

Tribhuvan University

**Clash between Tradition and Modernity in
Mulk Raj Anand's Novel *The Big Heart***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Master's Degree of Arts in English**

By

Gokul Chandra Acharya

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

April 2008

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis entitled "Clash between Tradition and Modernity in Mulk Raj Anand's Novel *The Big Heart*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Gokul Chandra Acharya, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

T. U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date:

Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor Mr. Bishnu Prasad Sapkota, the lecturer of Central Department of English, for his continuous supervision and encouragement, constructive criticism and invaluable suggestions during the period of thesis writing.

I am profoundly grateful to the Head of Central Department of English, Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma for his inspiring suggestions in the preparation of this work.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Shridhar Gautam, Reader of Patan Multiple Campus, who has helped me providing necessary materials and encouragement for my thesis work. I also express my deep thanks to other respected faculty members.

Likewise, I must unreservedly acknowledge my deep debt of gratitude to my parents, sisters and brothers for their great encouragement and financial supports.

Finally, my special thanks go to Mr. Durga Devi Chhetri, proprietor of Durga Communication, Kirtipur for her prompt computer typing and printing.

April 2008

Gokul Chandra Acharya

Abstract

Mulk Raj Anand's novel *The Big Heart* (1945) has tried to probe the clash between tradition and modernity in art, culture, religion and day- to- day life of poor people in Punjab, India during colonial period due to rapid European inventions in this traditional part of the Eastern world. This research is related to colonialism and its effects in a certain place of India. English colonizers have brought machines with them. In order to develop India, modern industries displace jobs and arts of the poor Indian people. Even their religion is threatened. Ananta is Anand's spokesperson. All thatiars, businessmen and leaders are the victims of Westernization. Machine represents the modernity which substituts traditional arts and renders the artists/workers jobless. Anand shows the usefulness and importance of industrialization. His novel is in the favour of modernity. He presents many people are jobless since they are uneducated, untrained and narrow-minded. They fight not against their weakness but the modern inventions. This leads quarrel in the society between the people who support the modernity and who reject it. Therefore, this research deals with Anand's modern perspective towards his homeland.