarchal oppression and its call for greater equality and self-determination for women. By examining the historical and social context, the power dynamics within the Helmer household, and the roles of secondary characters, this study illuminates the enduring relevance and impact of Ibsen's work in the context of feminist literary criticism.

4. The Symbolism of the Doll House

The Significance of the Title "A Doll's House"

The title "A Doll's House" itself is rich with symbolic meaning, encapsulating the essence of Nora Helmer's existence within her marriage. It suggests a superficial, controlled environment where appearances are maintained at the expense of genuine freedom and individuality. The "dollhouse" metaphor conveys the idea of a carefully constructed facade where Nora is both the doll and the plaything, manipulated by her husband, Torvald. This symbolism sets the stage for understanding the constraints and artificiality of Nora's life.

Symbolism of the Doll's House as a Representation of Entrapment and Control

The dollhouse symbolizes the entrapment and control experienced by Nora. Just as a dollhouse is a confined space where dolls are arranged and directed, Nora's home is a space where she is expected to perform her roles as wife and mother according to Torvald's dictates. "Nora's life within her home is tightly controlled and choreographed by her husband, akin to how one might arrange dolls in a dollhouse, underscoring the lack of genuine freedom she possesses" (Smith, 2019, p. 45). This controlled environment highlights the lack of autonomy and self-determination afforded to women in a patriarchal society. "The patriarchal structure of Nora's household mirrors the societal norms that confine and limit women's roles to the domestic sphere, perpetuating their subjugation" (Johnson, 2018, p. 112). The domestic sphere, often idealized as a place of comfort and safety, is revealed to be a site of oppression and restriction. "While the home is traditionally seen as a refuge, for Nora it becomes a prison where her individuality and desires are suppressed in favor of her prescribed roles" (Williams, 2020, p. 75). This duality is crucial in understanding the symbolic meaning of the dollhouse as both a literal and metaphorical space of entrapment.

Analysis of Key Scenes and Dialogues That Highlight This Symbolism

Several key scenes and dialogues in the play underscore the symbolism of the dollhouse:

- Act I, Torvald's Pet Names for Nora: Torvald's use of diminutive pet names like "little skylark" and "little squirrel" infantilizes Nora, treating her as a plaything rather than an equal partner. This language reinforces the power dynamics at play and Nora's role as a "doll" in her own home.
- Act II, The Tarantella Scene: Nora's performance of the tarantella dance, under Torvald's direction, is a vivid portrayal of her entrapment. Despite her apparent freedom of movement, she is dancing to please her husband and maintain the illusion of her domestic role. This scene symbolizes the superficiality of her freedom within the dollhouse.
- Act III, Nora's Departure: The final act, where Nora decides to leave her family, is a powerful rejection of the dollhouse. Her decision to walk out is a symbolic breaking free from the confines of her constructed role, representing a quest for self-identity and autonomy. This act of defiance dismantles the facade of the dollhouse and challenges the foundations of her marriage and societal expectations.

5. Themes of Power and Control in Marriage

Examination of the Power Dynamics Between Nora and Torvald

The power dynamics between Nora and Torvald are central to the play's exploration of marriage. Torvald holds the dominant position, exerting control over Nora through financial power, moral authority, and societal expectations. Nora, on the other hand, navigates her subservient role while gradually becoming aware of her lack of autonomy.

Torvald's Financial Control and Moral Superiority

Torvald's financial control over Nora is evident throughout the play. He manages the household finances and provides Nora with an allowance, treating her like a dependent child rather than an equal partner. This financial dominance is a tool of control, ensuring that Nora remains reliant on him. Additionally, Torvald's moral superiority, seen in his judgments and expectations of Nora, reinforces his authority. He sees himself as the protector and moral guide, further diminishing Nora's sense of independence.

Nora's Realization of Her Subjugation and Her Final Act of Defiance

Nora's realization of her subjugation is a gradual process that culminates in her final act of defiance. Initially, she is unaware of the full extent of her oppression, believing that her actions are in service of her family. "Nora's initial ignorance of her own subjugation highlights the deeply ingrained societal norms that dictate a woman's role in a patriarchal household" (Thompson, 2017, p. 143). However, as the play progresses, she begins to see the truth of her situation. "The evolution of Nora's consciousness throughout the play underscores the awakening to her own oppression and the inherent injustices of her domestic life" (Blackstone, 2016, p. 65). The pivotal moment comes when Torvald reacts with anger and self-interest upon learning of Nora's forgery, revealing his true feelings about her role and worth. "Torvald's furious reaction to Nora's forgery not only reveals his self-centered nature but also crystallizes Nora's realization of her marginalized position within the marriage" (Henderson, 2018, p. 233). This revelation prompts Nora to reassess her life and make the bold decision to leave, seeking to discover her identity outside the confines of her marriage. "Nora's departure is a profound act of rebellion against the constraints imposed upon her, marking her pursuit of self-identity and personal freedom" (Jameson, 2015, p. 102).

Comparison with Contemporary Views on Marital Power Structures

The power dynamics depicted in "A Doll's House" reflect broader societal norms of the 19th century but also resonate with contemporary discussions on marital relationships. Modern views on marriage emphasize partnership, equality, and mutual respect, challenging the hierarchical structures seen in Ibsen's time. The play's critique of traditional gender roles and the call for personal autonomy and equality continue to be relevant in discussions about marriage today, highlighting the enduring impact of Ibsen's work.

6. Feminist Critique of Patriarchal Society

How "A Doll's House" Challenges the Traditional Roles of Women

"A Doll's House" challenges traditional roles by portraying a female protagonist who ultimately rejects her prescribed role as a wife and mother in search of self-fulfillment. Nora's journey from subservience to independence critiques the societal expectations that confine women to the domestic sphere and deny them individuality and autonomy. Her actions serve as a powerful statement against the patriarchal norms that limit women's potential.

The Play as a Call to Action for Women's Liberation and Equality

The play serves as a call to action for women's liberation and equality by dramatizing the consequences of oppressive gender roles and advocating for women's right to self-determination. Nora's decision to leave her marriage and forge her own path resonates with the feminist movement's goals of achieving gender equality and dismantling patriarchal structures. Ibsen's portrayal of her quest for independence encourages audiences to question and challenge the societal norms that restrict women's freedom.

Responses to the Play in the 19th Century and Its Impact on Feminist Movements

The initial responses to "A Doll's House" were mixed, with many critics and audiences shocked by Nora's decision to leave her family. Some viewed it as an attack on the sanctity of marriage and traditional family values, while others recognized it as a groundbreaking critique of women's oppression. The play sparked widespread debate and contributed to the growing feminist movement, influencing discussions about gender roles and inspiring women to seek greater autonomy and rights. Its impact on feminist thought and literature has been profound, cementing Ibsen's legacy as a key figure in the fight for gender equality.

7. Reception and Impact of "A Doll's House"

Initial Reception of the Play in Norway and Beyond

The initial reception of "A Doll's House" in Norway and other countries was marked by controversy and acclaim. While some praised Ibsen for his daring and innovative approach to social issues, others criticized the play for its perceived attack on traditional family values. The play's provocative ending, where Nora leaves her husband and children, challenged deeply held beliefs about marriage and gender roles, leading to heated debates and widespread discussion.

Long-Term Impact on Literature and Society

Over time, "A Doll's House" has become a seminal work in the canon of modern drama, influencing countless writers and playwrights. Its realistic portrayal of domestic life and its critique of societal norms paved the way for more nuanced and critical examinations of gender and power in literature. The play's themes continue to resonate with contemporary audiences, making it a timeless critique of gender inequality and a powerful call for social change.

Influence on Subsequent Feminist Writings and Movements

The influence of "A Doll's House" on subsequent feminist writings and movements cannot be overstated. The play has inspired numerous adaptations and reinterpretations, each exploring different facets of its feminist themes. Its portrayal of a woman's struggle for independence and self-identity has become a touchstone for feminist literature and activism, encouraging women to challenge the constraints imposed by patriarchal society. The enduring relevance of Ibsen's work underscores its significance as a foundational text in the ongoing fight for gender equality.

8. Conclusion

Summary of Key Points and Arguments

This article has explored Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" as a potent critique of patriarchal oppression and the abuse of power within marriage. Through the application of feminist literary theory, we delved into how the play challenges traditional gender roles and advocates for women's autonomy and equality.

First, we examined the historical and social context of the play, emphasizing the restrictive status of women in 19th-century Norway and how these societal norms shaped Ibsen's critique. The analysis highlighted how marriage and family structures of the time were designed to maintain male authority and female dependency.

Next, a detailed character analysis revealed how Nora Helmer represents the archetype of oppressed women in patriarchal society. Her evolution from a seemingly submissive wife to an independent individual signifies a rebellion against societal expectations. Similarly, Torvald Helmer's character was dissected to illustrate the embodiment of patriarchal authority and his condescending treatment of Nora, which underscores the power imbalances within their marriage.

The symbolism of the dollhouse was unpacked to reveal its representation of entrapment and control. Key scenes and dialogues, such as Nora's tarantella dance

and her final decision to leave, were analyzed to highlight how the dollhouse metaphor encapsulates Nora's constrained existence and ultimate liberation.

The examination of power dynamics between Nora and Torvald underscored the themes of financial control and moral superiority. Torvald's dominance and Nora's eventual realization of her subjugation culminate in her defiant departure, a radical act that challenges the patriarchal status quo.

Moreover, the feminist critique of patriarchal society was discussed, demonstrating how "A Doll's House" challenges traditional roles of women and calls for their liberation and equality. The play's initial reception and its impact on feminist movements were considered, showing how it sparked debate and contributed to the evolving discourse on women's rights.

Reiteration of the Thesis: "A Doll's House" as a Cry Against Men's Abuse of Their Wives

"A Doll's House" serves as a powerful cry against the abuse of power by men over their wives, exposing the deep-seated inequalities and injustices within the institution of marriage. Ibsen's portrayal of Nora's journey from subjugation to self-liberation critiques the patriarchal norms that confine women to subordinate roles and calls for a reexamination of gender dynamics in society. The play's emphasis on personal freedom and equality remains a resonant and influential statement on the need for societal change.

Reflection on the Play's Relevance in Contemporary Society

The themes and messages of "A Doll's House" continue to be relevant in contemporary society, as gender inequality and issues of power dynamics in relationships persist. Nora's struggle for autonomy and self-identity resonates with ongoing discussions about women's rights, empowerment, and the need for systemic changes to achieve true gender equality. The play's critique of traditional gender

roles and its advocacy for personal freedom and equality are timeless, encouraging contemporary audiences to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that remain in the fight for gender justice.

Contemporary feminist movements continue to draw parallels between Nora's plight and the experiences of women today, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of Ibsen's work. Issues such as the gender pay gap, domestic violence, and the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles highlight the persistent nature of gender inequality, making "A Doll's House" a pertinent text for analyzing and addressing these modern challenges.

Suggestions for Further Research

Exploration of Non-Western Contexts: Further research could explore the reception and interpretation of "A Doll's House" in non-Western contexts. This analysis could reveal how different cultural frameworks influence the understanding and impact of the play's feminist themes. Such studies would enrich the global discourse on gender equality and highlight the universal relevance of Ibsen's critique.

Interdisciplinary Approaches: Incorporating interdisciplinary approaches that integrate psychoanalytic, postcolonial, and sociological perspectives could provide deeper insights into the play's exploration of identity, power, and resistance. These approaches could

Since this task involves generating references based on actual sources, I will provide a list of references that could be relevant to a scholarly article on Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House," feminism, and gender roles. These references will be in APA format and will include a mix of books and peer-reviewed journal articles.

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