

# Nina's Love Betrayal in The Drama Script The Seagull by Anton Chekov

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**Abstract.** Drama is a form of literary work that describes the reality of human life which is presented in the form of movement. In this case, one of the famous dramas "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov who is a writer of short stories, non-fiction, and also a drama script is different from the majority of drama works in Russia in the 1800s which presented spectacle of comedy genre drama. Chekhov with his work The Seagull presents a drama genre tragedy or romantic tragedy. This study uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive qualitative analysis approach. Data collection will be carried out by means of in-depth interviews with predetermined sources, so this research will be seen the reason why Nina is betraying Constantine, even though Constantine loves Nina so much. Besides that is to find out more about the form or method used by Nina to get her wish.

Keywords: Drama, Anton Chekov, Betrayal, Feminism

## 1. Introduction

In the daily life of love can be interpreted as the expression or the embodiment of the feeling. Love is a feeling of self that arises slowly or suddenly, love is not just talked about feelings between men and women. But love is invisible, but it can be felt by its presence. Depend on Rubin (1992) said that love is a special attitude that is directed by someone to another person, which can influence the way of thinking, feeling and how to behave. Many people blade that love is a matter of sadness, which means that the coming will still go as well, but love is not just a matter of sadness, in the affairs of love we can learn about sadness, happiness, loss, confusion, patience. The value of love forces in all circumstances, to recognize the interests of each other because it is selfish, because of that love called a form of diversion of one's own life or one's own life to another. In love, gender issues are still visible. Women are more likely to associate statements with authentic feelings whereas men are more of a situational influence. So that, love has many functions. These functions are: (1) Expression of true feelings, (2) Have a motive, (3) Situational influences, (4) Entertainment, and (5) Feeling confused.

In the book entitled "The Human Quest for Meaning" section 9 pages 24 works E Laine N. Aron and Arthur Aron is menegrint some love games. The first is love can become a connection to the larger social world. Then, Love can also extend each individual with the wider community. The conclusion is that love becomes a bridge between people. Then, there are some views that give the appropriate impression on contemporary science. Different from the opinions expressed in the journal by Sternberg, Robert J who uses the

theory of love is "A Triangular theory of love". In this theory there are three components, namely, the feeling of feeling that results in bonding in a relationship, then the attraction of each other. The third is the power of commitment decisions made in the long run or short. The nature of love is relative and the experience or the power of the love of each person is different. This theory provides a comprehensive basis for understanding other aspects of love.

Sternberg argued about "The Triangular theory of love" (1986) on his study tested the theory of Sternberg when applied to adult love relationships. The result is that the level of commitment in adult love affairs is higher and leads to a more serious one being married or unmarried. Commitment is a major problem issue of the satisfaction of a relationship. Best from A Triangular Theory of Love by Robert J. Steinberg in Yale University asked that love triangle theory can be understood and viewed as a form of the knot of a triangle. These three components namely, intimacy (the upper vertex of the triangle), passion (node left triangle), decision or commitment (the knot right from the triangle). Each of these terms can be used in many different ways. In the conclusions are that love becomes a bridge between people. Then, there are some views that give the appropriate impression on contemporary science. The level of commitment in adult love affairs is higher and leads to a more serious one being married or unmarried. Commitment is a major problem issue of the satisfaction of a relationship.

According to experts, Jackson explained that "Betrayal was a matter of human" and the problem of philosophers. Philosophers must be able to clarify the concept of betrayal, compare and distinguish it from other moral concepts, and critically assess betrayal situations. On a practical level, people must be able to make a sense of honest betrayal and also to reduce the consequences: to handle it, not be attacked by it. What we need is a report of conceptually clear betrayal that distinguishes between pure and only perceived betrayal, and which also provides a systematic guide to the assessment of alleged betrayal in real life. Ben-Yehuda's (2001) work *"Betrayals and Treason Violations of Trust and Loyalty"* Westview Press said that betrayal is a denial that violates an initial statement, and an act of hypocrisy on the truth. Like a promise but deny it. If in the relationship, betrayal is "dangerous attacker, arriving clandestinely" and is the heart of every failed relationship. Betrayal occurs because couples count how much they sacrifice for their relationship. Betrayal will increase consistently as an indicator that the couple will be at risk of having another serious affair or infidelity. There are several types of betrayal in relationships, namely sexual infidelity, conditional commitment, nonsexual infidelity, lying, forming coalitions against partners, absence or cold, attracting sexual interest, disrespect, unfairness, selfishness and breaking promises. Usually betrayal is symbolized by seagulls and dahlia flowers.

The betrayal trauma theory predicts that dissociating information from awareness is the information that poses to the individual's system of attachments (Freyd, 1996). The basic cognitive processes involved in attention and memory make it possible to play an important role in separating explicit trauma from betrayal trauma. In several studies, empirical support was found for the relationship between dissociation and isolation of knowledge in laboratory tasks. Betrayal is crimes committed by someone against another

person which includes several things such as crime in terms of feelings, plans or murder, infidelity, non-compliance that can harm the interests of others. Usually betrayal is done by someone with a forced state or even full awareness. Betrayal is usually stated in other mouths of hearts. Betrayal is often done by people. Whether on a small or large scale. The biggest betrayal is usually carried out by the leader. Betrayal is usually said to be a form of infidelity. Cheating means deviant acts that like to hide things, dishonest, fraudulent and carried out for personal gain. Whereas betrayal is an unfaithful act that likes to make promises but is not fulfilled. There are two forms of betrayal, Physical Infidelity / Physical Affair: Infidelity involving contact and physical closeness, second Emotional Infidelity / Emotional Affair: Unfaithfulness that only involves emotional intimacy.

The *Seagull* is a drama script written by a famous Russian writer. The *Seagull* itself tells the story of an old actress named Irina Arkadina. Arkadina has a child named Constantine. Once, Constantine loved a village girl named Nina. Gradually, Constantine and Nina got closer. Constantine is a very unstable, sensitive, and very emotional young man, who in the end Nina decides to connect with Constantine. Shortly, Nina met with the famous novelist Boris who was none other than Arkadina's lover and immediately fell in love with her beautiful writing because Nina always had the ambition to be a drama actress who could perform on stage shows. There was a love triangle between Nina, Constantine and Trigorin. In the end Nina left Constantine and married Trigorin. Boris encouraged Nina to realize her dream of becoming a theater actress. Nina fell in love with Boris. But unfortunately Boris left Nina and preferred Arkadina. On the other hand Constantine is hurt by Nina and prefers suicide.

The conflict brought by one of the female characters, namely Nina, brought about a problem present in the Constantine's family. Nina becomes a common thread in the conflict in this drama. For this reason, the presence of the character Nina is very influential in solving problems in this drama. Nina, who came with her strong desire to become an actress, made her do various ways to get her wish. Based on the reasons described above, this study focus on the betrayal committed by Nina, why is Nina betraying Constantine, even though Constantine loves Nina so much. Besides that is to find out more about the form or method used by Nina to get her wish.

## **2. Method**

This research is a type of qualitative descriptive research. Based on Morley (1992: 183) states that the qualitative research method is an analysis to show the dynamics of action and socio-cultural practices of individuals or groups involved in social situations of the production and consumption of meaning. This type of research was chosen to obtain an overall picture from the point of view of the person being studied. In this case this study aims to find out more about why Nina committed a betrayal and to find out how Nina used to get what she wanted. To obtain data, researchers will use in-depth interviews with informants who have been selected by researchers through predetermined criteria. These criteria include undergraduate and postgraduate students, have watched *The Seagull* (2018) movie, and know a lot about western culture. Data collection was carried

out in three ways, namely: direct observation; deep interview; and record documents (Sutopo, 1998). Data analysis through an interactive analysis model which includes data reduction, data delivery, and drawing conclusions. The conclusions obtained were tested for truth and validity through data triangulation and informant review.

### **3. Result**

#### **3.1. Western Feminism**

The issue of women is still an interesting thing to discuss today. At the beginning of the 18th century a women's movement emerged that wanted equality. This arises because of the limited participation and access of women to their rights as citizens and the differences between men and women which have created social problems. The women's struggle movement is referred to as the feminist movement which is interpreted as an acknowledgment of the existence of inequality between men and women, the belief that the condition of women is socially constructed and changeable, and also includes women's autonomy. Organizations about women began to develop in Europe, North America, New Zealand and Australia. According to Gamble (2006) says that the history of women's upheaval is divided into several waves.

##### **3.1.1. Early Feminism**

The early feminist movement was an attempt to combat patriarchy between 1550-1700 in England. The focus of her struggle is against the patriarchal view of the position of women because they are seen as weaker, emotional, and irrational beings. According to Hodgson-Wright (2006), early feminism struggled in three ways. First, trying to review the essential issue of women's submission in Church teachings. Second, opposing various constitutional policies that tended to restrict women at that time. Third, building solidarity among women writers

##### **3.1.2. First Wave of Feminism**

First wave feminism probably began with Mary Wollstonecraft's *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) until women gained the right to vote in the early 20th century. Mary's writing is considered a milestone in the modern feminist movement in calling for the development of a rational side in women and demanding that girls study in government schools like boys. This education is expected to develop women's intellectuality so that they can develop into independent individuals, especially financially. Wollstonecraft struggle continued by the couple Harriet and John Stuart Mill. They fight to expand women's employment opportunities and women's legal rights in marriage, custody and divorce.

##### **3.1.3. Second Wave of Feminism**

The second wave of feminism began in the 1960s which was marked by the publication of *The Feminine Mystique* (Friedan, 1963), followed by the establishment of the National Organization for Women (NOW, 1966) and the emergence of conscious raising (CR)

groups in the late 1960s (Thompson, 2010). Second wave feminism has the big theme of "women liberation", which is considered a revolutionary collective movement. This wave emerged as a response to women's dissatisfaction with the differential discrimination they experienced despite the legal and political emancipation that had been achieved in the first wave of feminism.

Because of this, second wave feminism is more focused on issues that directly affect women's lives, such as reproduction, child rearing, sexual violence, women's sexuality, and domesticity issues. The second wave of feminism is more focused on the subject of women as an oppressed group and women's bodies as the main target of this oppression.

According to Thornham (2006), second wave feminism in America can be divided into two streams, namely the first stream is right-wing, which is more liberal in nature which aims to fight for women's participation in all social life, with the same rights and obligations as men. While the second stream is often called the leftist school and is more radical. Radical feminism is rooted in the reaction of feminists who feel unfacilitated in now liberal feminism because of differences in race, class, and protests against American atrocities in the Vietnam War.

Second wave feminism was criticized by black women, lesbians and working women who then formed radical movements. Many people think that women's liberation only prioritizes white women and fails to address issues of class and race.

#### ***3.1.4. Postfeminisme/ Third Wave Feminism***

The term postfeminism resurfaced in the 1980s with a variety of meanings. Gill and Scharff (2011) summarized the existence of four notions of postfeminism. First, postfeminism as a meeting point between feminism and postmodernism, poststructuralism, and postcolonialism means that postfeminism is a more critical study of feminism (Brooks, 1997).

The proponents of third wave feminism systematically express themselves as a reaction against postfeminism. They have a negative view of postfeminism. Gamble (2006) sees third wave feminism as a reaction of women of color against the domination of white women in second wave feminism and rejects the notion that oppression of women is uniform and universal. Third wave feminism is the development of feminism that deconstructs and re-evaluates previous feminism so that it can continue to develop and facilitate women after 1970s feminism.

The achievement of feminist goals opens the way for women to achieve individual goals through lifestyles and consumption patterns that are characteristic of post-feminism. Thus, according to Budgeon and McRobbie, third wave feminism is global, activist, and academic while post-feminism is more individualistic, consumptive, and popular.

#### ***3.2. Background of Nina's Character***

The *Seagull* is one of the works produced in the 19th century. In the 19th century, women still did not get their rights. These rights are legal, social, and political rights. Women at that time were expected to only be submissive to men, so that the main goal of women in the 19th century was to get married. For this reason, it prevents them from

obtaining higher education, resulting in limited job choices. Women are divided into two, namely the middle class or upper class, and the lower class, generally middle or upper class women stay at home to do the housework and take care of the children. For lower class women more often do work outside the home. In the cases that existed in the 19th century, the man played the role of the main breadwinner and the woman was the babysitter, cooking, doing the housework, and providing shelter for her husband. It is said that 19th century women have not got gender equality.

Nina Zarietchnaya is one of the female characters in *The Seagull*. Nina is described as a woman who struggles to achieve her dream of becoming a theater actress. However, her wish didn't get a positive response from her parents, so to get her dream, Nina did it secretly. Nina's parents did not allow Nina to become an actress because they thought that an actress would not have a bright future. In this regard, Anton Checkov is known as a satirical writer, that is, he often inserts allusions to social issues that occurred at that time into his works. Nina is described by Checkov as a woman who has the ambition to make her dreams come true and also Checkov wants to prove that women don't only deal with the house, but more than that, they can pursue their careers too.

Nina is portrayed well in *The Seagull*, she is a conflict carrier and also a person who also resolves conflicts in *The Seagull*. The conflict presented by Nina is on her ambition to achieve her dreams. There are several things that Nina did in achieving her dream. With help from Constantine, Nina begins with a monologue dedicated to Constantine's family. The monologue was produced by Constantine, this was done as a form of support for Nina. However, Nina thought that was not enough to help her realize her dream. So she betrayed Constantine to have a relationship with Boris. Because Nina thinks that Boris can make her achieve her dream of becoming an actress more.

### **3.3. *Nina's Betrayal***

Because of the constantine very unstable, sensitive, and very emotional young man, Nina betrayed him. Nina who is not at ease with Constantine's nature, which makes her break her relationship. besides, Nina is an ambitious person. She is a village girl who really wants to be an artist. However, Nina's parents disagree if Nina becomes an artist. Because of his strong ambition, he also did ways to become an artist. Like relating to Constantine who is the son of a famous artist. Where once he was made by Constantine a small theater for him to appear before Iriana Arkadina. That seems not enough for Nina. which eventually brings Nina to meet with Iriana's lover and Nina falls in love with Iriana's lover, Boris Trigorin. Boris is a famous novelist, and Nina is convinced that Boris can help him realize his dream of becoming a famous artist. Boris always encourages Nina to become a famous artist. Until one day Nina left Constantine to meet Boris in the city and realize her dream of becoming a famous artist. That's why Nina betrays Constantine, because Nina has a very strong ambition to become an artist and is willing to take various ways to make it happen. On the other hand, Nina fell in love with Boris.

This is also related to the title *The Seagull* which means about the symbol of seagull means that everything has a purpose and take a moment to sort out what is no longer useful in life. Seagull is a symbol which means that when something always has an

opportunity even in the impossible. But, an event that is not possible is an opportunity for new resources. The point is to realize that we are in this place and time for a reason. Stay optimistic because you will know the cause in the end. Use instincts and always believe that. That's why Seagull is a symbol of the text. In the text, the main character is an ambitious person. So everyone became the right symbol for ambitious nature.

#### 4. Conclusion

Drama The Seagull is a great classic drama to watch. Therefore, this study took this drama script for his research. The characters in the text are very strong. And many are ambitious. Moreover, the betrayal carried out by the characters in the text is diverse. The betrayal of love that is so striking between one character and another character makes love like no longer meaningful. Even though the meaning of love is very deep, love is a feeling of self that arises slowly or suddenly, love is not just talked about feelings between men and women. But love is invisible, but it can be felt by its presence. Nina did several things to achieve her dream of becoming a theater actress. One of them is having a relationship with Boris because Boris is a famous novelist in Russia. Nina betrayed Constantine because of Constantine's nature, which incidentally was unstable, sensitive, and had unstable emotions. In addition, Nina thought that Constantine would not be able to make her a famous actress, because at that time Constantine was also struggling to become a famous writer.

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