

Tribhuvan University

Representation of Females in O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Desire*  
*under the Elms*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, T. U  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Arts in English

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Usha Bhandari has completed her thesis entitled "Representation of Females in O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Desire under the Elms*" under my supervision. She worked on this thesis from June 2013 to December 2013. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for *viva-voce*.

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**Central Department of English**

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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “Representation of Females in O’Neill’s *Long Day’s Journey into Night* and *Desire under the Elms*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Usha Bhandari in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts. in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Abstract

This research explores an ambivalent attitude of the American dramatist, Eugene O'Neill towards females in his plays, *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Desire under the Elms* from the perspective of critical feminism. O'Neill represents woman as an angel or goddess as well as a witch, devil or fallen woman because of the influence of the Swedish playwright August Strindberg and the German theorist Friedrich Nietzsche. So, he hates females or expresses negative attitude towards them. However, he respects them as goddess or angels because of his own life experience and nature. In the play *Long Day's Journey into Night*, O'Neill presents Mary as a goddess mother and in *Desire under the Elms* too, the two Elm trees are represented as the spirit of Eben's mother and his step-mother but he represents Abbie as a prostitute, whore, devil or fallen woman. Thus, O'Neill's attitude towards females is divided, therefore, he shows dual nature towards females. So, he expresses love as well as hatred towards females in his plays, *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Desire under the Elms*.

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