

Tribhuvan University

Irony in Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders*

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Degree of Master of Arts in English

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Letter of Recommendation

Debi Ram Chhetri has completed his thesis entitled “Irony in Daniel Defoe’s *Moll Flanders*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2013 to July, 2014. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for the final *viva voce*.

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(Supervisor)

Date:.....

Tribhuvan University
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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Irony in Daniel Defoe’s *Moll Flanders*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Debi Ram Chhetri, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research looks into Defoe's *Moll Flanders* from the perspective of irony. The essence of this research is that Moll happens to commit herself ironical situations and circumstances one after the other in her relentless hunt for prosperity, security and stability in her life. Several forces, both materialistic and non-materialistic, produce effects in her in such a way that she has no power to master those forces like greed, betrayal, deception and incestuous temptations. But she goes on to pretend that she is capable of achieving what she cherishes to achieve independent of those restrictive forces. Only after committing moral crimes or social crimes, she begins to think about the moral implications of her activities. It is entirely ironical of Moll to feel guilty of doing what she now thinks wrong activity. At the time of doing wrongs deeds, she does not think about how guilty she would have to feel for doing such forbidden activities. In a hope to marry a well-to-do man, she happens to land herself in an unhappy marriage with a pauper. Before her marriage with such a pauper, she gives him promises to handle any hardship of life tactfully. But in the wake of horrifying reality about the economic status of her husband, she rushes to abandon him callously. Moll's extreme self-consciousness is itself a source of the ironic disparity between what she hopes to accomplish and what she really accomplishes.

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