

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Hedonistic American Culture Vs Fundamental Islamic Culture: A Sturdy Clash

in John Updike's *Terrorist*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts

in English

Submitted by

Dinesh Kumar Gajmer

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

April 2010

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Hedonistic American Culture Vs Fundamental Islamic Culture: A Sturdy Clash
in John Updike's *Terrorist***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts
in English**

**Submitted by
Dinesh Kumar Gajmer**

**Central Department of English
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
April 2010**

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Gajmer has completed his thesis entitled "" Hedonistic American Culture Vs Fundamental Islamic Culture: A Sturdy Clash in John Updike's *Terrorist*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from March to April 2010. I hereby recommend that his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Mr. Shankar Subedi

Supervisor

Date: _____

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The thesis entitled " Hedonistic American Culture Vs Fundamental Islamic Culture: A Sturdy Clash in John Updike's *Terrorist* " submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Dinesh Kumar Gajmer, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

(Central Department of English)

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English and to my supervisor Mr. Shankar Subedi, Lecturer, the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for their invaluable supervision, constructive comments and suggestions, continual co-operation and encouragement which immensely helped me to make this thesis exist in its present form.

Similarly, I wish to extend my profound gratitude to Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi for cuing in me the interest to carry out this research on the issue. Likewise, I am beholden to Prof. Dr. Shreedhar Prasad Lohoni, Dr. Sanjeev Uprety, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Birendra Pandey, Dr. Sangita Rayamajhi and Prof. Dr. Shreedhar Gautam for their immense contribution to enrich my understanding of various issues essential to successfully accomplish this research work. I am very much grateful to my respected teacher Mr. Saroj Ghimire for providing me invaluable suggestions in the process of preparing this thesis.

Likewise, I am very much grateful to my sister Saru Shankar who provided me with immense help and support to bring my thesis in this lovely form. I am especially thankful to my friend Mr. Hom Prasad Bhattarai who always encouraged and supported me to carry out this research work. My other friends Mr. Bhimhang Limbu, Mr. Ausun Kumar Rai, Mr. Keshav Nepal, my brothers Lalit Gahatraj, and Purna Gajmer deserve special thanks for their kind co-operation.

April 2010

Dinesh Kumar Gajmer

Abstract

The focus of my research is on the clash of hedonistic American culture and fundamental Islamic culture, which is based on the life-styles led by the major characters in John Updike's *Terrorist*. This sturdy clash is not visible in the superficial ordinariness of the novel as it is completely covert. However, this research work makes an effort to do a thorough excavation, interpretation and analysis of the American life-styles so as to aptly externalize the collision of the aforementioned cultures on the solid foundations of a sturdy clash between Teresa and Ahmad, the representatives of hedonistic American culture and fundamental Islamic culture respectively, in the novel.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I: Introduction	1
General Introduction	1
II: Cultural Studies	7
Culture, Its Origin and Meaning	7
Cultural Studies	9
Cultural Identity	12
Cultural Encounter	13
Acculturation	14
Assimilation	15
III: Hedonistic American Culture Vs Fundamental Islamic Culture	17
A Critical Synopsis of the Novel	17
Hedonism	20
Hedonistic American Culture	21
Fundamentalism	23
Fundamental Islamic Culture	24
Teresa: Representative of Fundamental Islamic Culture	27
Ahmad: Representative of Fundamental Islamic Culture	31
Hedonistic American Culture Vs Fundamental Islamic Culture:	
A Sturdy Clash	35
IV: Conclusion	45
Works Cited	