

Tribhuvan University

Determinism in Audrey Neffenegger's *The Time Traveler'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

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Babu Ram Bhattarai has completed his dissertation entitled "**Determinism in Audrey Niffenegger's *The time Travelers Wife***" under my guidance. I recommend this thesis to be submitted to the Research Committee for final examination of viva voice.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “**Determinism in Audrey Niffenegger’s *The Time Traveler’s Wife***”
Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Babu Ram
Bhattarai has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research presents the Darwinian readings of Audrey Niffenegger's novel *The Time Traveler's Wife*. The core of the story revolves around two protagonists: Henry DeTemple and Clare Abshire, who struggle for the existence. Therefore, this thesis tries to explore how the characters are involved in struggle for existence and how the weak variations affect them to meet extinction after failing to adjust to the changing environment. The study also attempts to analyze the impact of heredity and environment upon characters and their way of life. In the novel, Henry suffers from hereditary disease called Chrono-Disorder, which he genetically inherited from his father. The disease leaves such a great impact in his life that many times he loses control over his life. On the other hand, Clare Abshire tries to commit suicide out of despair, frustration and hopelessness emerged from her problem of miscarriage for six times. The suicidal act of Clare suggests that adaptation and existence go together. People who can cope with circumstance can easily survive and those who are unable extinct like Henry. This is the truth of Darwinism. Clare's brother shoots him and he dies in the arm of Clare. Finally, Clare and Alba are saved and the root is preserved from extinction. Thus, the researcher has applied the tool of Darwinism to analyze and prove the impact of heredity and environment upon characters and their way of life.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page No
Letter of Recommendation	
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. Issue of Determinism	1-5
II. Issue of Struggle and Existence	6-20
III. Survival of the Fittest	21-44
IV. Environment and Adaptation	45-47
Work Cited	