



Online ISSN: 2582-3574

Print ISSN: 2582-4406

SMART MOVES JOURNAL IJELLH

International Journal of English Language, Literature & Humanities

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24113/ijellh.v8i1.10336>

Strained Marriage Relationships in Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*: A Critical Analysis

Salma Haque

Associate Professor

Department of English Language and Literature

International Islamic University Chittagong

Kumira, Sitakundo, Chattagram, Bangladesh

haque_salma@yahoo.com

Abstract

Strained marriage is a traumatic experience which is influenced by complex social, financial, cultural and psychological factors. For this study two European literary couples Nora-Helmer and Gertrude-Mr. Morel from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* are taken and their problems get visible for real life couples to see. This paper is mainly related to the fact that many issues regarding strained marriage are still under-researched. This study attempts to go into the depth of this global issue by providing information through critical textual analysis. In nature, it is an explanatory as well as exploratory research. A qualitative approach will be employed to know about the causes of strained marriage relationship and its consequences on the couples and families.

Keywords: Strained Marriage, Causes, Consequences, Couples, Families

Introduction

One of the biggest events for mankind is marriage and is practiced in almost all cultures and among every human race. It is a socially approved union between two people and is regarded permanent. According to Haviland et. al , “Marriage, also called matrimony or wedlock, is a socially or ritually recognized union between spouses that establishes rights and obligations between those spouses, as well as between them and any resulting biological or adopted children and affinity (in-laws and other family through marriage”(2011). No community can enjoy peace without following a true moral order and marriage provides the only suitable foundation for perpetuating this order. It is the biological, financial, educational and recreational need for human beings. Many people mistakenly believe that most marriages are successful. In reality some couples are in bad marriages due to several factors and when they are unable to face challenges strain exacerbates their relationships.

There are many definitions for strained marriage which may differ from one another depending upon the perspective of the definers. Proper definition is required as, without accurate description the problems related to the occurrence of marital problems seem to get difficult.

When the marriage of any couple is having a lot of problems and is no longer loving, friendly and open is called strained marriage relationship. Strained marriage depends on social, cultural, educational, psychological and economic backgrounds. The problems may happen once, or it may occur repeatedly over a long period. This is becoming a common event in the lives of many couples. Not only the partners suffer, but the children are affected as well.

This study examines two widely read European literary texts which have much in common as unhappy couples play large parts in them. The books are also concerned with consequences of strained marriage relationships on the couples and on families. The selected works are *A Doll's House* (1879) by a major 19th century Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen and *Sons and Lovers* (1913) by D.H. Lawrence. Of the selected works for the study one of them is a drama and the other is a fiction. These books have passed the tests of time as classic literature and have appeal beyond classrooms. However, despite their differences in genres, they are vitally concerned with marital problems. These works do not depict joys of any couple who are unable to guide to each other. Emotional compatibility, communication, agreement on life style and goals, companionship, understanding, respect, financial stability, responsibility, and trust for each other are most important in married life but they are missing in the relationships of these literary couples.

Problem Statement

The researcher has been attracted to these couples from the above texts as today's global couples are also facing similar experiences to survive their marriage relationships.

Marriage is not only a common theme in English literature but also in Other disciplines, such as history, sociology and psychology. Like real life couples, some textual couples have satisfying relationships; some are unhappy. Mr. Morel-Gertrude, Nora-Helmer are the frequently represented as troubled couples of English literatures. These couples of the two literary periods and backgrounds would be studied to show the causes that strain in marriage. The role of wives in strain marriage will also be found out. This work also looks at the effects of strain marriage on the couples and families.

In Ibsen's *A Doll's House* (1879), the housewife Nora and the banker Helmer are the husband and wife and are parents to three children. On the surface, their eight-year relationship seems to be blissful according to the standard of the time. Ibsen fictionalized the true story of his friend Laura Kieler who secretly borrowed money to finance a trip for her seriously ill husband who was suffering from tuberculosis. In the drama Nora also borrowed money from an acquaintance Krogstad, for the treatment of her husband who is unaware of the borrowing. To get the loan, she has had to forge signature of her dying father as security money and has put the family to debt for the first time. Despite the request of her friend Mrs. Linden, she keeps the news a secret from her husband. When the truth is revealed, Helmer is unable to bear the painful discovery of her lie as he sees it as a sign of her deception. Forgiveness is vitally important to create a happy marriage. Helmer is supposed to work together to get out of debt but after coming to know about Nora's loan for him, instead he allows bitterness in his heart. So, the doll wife raises a voice of protest against a patriarchal attitude to women in her society as the husband emphasizes public opinion, social institutions, legality or its appearance.

Helmer quickly blames Nora when he discovers the borrowing she did for him. Her insensitive husband undervalued her sacrifice and does not want to take the responsibility of the borrowed money.

As a result, she decides to leave the doll's house and the children who are dependent on their mother. In fact, her developed sense of self wants her to emerge as a 'new woman' and she refuses to be controlled by society or her husband. She finds her entrapped in an patriarchal society where the wife has a doll like existence in her husband's house. So, she decides not to give Helmer a chance to change him as a husband. From this drama we see how a so-called happy couple strain their relationship because of the lie, innocence as well as inexperience of the wife and the husband's ego and failure to understand her sacrifice for

him. It also shows how monetary issue can kill a routine marriage where the couple have different views on money and on life. Here both the husband and the wife are responsible for straining their marital life. Some current works have portrayed the husband positively and some have showed the wife negatively. In fact, no literature has dealt with the causes of their strained marriage and its consequences on them and on their family..

In the autobiographical novel *Sons and Lovers*, the writer Lawrence shows the conflict of the Morel couple who have struggle, monotony, and despair in their life. The writer's own parents have been the models for these fictional couples who drag their marriage for the sake of their children. The sophisticated, class-conscious wife Gertrude Morel marries beneath her social position with full knowledge of the kind of status Mr. Morel has. The young, fascinating miner's non-intellectual personality, humour, dialect have attracted her towards him at a Christmas party although after their marriage. She dislikes his miner's profession and forces him to reform his unrefined manners but he wants to live his life according to his own impulse. She always provokes him for arguments and also makes their interactions difficult.. The religious wife finds his drinking habit objectionable which is normal for any miner. She always criticizes him. Consequently, he fights with her constantly. She openly humiliates him. And their marriage puts them to loneliness, insecurity and sorrow. They are aware of their incompatibility with each other; and their distance widens day by day. Moreover, his brutality makes the wife to cling to her children and she also does not want to terminate her meaningless relationship with her husband.

The conceited wife never socializes with her neighbour whom she finds unworthy of her association . The well-educated woman is fed up with the hellish area where she lives and gets criticized by her mother-in law sneers at her lady-like ways.

Mrs. Morel did not know that they lived in their mother-in-law's own house. She discovered the unpaid furniture bill in the breast-pocket of Mr. Morel's coat several months

after their marriage. He told innocent lies about his own house and the furniture to hide poverty from her but she considered it a kind of deception. Thus he came to know about her morality. They change their perceptions about each other and relationships and cannot reach a satisfactory solution to their strained marriage.. She makes the children go against their father. The couples' eldest son William hates the father for the ill-treatment to their mother. Their only daughter Annie dislikes the father although he loves the children genuinely. He visits the cemetery of the eldest son William and gets concerned during the sickness of the second son Paul.

Day by day, Mr. Morel becomes extremely irritable due to exhaustion and the wife misunderstands him which makes him feel guilty and helpless. After the birth of the children he did not show paternalism and the wife started controlling the family. Mr. Morel efforted to resolve the conflict and to get love from the wife and the children but the rigid wife does not want to forgive, compromise and the marriage becomes loveless and noninteractive. At one point of time the noisy arguments of the couple frightened the children.

Conflict exists on nearly all relationships and partners should struggle to find ways to restore it. In this novel, the troubled couple do not work for their strained marriage and the wife considers her sons to be her substitute husband. Her husband also withdraws himself from her and goes to pub to ease his sorrow. Mrs. Morel also cannot be happy because she does not know that that her husband and sons are distinct personalities. Hence, they cannot resolve marital issues and the whole family suffer consequently.

Review of Literature:

Scholars have explored the husband-wife relationship and the causes of marital conflict for a long time.. The literary couples of Ibsen and Lawrence's works Nora-Helmer and Mr. and Mrs. Morel have also been studied by many researchers of varied periods but to the best of the researcher's knowledge, none of them is on the current topic. As a result, it is important and timely for the researcher to work on a research which has found out that both husband and wife can strain marriage relationship and both suffer with the family. The limited works have been written from feminist perspective or have bias towards the husbands. Balaky and Sulaiman show how Ibsen depicts the contrasting fate of couples whose marriage is either based on equality of both partners or the dominance of the husband and suppression of the wife (2016). Bulaila's PhD thesis compares the marriages in the novels of Thomas Hardy and D. H. Lawrence and is somewhat similar to the current research topic. He shows "how marriage and its sub-theme of love, sex and women in the late nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, have developed in their social and psychological dimensions, and how these developments are reflected in the novels (1992, p. i)". Arif Rashid Shah's "Concept of Feminism in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*" investigates the role of women and their rights (2016, p.345-54)". It does not show any role of Nora in their strained marriage. Moreover, Lale Behnam thinks "Nora has to be Helmer's doll to survive (2007, n. page)". He gets biased to her husband suggesting her to be completely dependent on the husband for existence. As the paper has been written from a nonfeministic perspective, Nora's husband Helmer is not shown responsible in their strained marriage. Yasir Arafat "also writes about the feminist attributes that this play is throbbing with (2003, p.20)". Some critics show the protagonist Nora as deceitful and some show her negatively. Her husband Mr. Helmer is also favoured by critics as he has given her all the luxuries of life and was not told the truth about the borrowed money. Joan Templeton's paper "The Doll House Backlash,

Criticism, Feminism” considers her as a dishonest woman through her relationship with Dr. Rank” (1989, p.30). He writes the paper from masculine viewpoint. According to Guo Yuehua “ women demonstrate their ideological strength with their forceful challenge of masculine power in a more tactful way, and deconstruct the traditional myths of gender roles” (2009, p.79). He reveals that a submissive wife can seek identity of her own at any point of her life. For Maurice Valency, “Nora is a case study of female hysteria, a willful, unwomanly woman and is a carefully studied example of what we have come to know as the hysterical personality-bright, unstable, impulsive, romantic, quite immune from feelings of guilt, and, at bottom, not especially feminine” (1982,151-52). Ronald Ng echoes Valency and notes that “Throughout Ibsen’s play, Nora asks for money, or favours that would prevent her secret of forgery from being leaked by playing her role as the “skylark, the ‘squirrel’ and ‘songbird’ around Torvald” (2011, p.186-200). Mary McCarthy also lists Nora “as one of the "neurotic" women whom Ibsen, she curiously claims, was the first playwright to put on stage” (1989, p.80). Wang Quan’s work supports McCarthy and shows “Kristine Linde as an epitome of self-sacrifice and is a praiseworthy example for Nora” (2016, p.69-73). Anne Rekdal sees the drama “as an investigation into gender difference as a way of acting, which explains what did Nora do” (2002, p.149-80). Noorbakhsh Hooti and Pouria Torkamaneh’s paper emphasizes “the absolute right of every individual, no matter single or married, to find his or her right in the postmodern world” (2011, p.1130). In fact, they support Nora through their work.

On the other hand, Charlotte Goodman examines “how the sins of fathers and mothers have far-reaching consequences for members of the next generation in *Sons and Lovers*” (1985, 47-54). Thomson David’s work is “about the debate over Garnett’s editing of *Sons and Lovers*” (1994, p.30). This study researches into the use of language varieties of three major characters Mr. Morel, Mrs. Morel and their son Paul In *Sons and Lovers*. According to Luo, “to appreciate and deeply understand the novel, it is necessary to know the application

of code switching in this work” (2013, p.19). In Nozar Niazi’s analysis of ‘*Sons and Lovers*’ the resources of language: lexis, syntax, phonology, figurative language, cohesion and coherence, are discussed in relation to the style of discourse in order to explore hidden meanings in the text: “The resources of language are shown to be an essential part of the meaning of the novel” (Niazi, 2013, p.35).

Sofe Ahmed’s paper “aims to critically analyze the facts lying with the hallucination of Oedipus complex as it is presented in *Sons and Lovers*. The evaluation is conducted liberally and objectively as well as through comparisons between the central characters of Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers* and Sophocles’ *King Oedipus*” (2012, p.60-70)”. Nisha Kumari also talks about “the importance of the psychoanalytical interpretation of *Sons and Lovers* and *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* for understanding conscious, sub-conscious level “(2016, p.29-36). Similarly, Haiyan, Rongqian and Xiaojun “discuss about formation of Paul’s abnormal love with his mother. The writers also point out about the author Lawrence’s criticism of industrialization which gave every social member shadow and marks” (2016, p.18-32). Nesaruddin’s article shows “how the son Paul’s relation with other women proves disastrous failure because his mother Mrs. Morel’s unhappiness in her conjugal life denied her son the right to his own independent life” (2013, p.).

The existing works are not on the current topic. They have been written on code switching, the son Paul’s abnormal relationship with his mother and other women. Language, syntax etc. of *Sons and Lovers* relevant have also been dealt with some writers. Some gave the psychological interpretation of the novel. No work has answered my research question appropriately. Hence, this research will fulfill the gap in the research field.

The brief review of literature gives evidence that most of the previous research are on women issues or the other questions and the causes and effects of strained marital problems have not been addressed adequately through *A Doll’s House* and *Sons and Lovers*.

So, the prior works give opportunity to the writer's choice of topic to reject the view that wives are not responsible for strain marriage but they only suffer for the marital problems created by husbands. Many works have been done in this topic by family therapists and the works were interview based or the couples were given questionnaires. This thesis is based on textual analysis and no interview has been taken. It has also shown that wives can strain marriage knowingly or unknowingly and it is a wife who decides whether to stay in strained relationship or to go away from it. This issue has never been explored through literature. Thus, the current work has addressed the research gap by two masterpieces of literature in the growing field of strained marriage by a methodology which has not taken any interview of victim couples.

Research Question and/or Hypothesis

Based on current literature, the following research question will be studied: What are the consequences of strained marriage on the couples and on families?

Research Objectives:

The general objective of this current work is to explore the main causes of strained marriage relationship.

The specific objective is to find out how much wives are responsible in straining marriage and saving it .

Rationale of the Study:

Research is beneficial to society and individual. After going through the existing literature, I have found out the research gap. No writer has earlier tried to reveal the causes of

strained marriage and its consequences on couples and families through these literary pieces. The existing literature has put the blame either on the husbands or on the wives. This work will reveal that both partners play role in strained marriage. Moreover, the nature of the work is also different since it is explanatory and based on analysis of literary texts. No interview of strained couple is included in it. This study is expected to be helpful to strained couples as well as unmarried ones. Many people around the world are in troubled marriages which has great negative impact not only on the couples but also on their families, friends and the whole society. The research work will contribute significantly to the existing knowledge of marriage. It will also be interesting to those who want to study marital issues. Personally, the work is very important to the writer as a married one I expect newly married couples, strained couples, divorced couples or couples who are in separation could learn many things about marital problems and will be able to avoid them. They will also learn that couples problems in marriages is a normal experience and can be solved with mutual effort. Couples will also learn that financial problem, will not destroy any marriage if they want to save their marriage.

From this work anybody will get knowledge to be a better couple. This work has shown that wives also can strain marriage and they play significant role in saving strained marriage. This paper will also show that from literary couples real life couples can learn a lot about causes and consequences of strained marriage. The blissfully happy couples or unmarried ones will also be benefited from the discussion.

Conceptual/Theoretical Framework

For doing the study, the researcher has used and analyzed some feminist theories highlighting Simone de Beauvoir who shows a woman nevertheless finds herself living in a world where men compel her to assume the status of the Other. She can challenge patriarchy

to find her own identity. These concepts are useful and feasible for the research project's goals that direct the collection and analysis of data.

Scopes and Limitations:

There are scopes for the future writers to take interview from strained or divorced couples to know about the causes and consequences of strained marriages on couples and families. From their real-life experiences, other couples or who are single can try to avoid the causes which strain marital relationship. The future researcher can add interview result and can give new dimension to the field of strained marriage.

Although this research study is able to provide rich information to answer the research question, it has some minor limitations. The writer aimed to take interview from strained couples but were unable to do so due to the non cooperation of them as they did not want to open up in a conservative country like ours; especially strained wives. To some extent, some strained husbands also did not want to share their bitter experiences with the writer due to reservations. I also did not persuade anybody for giving me interview for ethical considerations. I also acknowledge another limitation. There are many additional literary pieces regarding marital issues which have been left behind due to time constraints might have been included.

The Expected Outcome

As the present work discussed the causes of strained marriage and its consequences on couples and families, I expect real life couples to avoid the causes of strained marriage and learn how to resolve marital issues. It will also make submissive wives aware of their positions in families.

Research Methodology

The research design of this thesis is qualitative .In order to answer the research question, the work has employed close readings of the original texts and primary as well as secondary sources from relevant critical, biographical and historical works in order to establish the social, political climate in which the artists wrote their works. It is a qualitative work and in nature explanatory and exploratory. It has provided no field work, face-to-face interview and informal discussion with married men and women and the nature of the research would finally come out to be a qualitative as well as explanatory one.

The results supported by a good number of critical essays on both the texts will add interesting knowledge to the existing literature, where women sometimes worsen marriage knowingly or unknowingly. It also shows that how to handle differences in married life is very important for couples and those who do not have the intention to resolve marital conflict make themselves and the whole family suffer.

This work is a narrative analysis. So, importance has been given on storytelling and interpretation of their meanings, understanding themes and social contexts. I collected data from primary and secondary sources and prepared the gathered data by checking missing ones. While data analysis, focus has been given on a particular theme-causes and consequences of strained marriage, the relationship between main plot and subplot, the strengths and flaws of some characters. By reading primary and secondary sources, I have evaluated and analyzed data carefully from various aspects.

Discussion and Analysis:

Most people find "incompatibility" mainly responsible for strained marriage. People commonly marry an image, not a person and afterwards the couple discover many differences between them. If not dealt properly, these differences may isolate one person from another and can kill their relationship.. Communication may break down and isolation can increase. Sometimes there are major problems or differences that are not worked through. Some of these include financial difficulties, lies, disrespect, domination, bullying, misunderstanding, adjustment, religious beliefs, social class values as well as parenting styles .

In *A Doll's House* Helmer is the bread earner and Nora is the consumer. He holds power and the couple have unequal gender roles. She never thought him to be a practical husband. Through the money issue their true characters and the weakness of their marriage get revealed. She asks for money from him and performs at his request like an entertainer. Here both the husband and the wife are responsible for straining the conjugal life. When he comes to about Nora's borrowing of money for his treatment, he does not want to understand her side of story. In his eyes she is "a hypocrite, a liar-worse, worse than a criminal. He is worried about simply of the lender Krogstad's opportunities who "would make (his) position at the bank perfectly unendurable. of creating difficulties for him" (Act II, p.96). So, he argues forgetting her sacrifice for him "You stay right here and give me a reckoning. You understand what you've done? Answer! You understand? (Act III, p.187). Nora in her stalwart defiance of the world questions him: "A wife hasn't a right to save her husband's life? I don't know much about laws . . . I did it out of love" (Act III, p.149). When their family friend Dr. Rank confronts her with his moving confession of love as she is about to ask him for the money she desperately needs, she refuses to make use of his feelings and categorically rejects his help: "After that? . . . You can't know anything now..."(166). Tichenor also states "The topic of money can be very emotional, and is closely related to self worth and personal

vulnerabilities among marital partners that may trigger defensiveness” (1999, 638–650). Torvald said earlier “ Be at rest and feel secure. I have broad wings to shield you” (Act III, p.159). Before the revelation of the truth, “she was certain that he would do the same for her if her well-being was ever threatened” (Mahaffey, 2010, p,54). When Torvald utters “ I have strength to become another man”(173). She thinks “There must be perfect freedom on both sides”(172) because she does not love her life partner any longer.

The play also shows how women can find the way to establish their individuality. Through this work, the playwright Ibsen intends to destroy the so-called gender structure of his time and dreams of a new world in couples will share equal rights in their conjugal lives.

In Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers*. Mr. Walter Morel is not fit as a suitable match for Gertrude as her husband. Morel’s working class background is unlikeable to Gertrude. Initially, the socio-economic bars could not prevent the union of two persons of two opposite social status. The wife finds dissimilarities between dream world and real world which strain their marital relationship after a certain time. Mr. and Mrs. Morel are strikingly contrasting pair and the husband turns out to be a complacent male chauvinist and the wife iron-willed. The husband finds it is impossible to stay at home all the time only to love the sophisticated wife. So the novel becomes the study of a woman who marries beneath her class. Therefore, she shows coldness to her husband’s behavior and lack of interest in marriage life. All expectations of Mrs. Morel shatter with hard realities of life and Mr. Morel was not the person as she had believed him before marriage. This is the base for their strained marriage. Her loneliness as well as sufferings are the products of her own erroneous decision to marry a man beneath her status. His effort to normalize their relation also does not work for them as they are not complementary personalities.

Mrs. Morel’s desire to control her husband is the root cause of the discordance.

Both husband and wife disagree with everything and they frequently blame on one another for the disharmony in marital relations. Both have opposite temperaments. Mrs. Morel wants life devoid of poverty and trouble, but Mr. Morel takes life as it is. The educated wife makes a serious mistake and suffers with her whole family. She decided to marry him based on his outer appearance. Although she is not a bad woman, she creates unsteadiness in their marital life. In fact, she is a victim of her own wrong choice. Every action of her husband irritates her. She wants to hurt him. Mr. Morel belongs to realistic world. He finds happiness in hard labour and drinking. Both lose attraction for each other. In *Sons and Lovers* their conjugal life undergoes sharp transition. This transition moves from interest to coldness. For Mrs. Morel expects nothing from her boring loveless, painful marriage.

Marriage is important to ensure the well-being of children. It reduces the role of state and strengthens civil society. It is very important because the future of any country depends on the future of marriage. The future of marriage depends on the behavior of couples. Strained marriage is a source of pain, resentment, disappointment. It is the children who get very upset by the strained marriage of their parents. In the absence of Nora, her children will suffer terribly as they are habituated to have their mother with them since their birth. They will be frightened and feel guilty, while older children of Mr. and Mrs. Morel are angered by the strain marriage of their parents.

As a result of Mrs. Morel's monopoly on mothering, the whole family suffer from devastating psychological consequences. From Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, one could see the disastrous impact of sole parenting has on every member in the family. Mrs. Morel also died of heartbreak having seen her son's involvement with other women. Also the father figure, has lost the passion he had in his marriage and his sons have come to hate him. Their son Paul, was not able to love and have normal sexual relationship with any woman in his

life. And his inability to love continued even after the death of his mother. With this work *Sons and Lovers*, Lawrence has shown the tragedy of the whole family due to the strained marriage of the parents Mr. and Mrs. Morel.

Findings and Recommendations:

The data of this work has been presented from primary and secondary sources. From the collected data and their analysis it has been found out that in married life, almost all couples face troubles once in a while. The problems arise in many forms. Many factors cause these problems and prevention needs to be taken for peace in relationships. Lack of communication leads to misunderstanding and worsens marital life. In the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morel there is no healthy communication. They even cannot communicate without fighting. They never try to realize that communication is the key to healthy marriage. There are bullying, belittling, disrespect, financial issues. The birth of child cannot always bring the parents closer. In *Sons and Lovers*, we see the proof of it. The wife separates herself completely from the husband to cling to her children. Marriage can strain at any time of married life. Trust is also important in marriage. If it is broken by lying or cheating it has to be reearned. In Nora's case, she loses trust in her husband which worsens their eight-year old marriage.

Fixing strained marriage and sustaining lasting relationship depend on the effort of both partners. Before fixing identifying the problems is very urgent. From the texts we get to know that vulnerable wife like Nora can be strong when she loses faith in the institution of marriage where the husband does not stand by the wife in her troubled times. She fails to understand that in marriage partners should be true about monetary issues. She refuses to give her husband a change to be reunited with him. She does not know that to some extent she is the cause of the relationship problem. The husband should also have been sensible to her as

her lie was situation. He forgot that an occasional lie is forgivable and cannot destroy trust. On the other hand, we also notice the effort of the strong-willed Mrs. Morel for saving her strained marriage for the sake of her children though it is a loveless marriage.

Recommendations:

I recommend today's couples to try to stop divorce by identifying the trouble-causing problems and solving them. I also recommend the future writers to focus on more texts beyond Europe where strained marriage relationships function as either a central theme or an important backdrop. The writer also suggest them to include interview of those couples who are divorced or experienced strained marriage to find out the real causes of strained marriage and its consequences on couples and on families. From the findings of the real life couples, other couples can be aware of the problems and be able to avoid them for blissful marital life.

Conclusion:

This study demonstrates that both partners can create marital problems due to lies, disrespect, lack of understanding and communication, class division, ego, monetary problem, drinking habit, domination, disillusion, uninvolment, search for self etc. which are the major marriage ruining factors in these literary texts. We also see, wives take their decision whether to leave the husband or to survive the strained marriage. From this work it is also found out that both well-off and poor couples can have marital troubles due to several factors. The work also shows that extramarital issue is not an important factor for strained marriage. The current work also shows how strained marriage causes physical, psychological, financial injuries on both husband and wife through textual, content and comparative analysis. This study will be significant for today's strained couples and also the whole community in general. But no theory or study will work magically for any couple unless they themselves

desire to resolve their loveless, painful marriage. The study expects to propose a number of practical recommendations for future researchers to mention the prospective solutions to strained marriage which this study has not given. They can also take more literary texts which the current research has not been able to do.

Notes: All quotations are from Ibsen, Henrik, *A Doll's House*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 2004.

Lawrence, D. H, *Sons and Lovers*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 2006.

References

- Ahmed, Sofe, 2012, "Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory of Oedipus Complex: A Critical Study with Reference to D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*", *International Journal of English and Literature*, Vol.3, No.3, March.
- Arafat, Yasir, 2017, "Women Identity in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and Robert Frost's Home Burial: A Comparative Study", Project Work, India, University of Calicut, March 3.
- Balaky, Salman and Sulaiman, Nafsar, 2016, "A Feminist Analysis of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*", *Beytulhikme: An International Journal of Philosophy*, Vol.6. No.1, June.
- Behnam, L, 2007, *A Note on Ibsen and Nora's Doll Life*, Tehran: Jahan-e-Kitab.
- Bulaila. A A, 1992, *Marriages in the Novels of Thomas Hardy and D. H. Lawrence*, PhD thesis, Nottingham: University of Nottingham Press.
- Dimin, Luo, 2013, "Code Switching in *Sons and Lovers*", *Advances in Literary Study*, Vol.1, No.4.
- Gafourinia, Jamili, 2014, "The Women's rights in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*", *Journal of Novel Applied Sciences*, Vol 3.
- Goodman, C, 1998, "The Sins of the Fathers and Mothers: The Child as Victim in Modern Literature", *Modern Language Studies*, Vol: 15, No. 2, Spring.
- Haiyan, Li, Rongquian, Weng and Xiaojun, Guo, 2016, "Paul Morel's Oedipus Complex in *Sons and Lovers*", *Studies in Literature and Language*, Vo. 13, No.1.
- Haviland, William A. 2011, Prins, Harald E. L.; McBride, Bunny; Walrath, Dana *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge* (13th ed.). Cengage Learning. [ISBN 978-0-495-81178-7](https://doi.org/10.1111/9781118495811).

- Hooti, Noorbakhsh and Torkamaneh, Pouria, 2011, "Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*: A Postmodernist Study", *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, Vol.1, No.9, September.
- Kumari, Nisha, 2016, "A Psychoanalytic Reading of D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover*", *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Culture*, Vo. 2, No. 4, November.
- McCarthy, Mary, 1989, "The Will and Testament of Ibsen", *PMLA*, Vol. 104, No.1(Jan).
- Nesaruddin, 2013, "Quest for the whole in D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*", *International Journal of Comparative Literature & Translation Studies*, Vol. 1, No.3, October.
- Ng, Ronald, 2011, "The Critique of Bourgeois Life", Ed. Anlje Budde., *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, Toronto, CCLA.
- Niazi, Nozor, 2013, "Analysis of *Sons and Lovers*: the resources of language: lexis, syntax, phonology, figurative language, cohesion and coherence", *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, Vol 2, No.4.
- Rekdal, Anne , 2002, "The Jousance", *Scandinavian Studies*, Vol. 74, No. 2.
- Shah, A R, 2016, "The Concept of Feminism in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*", *The Criterion: An International Journal of English*, VOL: 7, issue VI, December.
- Templeton, John, 1989, "The Doll House Backlash: Criticism, Feminism, and Ibsen", *PMLA*, Vol. 104, No.1, January.
- Thompson, D. M, 1994, "Calling in the Realists: The Revision and Reputation of Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*", *A Focus on Fiction*, Vol: 7, No.3 (spring), North Carolina: Duke University Press.
- Tichenor, V.J., 1999, "Status and income as gendered resources: The case of marital power," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. Vol:6.

Valency, Maurice, 1983, *The Flower and the Castle: An Introduction to Modern Drama*,
New York: Schocken.

Vicki, Mahaffey, 2010, “A Portal of Forgiveness: A Tribute to Ibsen’s Nora”, *South Central Review*, University of Illinois, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Vol. 27, No. 3,
Forgiveness (FALL).

Wang, Quan, 2016, “Before Marriage, After Marriage, Within Marriage-Kristine Linde in *A Doll’s House*”, *The Explicator*, Vol.74, No. 2.

Windensfeld, Logan, 2016, “Excess and Economy in *Sons and Lovers*, *Studies in the Novel*,
Vo. 48, No. 3.

Yuehua, Guo, 2009, “Gender Struggle over Ideological Power in Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*”,
Canadian Social Science, Vol.5, No.1, February 234.