

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Failure of American Dream in *The Winter of Our Discontent***

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

**By**

**Gaurab Adhikari**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**September, 2010**



**Tribhuvan University**

**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Recommendation**

This is to recommend that Mr. Gaurab Adhikari has completed his thesis entitled **Failure of American Dream in *The Winter of Our Discontent*** under my supervision. He carried his research out from September 2009 to September 2010. Therefore, I here by recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

---

Mr. Deepak Giri

Asst. Lecturer

Central Department of English

Date: .....

**Tribhuvan University**

**Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled **Failure of American Dream in *The Winter of Our Discontent*** submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Gaurab Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

**Members of Research Committee**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Deepak Giri

(Internal Examiner)

\_\_\_\_\_

(.....)

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

Head

Central Department of English, T.U.

## **Acknowledgements**

I owe so many debts and gratitude, both intellectual and personal, to many people who have contributed in this research endeavour. I would like to acknowledge all individuals for their generous help and support. Without their contribution, this thesis could not have been successfully brought out in this form.

Indeed, I am tremendously indebted to my supervisor, Mr. Deepak Giri, Asst. Lecturer, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University for his comments, advice, criticism, guidance and encouragement throughout the writing period.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for his motivation. Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude to, Mr. Saroj Ghimire, and all the staffs of English Department who helped me in different ways to complete the present research. I am grateful to American Library, Central Library of Tribhuvan University, and Library of English Department for the valuable materials of my research.

I am eternally grateful to my friends Abinash, Bashu, Binod, Madhu, Ramesh, Sanjeeb, for their invaluable assistance, encouragement, and suggestions with true spirit of friendship during my life.

Love and affection of my family, my parents Ram Nath Adhikari and Shanta Adhikari, sister Pragya Adhikari and brother Subhas Adhikari always inspired and encouraged me to move along on the way of life with confidence and positive attitude. I am ceaselessly grateful to their precious love and support in and every step of my life. I owe all my success to them.

## **Abstract**

*The Winter of Our Discontent* is the novel which unfolds the story of Ethan, an American representative who reveals the plight of America. America is not only getting material success in an electronic motion but also losing its moral value at the same rate. Life, Liberty and Pursuit of happiness are the main motto of American dream as suggested by Thomas Jefferson. They believe in individuality, toil, industrial progress and high tech life. As soon as their material progresses are happening, at the same time their social life is defiled by the same material components. Suicide, murder, robbery, treachery are at the same time, the mottos of American dream. These are the by product of the American progress. In the American materialism money becomes the life blood of their success. Monetary economy no more becomes its integral part but also defile their societal life. The last attempt of suicide by Ethan is the symbol of dying American Dream.

## Contents

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. American Dream and its Discontents	1
II. Marxism and American Dream	10
III. Failure of American Dream in <i>The Winter of Our Discontent</i>	31
IV. Conclusion	52
Works Cited	