

Tribhuvan University

Traumatic Experience in Shepard's *States of Shock*

A Thesis Submitted to

Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Bharat Gurung

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

April, 2013

ii

## **Acknowledgements**

I express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Shiva Rijal, Central Department of English, for being generous in offering corrections, criticisms and hopeful suggestions in bringing this work to completion. Without his scholarly guidance and encouragement, it would not have been possible to complete this research. I have been encouraged by his continuing assistance and invaluable inspiration till the completion of this thesis.

I would extend my sincere gratitude to the Head of the Department Dr Amma Raj Jhoshi for his worthy suggestions and helpful behavior in providing me the source materials. I am indebted to all the respected teachers of Central Department of English, T.U. for providing me their suggestions in completion of research proposal, and grateful to Ramesh Acharya for his corrections and unforgettable help during my academic period.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all my well-wishers, my family, relatives, and friends for their tireless efforts who had helped directly and indirectly for the success of my academic career, for being helpful in urging me with kind assistance and companion all the time and in every way for this success. At last, I am thankful to Durga Dutta Adhikari and Kirtipur Photocopy Centre, Kirtipur for his fine typing, printing and cooperative behavior.

Date: April, 2013.

**Abstract**

This present dissertation on *States of Shock* by Sam Shepard attempts to show the traumatic vision through the means of war wounded hero, Colonel, and his son, Stubbs, and exploring the mystery of the Father-Son gothic relationship that is especially significant. Both father and son i.e. Colonel and Stubbs are haunted by the terrible war memories which are reflected in the restaurants. Through the whole play, the characters are motivated by the shady, bitter and horrible past memories which not only block their attempt to forget it but also haunt their present sound livelihood. In fact, here in the play, physical and psychological sufferings of the characters are deteriorated due to the emasculated paralyzed and traumatic experience of the Persian Gulf War.

## Contents

	Page No.
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Contents	v
Chapter I: Introduction: Life and Works of Sam Shepard	1-10
Chapter II: Reading Trauma Theory	11-24
Chapter III: Traumatic Experience in Shepard's <i>States of Shock</i>	25-41
Chapter IV: Conclusion	42-43
Works Cited	