

Tribhuvan University

**From Novel to Screen: A Comparative Study on Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* and
Its Film Adaptation Directed by Adrian Lyne in 1997**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

Sudhir Man Singh BK

Central Department of English

Kritipur, Kathmandu

August 2010

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Sudhir Man Singh BK has completed his dissertation entitled "From Novel to Screen: A Comparative Study on Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* and Its Film Adaptation Directed by Adrian Lyne in 1997" under my guidance. I recommend this thesis to be submitted to the research committee for viva voce.

Mr. Saroj Sharma Ghimire

Supervisor

Central Department of English,

T.U.

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “From Novel to Screen: A Comparative Study on Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita* and Its Film Adaptation Directed by Adrian Lyne in 1997” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sudhir Man Singh BK has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of

English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would first and foremost like to acknowledge with thanks to my supervisor Mr. Saroj Sharma Ghimire. This research would never have concretized in this form without his scholarly and invaluable guidance. I would also like to thank Mr. Puspasa Acharya who is the primary source of inspiration for the idea of research on this topic.

I am grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the former head of the Central Department of English, for his suggestion to do research on the field.

Similarly, I am very much thankful to my friends Gopal Adhikari, Prakash Pangyani and Naresh K. C. for their support to complete this thesis. Thanks are also due to Mr. Prakash Shrestha, Bipin Chettri, Chakra Bahadur Thapa, Kamala Khati and my brother Suraj Man Singh BK.

Last but not the least, I express my sincere gratitude and love to my parents Durga Bahadur BK, and mother Khem Maya BK for their moral and economic support.

Sudhir Man Singh BK

August 2010

Abstract

This research studies the relationship between the novel *Lolita* and its film adaptation. While a novel is a written work of art designed to be read, a film is a visual and aural art to be seen and heard. Nonetheless, they share a number of elements like narrative, setting, plot and so forth. This research examines how the novel *Lolita* and its film adaptation stand as unique works of art in spite of their having played on the same themes and the same narrative. Though, the film adaptation shares the theme of entrapment as a metamorphosis with the novel, it differs in the representation of other aspects of the novel. These variations are the result of the media each of the art form adopts. Despite some variations the film adaptation, however has maintained its fidelity towards the novel while remaining a distinct creative work of art.

Contents

	Page No.
I. <i>Lolita</i> as Novel and Film	1
II. From Novel to Film: Art of Film Adaptation	8
A Brief Genesis of Film and Novel	8
Film and Novel as Distinct Art Forms	11
Language and Semiotics of Film	15
The Bond Between Film and Novel	18
Art of Film Adaptation	20
Film as Hybrid and Corporate Art	26
III. <i>Lolita</i> : From Narrative to Audio-Visual	29
The Film Adaption	29
The Creativity in Film Adaption	49
IV. Conclusion	52
Works Cited	55