

**Tribhuvan University**

**Subversion of Heterosexual Normativity in Smith's *Girl Meets Boy***

**A Thesis Submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University  
in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of  
Master of Arts in English**

**By**

**Ashish Paudel**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**August 2014**

**Subversion of Heterosexual Normativity in Smith's *Girl Meets Boy***

**- Ashish Paudel 2014**

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

Letter of Approval

This thesis submitted to the central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu by Ashish Paudel entitled, “Subversion of Heterosexual Normativity in Smith’s *Girl Meets Boy*” has been approved by undersigned members of the thesis committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Head

\_\_\_\_\_

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected teacher Dr. Shivaram Rijal, lecturer at the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for thoroughly and wholeheartedly guiding me as my supervisor. His scholarly supervision, constructive comments and suggestions have helped me to bring this dissertation into this final shape. This thesis would have remained incomplete without his critical and invaluable guidance.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Prof. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English for his cooperation and motivation. Similarly, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Dr. Arun Gupto, Mr. Pam Gurung, Mr. Hem Lal Pandey, Mr. Badri Acharya, Mr. Shankar Subedi, Mr. Saroj Ghimire, Mr. Harihar Gywali, Mr. Raju Baral, Mr. Jiblal Sapkota and Mr. Jivanath Lamsal for their generous and continuous help to complete this work. And I am heartily thankful to all the other lecturers, library members and all the respected persons who knowingly and unknowingly put their concern in my work.

In addition, I am heavily indebted to my parents, Chandra Kanta Paudel and Narmaya Paudel, brothers, Prashanta and Laxman, sisters, Goma and Sabita and relatives for their constant support and encouragement during my research. I wish to thank my wife Binu Gaudel who always encourages me with valuable suggestions in every step. Here, I remember my friends Lalit, Suresh, Keshav Datta, Tikaram, Maniraj, Ashok, Bikash and many others for their passionate help and kind support in this research.

August 2014

Ashish Paudel

## Abstract

The present research explores the study of queer behavior of characters that 'question' and 'trouble' the dominant narrative of heterosexual bond and its gender biases in Ali Smith's *Girl Meets Boy*. Blurring heterosexual bond with idea of queerness, it analyses dichotomy of authoritative, fixed and oppressive meaning of heterosexual bond towards homo-social bond, with the plural, flexible, fluidity, and subversive meanings towards heterosexual bond. With enlightening and liberating force in the life of the two lovers, Anthea and Robin, that they can have their life of their own way with the freedom of physicality and sexuality by breaking the line of heterosexist society creates a conscious reaction to the negative and resigned view of lesbian love. The celebration of homosexuality through the revolutionary characters creates a new taste for the readers in the society both 'questioning' and 'troubling' the dominant narrative of heterosexuality. The successful portrayal of the sexual minorities, with the disproved myth about queer and their sexual behavior proves shifting notion of sexuality because of awareness of gender biasness with the light of sexuality as a social constructivism, it proves that the identity with which we are born would be the same to which we will take to the grave is not the same at all.

## Contents

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. Introduction: Exploration of Homosexuality	1
II. Queer Theory as a Discursive Strategy in Modern Era	14
III. Conclusion: Empowering Homosocial Bond over Heterosexist Bond	38
Works Cited	