

Tribhuvan University

Politics of Parody in Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres*

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Abstract

This thesis analyzes Jane Smile's novel A Thousand Acres applying the theoretical modality of intertextuality as conceptualized by Julia Kristeva and Mikhail Bakhtin. A Thousand Acres incorporates the plot line and theme of Shakespearean play King Lear. The title of the novel sets the background of forthcoming conflict between father and daughters for property that is land. Both texts deal with the issue that how the transfer of property and power lead the family relationships to conflict. The transfer of property upsets marriages, as well as brings rivalry between siblings. The growth of sibling rivalry and the complex relation between Larry and three daughters: Ginny, Rose, and Caroline, in A Thousand Acres, resembles with the plot structure of the play King Lear. Accordingly, the thesis revolves around the issue of intertextuality taking a closer look at the reader's role as a significant factor in the dynamics between the texts: A Thousand Acres and King Lear. Though exhibited from different perspectives, the two stories have something in common—the ironies arising from father-daughter conflicts. In the way of an intertextual comparison, the paper analyzes the ironies from father-daughter conflicts with an aim of digging out deep meaning from behind in a new angle. It finds out that the ironies shared by the two works help to increase the tragic atmosphere and reveal many truths underneath the lines.

Keywords: intersexuality, heteroglossia, irony, conflict, position