

Tribhuvan University

Social Darwinism in Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*

**A Thesis Submitted to the 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

Ms. Resha Maharjan has completed her thesis entitled “Social Darwinism in Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from July 2006 to July 2009. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Social Darwinism in Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*”, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ms. Resha Maharjan, has been approved by the undersigned members of the thesis committee.

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Abstract

This dissertation basically makes a study of Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* with the concept of Social Darwinism. All beings in this world have to face the challenge of Nature at every step. The one who succeeds can survive and others must extinct. Apart from Nature, human beings are chained with the rules and regulations of society which never allow one to step forward. The forces like fate, destiny, chance and coincidence always pull them down. Tragic consequences that the protagonist of this novel confronts, is the result of Nature and other social forces. The protagonist of *Jude the Obscure* is victimized by his fate. He is destined to be doomed. The main character of this novel, Jude dies at last as he could not fight against these forces. Whereas, the other characters survive as they are able to change themselves according to the Nature. So, here the researcher has explored the truth of life with the help of Social Darwinism. It is an attempt to show the other side of Nature, which is cruel. At the same time it is an effort to throw light upon the relation between the tiny human being and vast Nature.

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