

**Tribhuvan University**

**Clashes of Ideologies and Authorial Intrusion operating in Arundhati Roy's  
Novel the *God of Small Things***

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English, T. U. in Partial  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Philosophy in  
English**

**By**

**Dharma Bahadur Thapa**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**September, 2012**

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of English**  
**University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**Letter of Recommendation**

Dharma Bahadur Thapa has completed his dissertation entitled “Clashes of Ideologies and Authorial Intrusion Operating in Arundhati Roy’s Novel *The God of Small Things*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from November 2011 to September 2012 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend his dissertation be submitted for the *Viva voce*.

.....

Dr. Anirudra Thapa  
(Supervisor)

Date: .....

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Approval**

This dissertation entitled “Clashes of Ideologies and Authorial Intrusion Operating in Arundhati Roy’s Novel *The God of Small Things*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Dharma Bahadur Thapa has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

Members of Research Committee

.....

.....

Internal Examiner

.....

.....

External Examiner

.....

.....

Head

Central Department of English

## **Acknowledgements**

First of all I should like to express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to my mentor and supervisor Dr. Anirudra Thapa, the Coordinator of the M. Phil. Programme, Central Department of English, T. U. Kirtipur, for all sorts of assistance and guidance he provided in making my journey into the jungle of research writing with his ever present and easily approachable expert knowledge, encouraging and positive attitude without which, I am sure, the fulfilment of the project would have become a very difficult, if not impossible, task.

It would be an act of injustice if I forgot to mention the assistance offered by Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, the Head of the Central Department of English, T. U. Kirtipur, who by example and with concrete pieces of advice, always encouraged me. In the same way Dr. Beerendra Pandey offered his invaluable help by providing field of the primary materials that could be used along with Roy's novel.

I feel equally indebted to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the former Head of CDE, Kirtipur, who encouraged me to come for the study of M. Phil. level and to Dr. Ram Chandra Paudel, who generously helped me with almost all of the secondary materials I used in bringing this project to completion.

Thank You!

September, 2012

Dharma Bahadur Thapa

## Abstract

This thesis shows that Arundhati Roy's novel *The God of Small Things* (1997) mirrors the ideological conflict of various political, social, economic, religious and cultural forces operating in the postcolonial/independent India. The thesis classifies these forces into three categories. The postcolonial state, the ruling class, religious institutions, the media, the main stream political parties and the global culture comprise the dominant/oppressive group. The mainstream/parliamentarian lefts make the middle way force. The working class, women, the 'untouchable' and the Naxalites make the oppressed group. I have shown that the novel synthesises the conflicts in the realm of ideologies because the characters are motivated by ideologies rather than by their socio-economic position they belong to. I have shown that the dominant and the unconscious oppressed class share false consciousness as their ideology, whereas the conscious oppressed groups are guided by the Maoist/radical thought which I have identified as the emergent ideology. I have associated the parliamentarian lefts with enlightened false consciousness. I have also shown that there is no one to one correspondence between the class and one's ideology.

The thesis shows that Roy's radical views articulated in her non-fictional writings such as *The Algebra of Infinite Justice*, *An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire*, *The Shape of the Beast* and *Listening to Grasshoppers* have found fictional rendering in her novel and determined its ideology. The thesis is an attempt to show that, despite her avowed disagreement with the Naxalite movement, Roy's radical views and the Maoism converge in *The God of Small Things* as the emergent ideology.

## Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I.	Postcolonial India and Social and Political Conflicts: an Introduction	1-5
II.	Representation of False Consciousness as the Dominant Ideology in the Novel	6-44
III.	Enlightened False Consciousness and <i>The God of Small Things</i>	45-60
IV.	Representation of the Emergent Forces and their Ideology	61-85
V.	Conclusion	86-88
VI.	Works Cited	89-90