

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Ego as the Predator in Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*

**A Thesis submitted to the faculty of Humanities and social Sciences
Central Department of English In the partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. San Bahadur Limbu has completed his thesis entitled "Ego as the Predator in Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from March 2013 to June 2014. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voice.

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Latter of Approval

This Thesis entitled “Ego as the Predator in Ibsen’s *The Wild Duck*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by San Bahadur Limbu has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

The present research is a study of victimization of the characters at the hands of ego through the lens of problem play in Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*. Socio-cultural and natural factors lead them to be egoists in the society, where premarital and extramarital relations are avoided. In such society, characters are condemned to follow the particular socio-cultural rules and regulations. So characters are the egoist not because of themselves but because of the socio-cultural and the natural factors force them to be egoists. Hjalmar Ekdal's family was running harmoniously but when Gregers exposes the past affair of Gina with Hakon, Hjalmar thinks that he loses his social respect marrying some one's mistress and to protect the social respect he decides to break the relationship with Gina and leaves home. His daughter Hedvig is innocent about all incidents happening in the family and only she thinks that her daddy hates her, whom she loves very much. Because of the humiliation she commits suicide for the sake of her father's love. When Hjalmar knew that she died for the sake of his love he regrets about his decision and suffers very much. In this manner, characters became puppets of their own egos constructed by the socio-cultural factors they live with, which is the reality of the society Ibsen presented in the present drama.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Victimization of characters in <i>The Wild Duck</i>	1-10
II. <i>The Wild Duck</i> as a Problem Play	11-43
III. Ego as a Predator	44-46

Works Cited