

Tribhuvan University

Determinism in Eugene O'Neill's *Dynamo*

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

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December, 2008

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This thesis entitled “Determinism in Eugene O’Neill’s *Dynamo*” by Jhalak Bahadur Rana has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

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Acknowledgement

First of all, it gives me pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to my respected supervisor Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, who made close and indispensable comments on various aspects of this research work. This research work would have never appeared in its present form without his encouragement and precious scholarly guidance.

I feel very happy to express my sincerest gratitude to the members of the research committee for granting me an opportunity to carry out this research work. I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Mr. Saroj Ghimire, Mr. Harihar Gyawali and all the respected teachers, whose words of wisdom and experience have helped me in the completion of this study.

I am deeply indebted to my respected grandfather Mr. Yam Bahadur Rana, mother Dil Kumari Rana, my respected guardians Mrs. Kunmati Gurung, Mr. Dhag Bahadur Gurung, my brothers, especially Dhan Raj, and sisters for their warm love, inspiration, support and the environment they created for my study. I would like to thank my friends Kumar, Bhupi, Remkanta, Arjun, Geeta, Tika for their kind help and suggestion and Mr. Sanish Maharjan for fine typing and printing.

December, 2008

Jhalak Bahadur Rana

Abstract

This dissertation entitled “Determinism in Eugen O’Neill’s *Dynamo*” examines the impact of heredity and environment upon human beings in Eugene O’Neill’s *Dynamo*. The play concentrates on its central character, Reuben Light, whose thought, behaviour and life as a whole are controlled and determined by these indispensable forces. The influence of these forces is so pervasive and compelling that his endeavor to shape his life and effort to make desired things happen remains futile. He is engulfed in a terrible impasse of circumstances where the questions of ethical choice, personal judgment and free will are crushed down and his attempt to overcome the unavoidable influences becomes disastrous. The raw and unpleasant experience and antagonistic living atmosphere ‘degrades’ his behaviours in his struggle to survive, leading him to insanity which ultimately results in the violent and heinous act of murder and suicide.

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