

Tribhuvan University

**Marriage as a Window into Victorian Morality: A Study of Oscar Wilde's *Lady
Windermere's Fan***

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of English for Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the
Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

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Tribhuvan University
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Recommendation Letter

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Marriage as a window into Victorian morality: A study of Oscar Wilde’s *Lady Windermere’s Fan***” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Dipganesh Wagle has been approved by the research committee.

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Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **Marriage as a window into Victorian morality: A study of Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Dipganesh Wagle has been approved by the research committee.

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Abstract

This study on Oscar Wilde's play *Lady Windermere's Fan* unfolds the notion of morality in Victorian people. In exploring morality the playwright examines the system of marriage and other social pretensions of the then society. In the play most of the characters are engaged in extramarital affairs but at the same time they regard themselves as the most virtuous generations of the history. This suggests the ironic lives of Victorian people and their internal corruptions. Outwardly, marriage is a window to see the social life so it is hard to break, at the same time most of the characters lack faithfulness in marital relation. Besides mercenary hunting and social prestige, males marry for his physical needs and female for social security. Exploring these tendencies of the characters as the representative traits, the playwright makes the Victorian society visible to the world.

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