

**Tribhuvan University**

**Ambivalent Attitude towards Women in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the**

**Degree of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**Recommendation Letter**

Saraswoti Paudel has completed her thesis entitled “Ambivalent Attitude towards Women in Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*” under my supervision. She conducted her research from July 2015 to February 2016. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for Viva Voce.

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Ambivalent Attitude towards Women in Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mrs. Saraswoti Paudel has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Abstract

This research analyzes Tolkien's ambivalent attitude towards women in the novel *The Lord of the Rings*. The main objective of this paper is to expose Tolkien's attitude towards women who are sometimes represented to be supportive to the social norms and values of the time while at the same time other few women are critical of the same values. Tolkien's major works have been criticized by the ideas of Feminist Critique, who challenges the notion of gender and constructs the female framework. They argue for the lack of stereotypical nature of those females in the novel. Even though Tolkien does not portray clearly the character of females in reality, female characters like Luthien, Galadriel, Arwen, Eowyn and Shelob are good examples of strong females. They are important due to their courageous activities and personal sacrifices in Middle Earth. So, in Tolkien's world, it is clear that power goes to those who sacrifice for good, like Galadriel, fights against Dark Lord Sauron for peace and prosperity of people in Middle Earth. Tolkien's own personal background is related to women, who perform the qualities of spiritual and physical power, self-determination and wisdom. But the fact is that he links feminine characters with masculine traits. However, he makes clear that only by coordinating both 'feminine and masculine' qualities can make one strong individual.

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