

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Indeterminacy of Gender Identity in Arnold Wesker's *Chicken Soup with
Barley* and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

A Thesis

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By

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Ganesh Raj Timilsina, a student of academic year 2067 with Exam Roll No. 480292, Campus Roll No. 19/067 and T.U. Registration No. 6-2-48-2600-2007 has completed the thesis entitled “Indeterminacy of Gender Identity in Arnold Wesker's *Chicken Soup with Barley* and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*” under my supervision in accordance with the rules and regulations specified by the Department of English. I hereby forward it to the Research Committee of the Department for the final evaluation.

.....

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled “Indeterminacy of Gender Identity in Arnold Wesker's *Chicken Soup with Barley* and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Ganesh Raj Timlsina has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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Abstract

There exist distinct gender roles of male and female in every corner of human society which is considered to be natural truth, and which has been internalized and legitimized in every human mind. This has been consistently practiced since centuries until now. Evidences of this have been supplied in the study. With theoretical support of Derrida's deconstructionist theory of language and his idea of subversion of binaries offered in his writing, this study attempts to analyze the two texts: Arnold Wesker's *Chicken Soup With Barley* and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, subverting the rigid gender role and identity practiced in human society. The study demonstrates abundant evidences of subverted gender identity in the texts. It concludes with the redefinition of gender identity in new paradigm as unstable, fleeting and indeterminate, in the light of Derridian deconstructionist theory of language and his idea of dangerous supplementarity of language.