

Tribhuvan University

Antagonism between Individual and Society: A Study on George
Eliot's *Silas Marner*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in the Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement of the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By
Narayan Prasad Sapkota

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

June 2014

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Antagonism between Individual and Society: A Study of George Eliot’s *Silas Marner*,” has been carried out under my supervision. He carried out this research from June, 2013 to June 29, 2014. I hereby recommend this research for *viva voce*.

Raj Kumar Baral

Supervisor

Central Department of English

Date:

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Antagonism between Individual and Society: A Study on George Eliot’s *Silas Marner*,” submitted to the Central Department of English by Narayan Prasad Sapkota has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Research Committee members:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Acknowledgements

I am highly indebted to my respected supervisor Raj Kumar Baral, Central Department of English for his valuable instructions, constant supervision, and intellectual guidance which have become the greatest assistance in the course of completion of this thesis. This research would not have been possible without the continuous encouragement and assistance from him.

At the same time, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, the Head of the Central Department of English for granting me such an opportunity to carry out this research. Similarly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the faculties of the English Department for their invaluable suggestions and help.

Similarly, I also would like to express my thanks to my friends and colleagues for their moral and academic help during the completion of this research.

June 2014

Narayan Prasad Sapkota

Abstract

George Eliot's *Silas Marner* is a tale of an individual versus society during the value laden Victorian era. It was an era when there were extensive intrigues among personal values over the notion of industrialization. In the background, Silas Marner, the central protagonist, is a noble person whose integrity is challenged when he is falsely accused of stealing. Silas is swayed from his notion to life, and restores to isolation in a self imposed exile. Thus, Silas starts the journey of finding meaning in life among the antagonistic forces that wants to betray him of his genuine sincerity. However, life always has something is store, as Silas finds meaning in life in the form of Eppie, an orphan girl in whom he finds rejuvenated energy to struggle against declining values amid the trend of industrialization.

Contents

Letter of Approval	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Abstract	iii
I. Society and Struggle	1-12
II. Antagonism between Individual and Society in <i>Silas Marner</i>	13-37
III. Fall of Moralistic Values	38-39
Works Cited	