

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to compare how concealing and later revealing the truth influences individual characters and their surroundings in selected plays by Henrik Ibsen. Truth is a recurring theme in Ibsen's plays – and yet each one of the plays presents a unique situation in which truth, its concealment, or the result of it being disclosed play a role. Even though all revelations of the truth lead to a decline of the established situation, this disintegration has a different impact in each of the plays – on both the character who concealed the truth, and their surroundings. Recurring themes in Ibsen's plays are a character of a moral idealist who aims to reveal the truth, even if there is a possibility of it negatively impacting other characters, and self-deceit which influences the behaviour of individual characters.

Despite the wide array of possible reasons for concealing the truth in Ibsen's plays, its revelation is inevitable – be it due to the previously mentioned character of the idealist or due to it being forced by the circumstances. In *The Wild Duck* and *An Enemy of the People* is the revelation caused by the aforementioned moral idealist, on the other hand, in *A Doll's House* and *Ghosts* the truth is revealed due to outside influences. Similarly distinct duality is also the fact that while in *Ghosts* and *An Enemy of the People* the truth is revealed by a person who plays a role in the truth, in *A Doll's House* and *Wild Duck* the opposite is true.

Even though all the characters have different reasons for concealing or revealing the truth, their attempts lead to disintegration of the status quo and its subsequent metamorphosis.