

Tribhuvan University

Self-delusion and Schizophrenia: A *Deleuzo-Guattarian Study* of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid*
of Virginia Woolf

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Mamta Kumari Binadi

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kritipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Mamta Kumari Binadi has completed her thesis entitled "Self-delusion and Schizophrenia: A *Deleuzo-Guattarian Study* of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* " under my supervision. She carried out her research from 2075/08/01 B.S. to 2076/01/15 B.S. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Mr. Hem Lal Pandey

Supervisor

Date:-----

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled "Self-delusion and Schizophrenia: A *Deleuzo-Guattarian Study* of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* " submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mamta Kumari Binadi has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:.....

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Abstract

This thesis on Edward Albee's play Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf examines how major characters' schizophrenic acts have the potential to subvert the capitalist ideology of gender binary. It analyzes the play from the perspective of schizoanalysis using ideas of Deleuze and Guattari's concept of schizoanalysis. Schizophrenic characteristics of the play display subversive politics with the radical potential to overthrow capitalistic ideals. In an attempt to escape from the existing reality, Martha and George attempt to live in illusory world and end up being schizophrenic persons as they do not conform to the generally established notion of gender, family life, career and social values. Their desires lead them to a different world of their own. In their acts, they end up becoming split or schizophrenic personalities, which helps them cope with totalizing or repressive capitalist ideology as described by Deleuze and Guattari.

Key Terms:

Schizophrenia, delusion, desire, capitalism, subversion.