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Topic #2

Freedom is not free to get. If we treat freedom as a resource in economic, then to get this resource, we must give up something. Like, Nora found she was not happy in her family, in the end of the play she decided to leave her home to get her freedom, but she will also lose her husband and her children. Biff wanted to live a life he wants to, but his father wants he live a “success life” as his father thinks and this became the main conflict of *Death of a Salesman*. This is, to get the freedom, we probably should give up some relationships in our life.

My grandfather bought a lot of cameras. I don't know if he like photography, but I'm sure he likes cameras. Even during the most difficult time, my grandfather still bought cameras. My grandmother was unsatisfied, she told him do not purchase more cameras, he already has a lot of cameras to use, but my grandfather just not listened to her. It made their relationship tensional, as this topic pointed.

Generally, time and money causing most of the struggles on relationship. In the instance of my grandfather, my grandfather and grandmother don't have enough money to buy all they want and need. If my grandfather bought a more camera, my grandmother needs to give up something she wants or needs. In *A Doll's House*, the main conflict of Helmer and Nora is caused by money, Nora should loan money to save Helmer's life, and need to working to pay her loan.

Mind, also causes the struggles on relationship and limit one's freedom. "Sometimes people who love us, or who really want to love us, don't understand us and therefore can't really help us". Helmer did love Nora, he wanted working himself and let Nora be a bird or a doll in the family, she wouldn't thinking about life and can live a good life. Nonetheless, he didn't know Nora, he didn't understand Nora, and his wonder limit the freedom of Nora to be a woman who can also works as a man and lives her life. In *Death of a Salesman*, the father didn't know what a life Biff wants to live, hoping Biff can live a success life he wants. This is a problem which would exist forever, we all have our standpoint, and we do different decisions. To deal this problem, we can actually do something: we "trust" and "understand". If I have a girlfriend or wife, she wants to do something but I prefer she not, I will have a conversation with her, tell her what I think and my standpoint, but if she insists her decision, I'll trust her and understand her, I'll let her do her decision. Like in the *Night, Mother*, Jessie just wants her mother understand her, may not understand the decision she make, but understand to make her decision, she has her own standpoint and reason, and was considered almost a year.

People have different freedom level in different ages. A university student will be considered in an age full of freedom, but a 40-age person would just have a few freedoms. That is, most university students just need to consider about themselves, but a 40-age person would think about his wife, his aged parents and his young children. With the age growth, people usually gained more and more things, and these things we gained would limit our freedom.

However, most of people need to be constraint by somebody. For instance, Mrs. Linde was worked herself for several years. She didn't need to live for someone, but she was loneliness sometime. Everyone is finding a balance, between spending time and money on others or on

ourselves. To find the balance that best fit our life, we should always think about life, like Nora and Biff. Think about how we want to live, or if we like the life so far. If we think our life was astricted by someone, we better to leave more time for us. If we bring others trouble on the things we should do together, then spend more time on these things, until both of us spending the same time. People shouldn't only leave for themselves, but people still should leave for themselves. I suggest we making the balance dynamically, always making the adjudgment, reorganized the time we spend.

As the topic, dealing with our relationships and ourselves is hard. There isn't an ideal solution on this topic, but keep thinking our life can helps us get a good solution within a period of time.

Works Cited:

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*. Dover Publications, 1992.

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. Penguin, 1976.

Norman, Marsha. *'Night, Mother*. Hill and Wang. 1983.