

**Tribhuvan University**

Human Loneliness in Hardy's *The Woodlanders*

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in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of  
Master of Arts in English

by

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This thesis entitled “Human Loneliness in Hardy’s *The Woodlanders*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Yogendra Prasad Gartaula has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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## Abstract

This thesis presents naturalistic reading of the novel *The Woodlanders*. The central story is the struggle between the characters and their milieu. It attempts to expose how the principal characters are involved in the struggle for existence and how does the weak variations meet extinction after failing to adjust themselves to the changing conditions of life.

*The Woodlanders* contains some of Hardy's finest writing. In a moving tale that has vibrant characters, many humorous moments and genuine pathos alongside tragic irony, Hardy eschews a happy ending. With characteristic derision, Hardy exposes the cruel indifference of the archaic system of his day, and shows the tragic consequence of untimely adherence to futile social and religious properties.

In nature, much more individuals are born than can possibly survive. All are involved in the struggle. The deformity in their own nature and accident bring catastrophe in the characters' lives. The fittest must live and the weaker must die.

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