

Tribhuvan University

Dehierarchization of Duality in Chekhov's Uncle Vanya

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the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University,
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Vanya*" has been approved by under signed members of the thesis evaluation committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Purna Chandra Bhattarai has completed his thesis entitled "Dehierarchization of Duality in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2066-08-24 to 2066-11-10 I here by recommend his thesis to be submitted for Viva Voice.

Jiva Nath Lamsal

This thesis is dedicated to

My Parents

Thakur Chandra 'Premi' Bhattacharai

&

Rukmina Devi Bhattacharai

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Abstract

Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* has been generally interpreted as an absurd play with bleak view of life. Critics of different schools and times analyze Chekhov's vision in *Uncle Vanya* from different perspectives. Some analyze it as an optimistic play and others as a pessimistic play. In this way they created the hierarchy in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. This thesis however, tries to explore the issue of dehierarchization of duality rather than simply the optimism/pessimism or tragic/comic dualisms. The theme of *Uncle Vanya* is not just frustration but also courage and hope. Life is not tragic or comic only. *Uncle Vanya* depicts the characters and events which face both optimistic and pessimistic situations. Chekhov in *Uncle Vanya* accepted the 'both/and' approach to life and depicted it with all of its inherent contradictions. Thus, the characters tragic- comic experience dehierarchizes any type of polarized readings.

Purna Chandra Bhattacharai

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