

Tribhuvan University

Exploitation of the Nature as an Inexhaustible Resource in Daniel Dafoe's *Robinson  
Crusoe*

A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.

In partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of

Master of Philosophy in English

By

Sunil Magaju

T.U Regd.No.6-1-20-121-2003

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University

June, 2018

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Sunil Magaju has completed his dissertation entitled “Exploitation of the Nature as an Inexhaustible Resource in Dafoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from it successfully. I hereby recommend his dissertation be submitted for final voc.

.....

Pro. Jib Lal Sapkota, PhD.

Supervisor

Date .....

Tribhuvan University

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English

The Dissertation entitled “Exploitation of the Nature as an Inexhaustible Resource in Daniel Dafoe's *Robinson Crusoe*” submitted to Central Department of English, Kirtipur by Sunil Magaju, has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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Internal Examiner

.....

External Examiner

.....

Head

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

## Acknowledgements

In this profound hour of happiness, I would, first of all, express my sincerest gratitude to my respected teacher Pro.Dr Jiblal Sapkota for providing me scholarly suggestions and invaluable guidance, without whom, my thesis would not have come to this form of completion.

My true reverence also goes to Pro, Dr. Amar Raj Joshi for his words of encouragement. I also take this moment to thank Assistant Pro, Dr. Komal Prasad Phuyal who not only provided me the genuine suggestions on my research work but also guided me with valuable remarks.

I owe the highest level of gratefulness to my loving parents and brother without whose perennial support and encouragement, my dream of deserving M.Phil Degree would never have come true. My sincere thanks goes to my bosom friends- Sandip Risal, Rabindra Kumar Thapa, Hari Krishna Duwal and Gyanendra Magaju who helped me in every step of this research mentally, if not physically.

Last but not least, I am grateful to all my respected teachers, colleagues, brothers, brothers in- law for their continuous support and encouragement. My special thanks go to my dearest friend Ms Anisha Twati. It is due to her invaluable assistance in computer work that made completion of this research work possible

## Abstract

This research, on the basis of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, explores how extensively the anthropocentric vision overwhelms the nature and natural species. Critiquing from the perspective of ecocriticism, I argue that the leading character, Robinson Crusoe transfers himself from an ordinary layman to the exploiter of the nature, right after he steps into an uninhabited island. His new identity as the exploiter is a significant departure from the widespread belief that human and nonhuman world has an interdependency and mutual harmony. Collectively, the research elucidates that the novel articulates the hierarchy among the living beings where the human beings have unceasing right to usurp the nature. The novel is also the striking example of the inferiority of the nature as the natural elements in the novel such as goats, pigeons, sea fishes and even the cannibals including Friday suffer and get trapped at the hand of Crusoe who intentionally lead, dominate, and victimize the natural species. Consequently, the natural species are mercilessly killed, suffer from homelessness, and are compelled to assimilate Crusoe's rule and regulation. Similarly, cannibals suffer from acculturation as they are forced to abandon their habit of having uncooked food, and follow the human tradition to speak, to eat and to survive. In this regard, this research exposes Crusoe as an agent of anthropocentrism who pretends to save the natural species but for his own betterment, survival, and prosperity. It also evidently explains that Crusoe is not the existential surviving hero but an antagonistic force, who not only uses the natural environment ruthlessly for his own benefit but also tortures and inhumanly kills the natural animals. His arrival is the main cause of the disturbance of the natural harmony among living things and non living things.

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