

Tribhuvan University

Failure of Androgyny in Woolf's *Orlando*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan
University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
Of Master of Arts in English**

By

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October 2012

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Laxmi Bhattarai has completed her Thesis entitled *Failure of Androgyny in Woolf's Orlando* under my supervision. She carried out this thesis research from November, 2011 to October 2012. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for the viva voce.

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Letter of approval

This thesis entitled "Failure of Androgyny in Woolf's *Orlando*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ms. Laxmi Bhattarai, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Acknowledgements

The present thesis would have been impossible to emerge in this form without the insight and guidance of Saroj Sharma Ghimire, Lecturer, Central Department of English. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to him for his unflagging support in understanding various aspects of the androgyny and providing rare materials to carry out this research.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, the Head, Central Department of English for providing me an opportunity to work on this subject. I am indebted to my respected teacher Pushpa Raj Acharya for providing me with the research materials all the way from Canada. I am grateful to my teachers Pradeep Giri, Prof. Dr. Abhi Subedi, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Birendra Pandey, Dr. Shiva Rijal and Dr. Taralal Shrestha for their precious suggestions and recommendations. I am equally grateful to Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Khemraj Khanal, Harihar Gyawali, Maheshwor Paudel, Badri Acharya, and other teachers of the Department for their suggestions and encouragements.

I am indebted to Lekhnath Neupane for his encouragement and moral support. I would like to thank my high school teachers, Narayan Prasad Neupane, Chhabilal Neupane, Hemraj Neupane and Ram Prasad Pandey for their moral support.

Finally, I am grateful to my parents: Goma Bhattarai and Tolakant Bhattarai and grandmother Rannata Neupane to whom I owe much. I am equally thankful to my sister Jeshika Bhattarai and brother Oshan Bhattarai for their kind cooperation. I would like to thank my colleagues and relatives for their support and care. Many thank to Sahadev Maharjan of Sahadev Computer Service for his efficient typing and printing of this thesis.

October, 2012

Laxmi Bhattarai

Abstract

Critics like Michael Rosenthal agree that *Orlando* offers a fictional ideal embodiment of the androgyny that Woolf exalts in *A Room of One's Own*. However, this research argues that Woolf actually relies on stereotypical gender differences to critique the pitfalls of gender and sexual conditioning in *Orlando*, which reveals Woolf's serious doubt about the potentiality of her own proposed state of androgyny. Orlando is unable to reach the ideal state of mental androgyny that Woolf exalts in *A Room of One's Own* because of cultural and social conditioning. Pressures and expectations, both inner and outer, prevent Orlando from developing the androgynous mind that Woolf idealizes in *A Room of One's Own*. In *Orlando*, Woolf does not depict an ideal androgyny but actually shows why androgyny is impossible.

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