

Tribhuvan University

Post-Modern Hyper Reality and Degenerated American Values in Shepard's
Buried Child

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Letter of Approval

This Thesis entitled “Post-Modern Hyper Reality and Degenerated American Values in Shepard's *Buried Child*” submitted to the Central Department of English University by Ms. Janaki Sharma has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee:

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Abstract

This research attempts to depict postmodernism as a style in order to reflect the degenerated American values in Shepard's play *Buried Child*. As a postmodern drama, the play embodies ambiguity, discontinuity, pluralism, perversion, deformation, disintegration, deconstruction and difference. And all these features are parallel with the degenerated family values of Dodge's family. Dodge, the center of the story is the patriarch, and his wife, Halie, presenting the old-time chauvinistic portrayal of women being part whore, live in the same house ostensibly but are in fact apart. Shepard's intention in the play to create a narrative which communicated and reflected the frustrations of American people but at the same time he presents the situation in entertaining ways through the techniques of blends between myths and reality. The rhetorical technique of post modernism is used in order to trace the disillusionment with the American dream and the downfall of traditional patriarch. It reflects universal frustrations of modern American people though the setting is quite agrarian. The postmodern style which Shepard uses incorporates surrealism and symbolism in the realistic framework of a family drama. He is able to create images in the imaginations of people through the use of surrealism and symbolism, evoke and harness the experiences of his audience through its postmodern. Thus, regarding the style, *Buried Child* incorporates many postmodern elements such as the mixing of genres, the deconstruction of a grand narrative, and the use of pastiche and layering.

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