

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Assertion of Self: A Feminist Study of Margaret Edson's *Wit***

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Department of English, the Faculty of Humanities and Social  
Sciences, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, in the Partial Fulfillment of  
Requirement for the  
Degree of Masters of Arts in English**

**By**

**Ram Kumar Basnet**

**Roll No.: 45 (2063/64)**

**December, 2010**

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Letter of Approval**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Assertion of Self: A Feminist Study of Margaret Edson’s *Wit*”, submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus by Ram Kumar Basnet, has been approved by the research committee.

**Members of the research Committee**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Kamal Pd. Thoklihang

Supervisor

---

External Examiner

---

Rudra Pd. Poudel

Head of the Department of English

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Acknowledgement**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Mr Kamal Thoklihang for his scholarly counseling, candid suggestions, essential materials and fruitful incitement. Any attempt to verbalize my gratitude to him is bound to be inadequate. The ambition of this research would have never come true had there been not his indispensable comments.

I owe my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Rudra Poudel, Head of the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, for the approval of this dissertation in its present form. I am equally indebted to all the honourable members of the Department of the English for their direct and indirect help for the being of this dissertation.

My special thanks go to my parents who helped me to reach this stage. I would also like to extend my thanks to my brothers Gopal, Bishnu and Basanta and sisters Sapana and Bipana for their help in different manners. I am also thankful to my friends Buddhi Raj Sharma, Dinesh Koirala, Balram Poudel and Usha Dahal for their useful suggestions and help during my research. And finally, I thank Suman Kandel ( Suman Computer Solutions) for his invaluable time to type this thesis.

**Ram Kumar Basnet**

December, 2010

## Table of Contents

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-10</b>
Edson and Her Texts	1
Major Dramatic Works	2
Radical Feminism	8
<b>CHAPTER II: AN OVERVIEW OF FEMINISM</b>	<b>11-30</b>
Feminism	11
Kinds of Feminism	13
Liberal Feminism	13
Socialist Feminism	14
Marxist Feminism	14
Radical Feminism	14
Radical Feminism in <i>Wit</i>	29
<b>CHAPTER III: APPLICATION OF FEMINISM IN <i>WIT</i></b>	<b>31-47</b>
Texture of Asserted Feminity: Feminist Reading of Edson's <i>Wit</i>	31
Synopsis of the Plot	31
Nexus between Text and Theory	32
Female Suppression in <i>Wit</i>	34
Vivian Bearing as an Assertive Character	40
Subversion of Traditional Gender Roles	44
<b>CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION</b>	<b>48-50</b>
<b>WORKS CITED</b>	<b>51-53</b>