

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Conflict between Desire and Responsibility in

John Updike's *Rabbit, Run*

A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, for partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This dissertation entitled “Conflict between Desire and Responsibility in John Updike’s *Rabbit, Run*” has been prepared by Punya Prasad Bhattarai under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in English. I recommend this study to the research committee for approval.

Date: _____

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This thesis titled “Conflict between Desire and Responsibility” in John Updike’s *Rabbit, Run*, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Punya Prasad Bhattarai has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:

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Abstract

This research makes an intensive study of John Updike's *Rabbit, Run*. This novel shows the conflict between Desire and Responsibility of Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, the protagonist. Rabbit, driven by instincts and impulses, gives too much importance to self-interest, neglecting the responsibilities to others. Rabbit goes to a prostitute, Ruth, for sexual gratification because he has grown disgusted with his wife, Janice, who is pregnant, alcoholic and smoker. Rabbit, who had the glorious past in his school days, now, leads a monotonous life. Rabbit runs away to avoid the monotonous life and revive the glorious past.