

Tribhuvan University

Political Irony in Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians* and *Age of Iron*

A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University,
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
M. Phil. in English

By

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September 2015

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Letter of Recommendation

Tika Ram Sapkota has completed his dissertation entitled "Political Irony in Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians* and *Age of Iron*" under my supervision. He carried out this research from July 2014 to September 2015. I hereby recommend the thesis to be submitted for *viva-voice*.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled "Political Irony in Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians* and *Age of Iron*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Tika Ram Sapkota, has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my special gratitude to the Center Department of English of Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu for giving me an opportunity to promote my academic career, providing friendly and intellectual atmosphere and kindling the enthusiasm to internalize the significance of practical based academic practices. I would like to thank University Grants Commission, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur for encouraging me with partial financial support to complete my study. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey, the professor of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, whose insightful guidance, constructive and creative feedback, constant encouragement, support in referring and providing invaluable reference materials have made me possible to move forward and reach the destination of my academic research.

I am highly grateful to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English who facilitated us with his insightful lectures in the M. Phil. class and constantly supported me in the process of completing this research work to accomplish my academic career. I would like to express my deep gratitude to Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, the coordinator of M. Phil. Program in English, Tribhuvan University for his scholarly and invaluable inspirational guidance in M. Phil. class, instructing to accept and face the challenges in contemporary academia and his constant encouragement to complete this thesis.

I am pleased to acknowledge the other teaching faculties of this academic degree: Prof. Dr. Abi Narayan Subedi, Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Uppreti, Prof. Dr. Cheng Lok Chua, Prof. Dr. Ram Chandra Paudel, Dr. Shiva Rijal who helped me with their advanced academic performance during the academic sessions of M. Phil. degree and their direct or indirect guidance in the

completion of this research. I would like to express my gratitude to other respected professors of the Central Department of English, Prof. Dr. Rebatu Neupane, Prof. Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Taralal Shrestha, Prof. Jiblal Sapkota, Dr. Dhurba Karki for their encouragements to precede the job.

I am pleased to thank respected lecturers of the Central Department of English Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya, Mr. Shankar Subedi, Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa and others for their encouragements. I must thank all the staff of the Central Department of English for their on time service while carrying out this research. Similarly, I am indebted to my respected parents, Rishiram Sapkota and Manakala Sapkota who constantly pushed me ahead to complete the task by frequently asking me about the progress. I express gratitude to Management Committee of Myagdi Multiple Campus for providing me the in-service study leave for further study and all the colleagues for their positive feedback. I express my special thanks to Mr. Shyam Prasad Sharma for supporting me with some relevant materials and guiding me in structuring the format of the thesis. I would like to remember my dear brothers, Bishnunath Sapkota and Chandradatta Sapkota for their encouragement and concern about my study.

I offer my special thanks to my dearest daughter, Surakshya Sapkota, with Down's syndrome, for her patience in observing my work and helping me with managing immediate needs like water, lunch and other materials while I am working. My dearest son, Saphal Sapkota is pretty much thankful for his continual pressure to finish the work and hold the degree as soon as possible. Finally, I offer my gratefulness to my life partner Indra Sharma Sapkota for inspiring me to engage in further study and her continual support and encouragement without which it would be difficult to turn this project into reality.

September, 2015

Tika Ram Sapkota

Abstract

This dissertation has studied the use of irony in Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians* and *Age of Iron*. Irony, in these novels, is directed at exploring the dehumanizing tendencies of colonial apartheid South Africa during the entire period of 1970s and 80s. The dissertation argues that the use of irony is political in nature. It submits that Coetzee's politics of irony is targeted at attacking such dehumanizing, exploiting tendencies of apartheid regime from the perspective of the marginalized victims. This conclusion has been reached by analyzing the above-said novels in terms of Linda Hutcheon's theory of the politics of irony specified in her book, *Irony's Edge*. By foregrounding the plight and predicament of South African blacks, Coetzee attempts to criticize the torture, violence and injustice emphasizing on the need of transforming people's gauge to see human beings with humanistic eye. This project shows the politics of irony in *Waiting for the Barbarians*, by evaluating the white colonial agent, the narrator, as the supporter of the subalterns. And the politics of irony in *Age of Iron* plays powerful role in cynically criticizing the torture, callousness, and brutality of apartheid South Africa, advocating the human rights of the marginalized blacks, waiting for rights, respects, equality and inclusion.

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