

Tribhuvan University

Exploring the Emerging Female Self and Identity in Jane Austen's *Emma*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master's of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "**Exploring the Emerging Female Self and Identity in Jane Austen's *Emma***" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Shekhar Nepal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Shekhar Nepal has completed her thesis entitled "**Exploring the Emerging Female Self and Identity in Jane Austen's *Emma***" under my supervision. He carried out his research from November 2011 to March 2012. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Abstract

This work of dissertation tries to explore the emerging female self and identity in Jane Austen's *Emma* which is based on a woman's struggle to establish her self and identity in the patriarchal society of late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries England. In spite of being free and independent within the male dominated society, Emma, the female protagonist, rigorously goes through the process of maturity and perfection in her personality which she lacks at the beginning. At the same time she trains Harriet and Jane, other female characters who were the product of the patriarchal norms and values and male superiority to be free and independent. By doing this, Emma, not only explores her self and identity but also owns respectable position in the society and eventually her actions and decisions are warmly welcomed.

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