

Tribhuvan University

Critique of Cosmopolitan Modernity in Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

– Ritesh Kumar Jha (March 2019)

Critique of Cosmopolitan Modernity in Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English,
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Masters of Arts in English**

By

Ritesh Kumar Jha

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Central Department of English

Kritipur, Kathmandu

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Letter of Recommendation

Ritesh Kumar Jha has completed his thesis, entitled “Critique of Cosmopolitan Modernity Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from January 2018 to April 2019. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva.

Raj Kumar Baral

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Critique of Cosmopolitan Modernity Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ritesh Kumar Jha has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

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Ritesh Kumar Jha

Abstract

Using the concept of flaneuse by Janet Woolf, this research finds the difficulties and crises upon female characters in Atwood's novel The Handmaid's Tale. Most of the female characters in The Handmaid's Tale are deviated from their cultural root and individual identity. They feel that the temptation to follow the westernized thought has distorted the taste and attitude of the young generation. The main character of this novel Offred belongs to the class of handmaid's fertile women who is forced to bear children for elite, barren couples and rich human. Offred forgets cultural identity and her own background being lost in the value of western technocratic world. She comes in metropolitan American city to search her better life, but she becomes puppet the hands of different males in the city simply because she is a woman. Modernity promises about education, development, and betterment of humanity. However, modernity deteriorates Offered in the level of puppet despite enlightening her.