#### TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Male Gaze in Andrew Marvell's Poetry

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in English

By

**Binod Subedi** 

**University Campus** 

Kirtipur

**July 2009** 

### **Tribhuvan University**

# **Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

# Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Male Gaze in Andrew Man	rvell's Poetry" submitted to the Central
Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by	y Mr. Binod Subedi has been approved
by the undersigned members of the Research Co.	mmittee.
Member of the Research Committee.	
	Internal Examiner
	External Examiner
	Head
Date:	Central Department of English

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Amar Raj Joshi, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for his scholarly guidance and constructive suggestions throughout this project.

I am grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of Central Department of English for his cooperation, advice and encouragement to keep my work going.

I am equally indebted to my teachers Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Dr. Sanjeev Uprety, Dr. Arun Gupto and Dr. Birendra Pandey for their gracious response to my queries that evolved during this arduous project.

I feel privileged to express my sincere gratitude to my teachers Mr. Sankar Subedi Bhandari, Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya who provided me with the necessary materials for my study.

Words fail to convey the depth of my gratitude to my father Prem Subedi, Mother Bishnu Subedi and brother Bimal Subedi whose warmth and affection enabled me to complete this work.

Thanks are also due to Mr Badri Pandit, Mr. Tanka Baral, Mr. Shiva Rimal, and Sudip Acharya, for their sustained assistance in bringing this project to completion.

July 2009 Binod Subedi

#### Abstract

The research entitled "Male Gaze in Andrew Marvell's Love Poetry" explores the semiotics of Marvel's love poetry which displays a kind of obsession by portraying menwomen relation in a manner that caters to male voyeuristic gaze. The overall structure of Marvell's love poetry show how an all pervasive psychological force accelerates to monopolize the readers as only males by positioning the women characters therein as passive sexual objects who can only exhibit to-be- looked-at-ness and the male characters and the male characters as the principal viewer.

This paper examines 'male gaze' in the light of the theoretical possibilities provided by psychoanalysis, where the idea of voyeurism and fetishism are central and the Foucauldian concept of gaze, where the activity of looking images under certain spectacles provide privileged power for dominion over what is being looked at. The research thus takes on to illuminate how the combination of these two effects contribute to ideological formation

### **Contents**

Acknowledgements	i
Abstract	ii
I. Introduction	1-10
Gaze in Andrew Marvell's Poetry	1
II. Theoretical Modality: Gaze Theory	11-25
Gaze Theory and its Origin	11
Gaze Theory and Psychoanlysis	13
Mulvey's Concept of Gaze	15
Foucault's Concept of Gaze	18
Gaze and its Extensions to Feminism and Narrratology	20
The Male Gaze	21
Subordination of Female Gaze	23
III. A Textual Analysis : Male Gaze in Andrew Marvell's Poetry	26-52
Voyeurism and Fetishization under Male Gaze in "To His Coy Mistress"	26
Position of Male and Female Character in "Young Love"	37
Exaggeration of Female Beauty in "The Fair Singer"	40
Passive Image of Woman in "The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers"	42
Affirmation of Patriarchal Construction of Femininity in "Upon Appleton House"	45
IV. Conclusion	53-54
Implication of Patriarchy on Female Subjectivity	
Works Cited	