

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Critique of Mass Media and Patriarchal Ideology in Anita Shreve's

The Pilot's Wife

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Shobita Bantawa

University Campus

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

December 2012

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

Letter of Recommendation

Miss Shobita Bantawa has completed her thesis on “Critique of Mass Media and Patriarchal Ideology” in Anita Shreve’s *The Pilot’s Wife* under my supervision. She carried out her research from October 2010 to December 2012. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

Pam Bahadur Gurung
Supervisor

Date: 2012

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Critique of Mass Media and Patriarchal Ideology in Anita Shreve’s *The Pilot’s Wife*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Miss Shobita Bantawa has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of Department

Date:

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to enunciate my heartiest gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Pam Bahadur Gurung for his scholarly guidance, perennial support, and perpetual advice, which enabled me to complete the research. It is indeed his insightful and meticulous supervision that permits me to present this work whereby I am proud to have done under his guidance.

I am truly grateful to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English, for granting me the opportunity to carry out this research work. And I am equally grateful to all my respected lecturers of Central Department of English, who implicitly and explicitly guided me in my pursuit. And I thank for their kind co-operation and valuable suggestions to conduct this research.

At the same time I am much indebted to my respected parents Mr. Surya Bantawa and Mrs Shanti Rai who helped me financially and morally until now. And my siblings are back supporter too in different ways so my love always and remembrance ever to you dear bro- sis. I also thank my in-laws and my other relative members and my cousins Binod Rai, Bishal Rai, Kanchan Rai, Bidhan Rai, T.P Prasai, sis-in-law Nisha for helping me on my stay here creating sound environment.

My sincere thanks goes to my friends- Dipak, Bindu, Jharana, Buddhi, Krishna, Puspa, Sabita, Sharmila, Niraj, for providing me goodwill and cozy atmosphere to complete this research. Credit also goes to my spouse Piyush Rai who co-operated me during my obstacles and venture to undergo this research.

December 2012

Shobita Bantawa

Abstract

This research is a study of Anita Shreve's *The Pilot's Wife* to examine the ideological functioning of the mass media and the critique of patriarchy. The novel depicts a plane crash and death of many passengers including its pilot Jack and its aftermaths. Kathryn, the wife of dead pilot, and her fifteen years old daughter Mattie do not believe in the media reports that term Jack as the responsible one for the crash. They are assaulted by media from everywhere and are more traumatized than the news of Jack's death itself. Their social identity is ruined as they are regarded as the family of a murderer because the media had spread the rumor that Jack had taken an explosive bomb for the crash due to his suicidal purpose. This leads Kathryn to study about her husband that leads her to the discovery that his husband had hidden the fact that he had kept another wife beside her in London.

Contents

Letter of Recommendation

Letter of Approval

Acknowledgements

Abstract

- | | | |
|------|---|-------|
| I. | Role of Mass Media in Circulating Patriarchal Ideology | 1-12 |
| II. | Critique of Mass Media and Patriarchal Ideology in Shreve's Novel <i>The Pilot's Wife</i> | 13-37 |
| III. | The Media Culture and Patriarchy at the Core of <i>The Pilot's Wife</i> | 38-39 |

Works Cited