

Tribhuvan University

Critique of American Dream in Franzen's *The Corrections*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Masters of Arts in English

Ganesh Datt Joshi

Exam Roll No. 521

T.U Regd. No: 6-2-329-23-2010

Central Department of English

Kirtipur Kathmandu

March, 2018

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “*Critique of American Dream in Franzen’s The Corrections*”
submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ganesh Datt Joshi
has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my special appreciation and thanks to my supervisor Mr. Laxman Bhatta, who has been a tremendous mentor for me. I would like to thank him for encouraging my research and for allowing me to grow as a scholar. Your advice on research, writing as well as on my career has been invaluable. I would also like to thank to Prof. Dr Amma Raj Joshi, head of the Central Department of English, for granting me a chance to carry out this research. I would also like to thank Prof. Dr Rebatineupane, Prof. Dr Anirudra Thapa and Prof. Dr Krishna Chandra Sharma for brilliant suggestions and ideas. I would specially like to thank all the faculty staffs with special mention to Prof. Dr Baikuntha Poudel, Dr Shiv Rijal, Mr. Shankar Subedi, Badri Acharya for constant inspiration.

I am deeply indebted to my parents: Janaki Devi Joshi and Ratan Datt Joshi for their inspiration. I am also thankful to my elder sisters Bimala Joshi and Kamala Joshi and elder brother Om Prakash Joshi because they helped me.

I would also like to thank my friends and well wishers who supported me in writing and have inspired me towards my goals.

Ganesh Datt Joshi.

Abstract

This thesis explores the issue of the Failure of American Dream in Jonathan Franzen's The Corrections as represented by the central character, Al Lambart in particular and other characters in general. Circling around the longing of Al Lambart for better life and prosperity the study exposes how he becomes tragic figure reckoning into nothingness and hollowness of American Dream. Deploying theoretical insights related to capitalistic ideology and American Dream, the study reveals how individuals intoxicated by the passion of material prosperity happen to face sever anxiety, alienation, fragmentation, and decay of family values.

Keywords: Materialism, Individuality, Liberalism, Spirituality, Dysfunctional.