

**Tribhuvan University**

Finding Happiness against Meaninglessness in Murdoch's *Under the Net*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central Department of  
English, Kirtipur, Kathmandu in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in English

by

Bimod Pandit

Roll No: 282366/067

TU Regd. No: 6-1-40-147-2003

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

March 2021

## Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled, “Finding Happiness against Meaninglessness in Murdoch's *Under the Net*” is my original work carried out as a Master's student at the Central Department of English except to the extent that assistance from others in presentation style, and linguistic expression are duly acknowledged.

All sources used for the thesis have been fully and properly cited. It contains no material which led to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree at Tribhuvan University or any other educational institution, except where due acknowledgement made in the thesis.

---

Bimod Pandit

March 2021

Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of English  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Bimod Pandit has completed his thesis entitled, “Finding Happiness against Meaninglessness in Murdoch's *Under the Net*” under my supervision. He carried his research from August 2020 to February 2021. I, hereby, recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

---

Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma

Supervisor

Date: 2021-02-07

Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of English  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

This Thesis entitled “Finding Happiness against Meaninglessness in *Under the Net*”  
submitted to the Central Department of English, Kirtipur, Kathmandu by Bimod  
Pandit, has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

.....  
Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma  
Supervisor

.....  
Pradip Raj Giri  
External Examiner

.....  
Prof. Jib Lal Sapkota, PhD  
Head, Department of English

Date:.....

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, for his invaluable guidance. This thesis would not have been in this form, without his continuous encouragement.

My sincere gratitude goes to Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota, Head of Central Department of English, for facilitating me to complete this thesis in time, in spite of my limitations. I am thankful to all other professors and lecturers of the Central Department of English for their kind and caring academic support.

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents for their support and inspiration. I am equally grateful to my family members for their continuous help.

March 2021

Bimod Pandit

## **Abstract**

The research is about the feeling of absurdity by the characters in Irish Murdoch's *Under the Net*. The study revolves around the experiences of the main characters like Jake, the narrator, his friend Finn, Madge, Sadie and so on. In contrast to their previous thought, the narrator and his friend find the people selfish. In the beginning, they take her treatment to them as difficulty and feel disappointed. Later on, such bad experiences become foundation for them to perceive the world differently. The author's personal childhood experiences play great role to shape the characters. In fact, the characters represent the author's struggle to be a successful writer.

The narrator of the novel gradually perceives the world in subjective way. He undergoes lots of adventures in his life. His illusion of thinking his friends and relatives to be his lifelong companions is broken when the narrator along with his friend is thrown out of the rental house by Madge. He takes it as threat in the beginning but later it becomes opportunity to understand the world in his own ways. The feeling of absurdity comes from his loneliness and ends with a great lesson at the end. The narrator makes his feeling of absurdity as a weapon to fight against adversity. In short, he does not surrender to the situation but moves forward with his mustered power. Hence, the researcher's hypothesis of taking absurdity as a way of becoming assertive and adventurous.

## Table of Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Declaration  | ii  |
| Letter of Recommendation                                       | iii |
| Letter of Approval   | iv  |
| Acknowledgment   | v   |
| Abstract   | vi  |
| I. Introducing to Murdoch's <i>Under The Net</i> and Absurdity | 1   |
| II. Finding Happiness against Meaninglessness                  | 7   |
| III. Conclusion: Absurdity beyond the Threat                   | 32  |
| Works Cited  | 35  |