

**Tribhuvan University  
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus**

**A Comparative Study of Life Force in Shaw's Selected Characters Ann Whitefield  
and Eliza Doolittle**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, in partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of  
Masters of Arts in English**

**By  
Hari Prasad Shiwakoti  
Roll No. 31  
Tribhuvan University  
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus  
October 2009**

### **Approval Letter**

This thesis, entitled, “A Comparative study of Life Force in Shaw’s selected characters Ann Whitefield and Eliza Doolittle” submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, by Hari Prasad Shiwakoti, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Thesis Committee.

---

Mr. Kundan Sharma (Mishra]

Supervisor

---

External Examiner

---

Mr. Rudra Paudel

Head, Department of English

Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus,

Kathmandu

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Acknowledgements**

First of all, I would like to express my profound gratitude to my thesis Guide Mr. Kundan Sharma for his invaluable guidance and assistance that he has provided me even at the cost of his convenience. If I am bound to tell the truth, this work would never have indebtedness to my teacher Dr. Anand Sharma for the help he provided.

Yet, no less I am indebted to my teacher Mr. Rudra Paudel, Head of Department of English for the situation he provided.

I would like to extend thankfulness to my friends Surendra Karik, Matrika Poudel, Basanta Wagle, Annapurna Sharma who helped me in everyway possible while I was preparing this thesis. Similarly I am whole heartedly credited to my brother Narayan Prasad Shiwakoti, my parents, sister and sister in law for their consistent encouragement to complete this research earlier.

Hari Prasad Shiwakoti

2009

## **Abstract**

George Bernard Shaw's plays *Pygmalion* and *Man and Superman* represent the superiority of two female characters Eliza Doolittle and Ann Whitefield over their male counterparts. Eliza and Ann are able to exhibit their supremacy by choosing the male partners of their choice in spite of the adverse situation. The life force present in these makes the intellectuals like John Tanner and Professor Higgins take refuge in the asylum of their strength. The playwright, doubtless, has tried to offer some of the bold images of the women to counterbalance the traditional superiority of men and these attempts keep important meaning since Ann is able to shun the desperate Octavius and pull Tanner for better mating while Eliza hurls slipper at her own teacher and gets accompanied with Freddy Hill.

This research paper aims to reveal the notion of the playwright that women always have greater roles in better evolutionary process and the males are just tools in this process. Shaw has presented the race of life force in both the plays and has also shown that the characters with more powerful life force have defeated the rest. The will power and self-determination, the by-products of life force, are such virtues through which the women can lead the world any time they wish.

## Contents

Approval Letter	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
Contents	<b>Page no.</b>
<b>Chapter One: Introduction</b>	<b>1-8</b>
1.1 Life and works of Shaw	1
1.2 Shaw's concept of life force	2
1.3 Shaw's concept of superman	6
<b>Chapter Two: Feminism</b>	<b>9-22</b>
2.1 Feminist perspective	9
2.2 Schools of feminism	12
2.2.1 British school of feminism	12
2.2.2 American school of feminism	13
2.2.3 French school of feminism	14
2.3 Shaw's concept of women characters	16
<b>Chapter Three: Reversal of Role Relation in Shaw's Selected Characters</b>	<b>23-45</b>
3.1 Supremacy of female over male	23
3.2 Supremacy of Eliza Doolittle	24
3.3 Supremacy of Ann Whitefield	31
3.4 Effect of life force on Eliza Doolittle and Ann Whitefield	40
3.5 Relationship between life force and superman	44
<b>Chapter Four: Conclusion</b>	<b>47-48</b>
Life force: The cause of female supremacy	47
<b>Works Cited</b>	<b>49-50</b>