

Tribhuvan University

Politics of Irony in Edward Albee's *The American Dream*

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By

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Smriti Pradhan has completed this thesis entitled “Politics of Irony in Edward Albee’s *The American Dream*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from February 2018 to August 2018. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voice.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Politics of Irony in Edward Albee’s *The American Dream*” submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Smirti Pradhan has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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Abstract

This research paper is a study of irony and its politics in Edward Albee's play The American Dream. In the play, Albee stages an American middle-class family in which there is no love among its members and everything is calculated on the basis of interest of other members. The use of common names in the characters, Daddy, Mommy and Grandma takes the irony to universal dimension. The irony transcends historical mystification and the play becomes general predicament of modern families. The emasculate character of Daddy and dominating character Mommy give raise to number of situational ironies and masculinity and the myth of American Dream are ironized in the play. The use of corrective measure of irony to lead the human society along the right course becomes the politics of irony in the play. To show this politics, this paper uses the theories of irony formulated by Paul de Man, Linda Hutcheon and Claire Colebrook.

Key Words:

Situational irony, Dramatic irony, Allegory, American Dream, Rhetoric, Temporality