

Tribhuvan University

Tension between Tradition and Modernity in R. K. Narayan *The Dark Room*

A Thesis Submitted to

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for

Master's Degree of Arts in English

By

Yuba Raj Gaire

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August, 2008.

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The undersigned members of the Research committee have approved this thesis entitled “Tension between Tradition Modernity in R. K. Narayan *The Dark Room*” to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Yuba Raj Gaire.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:-----

Acknowledgement

The credit for the preparation of this thesis goes to my respected research supervisor Dr. Aunita Dhungel for her invaluable scholarly supervision, constructive comments and suggestions that helped me to give the shape of thesis in its present form.

Moreover I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of the Central Department of English, for granting me permission to conduct this research, subject of my interest. At the same time I am highly indebted all my respected teachers in at the center department, T. U. especially Mr. Sharad Chandra Thakur, Mr.Hem Lal Pandey, Mr.Sadan Adhikari for providing me the guidelines and invaluable suggestions.

Without their suggestions and instructions, the thesis would not have been completed. With due respect, I would like to express my gratitude towards my family members for their continuous support and encouragement in my academic career and to Shiva Neupane for his company and computer typing and formatting.

. Lastly, I express my thanks to my friends Arjun Khanal, Amit Kafle, Bharat Thapa, Shankar Gaire, Binod Bhattarai, Sanjaya Bhattarai, Yadav Kharel, Sita Nepal for their co-operation.

Yuba Raj Gaire

August, 2008

Abstract

R. K. Narayan's famous novel, *The Dark Room* has depicted the issue of tension between tradition and modernity in colonial Indian society. Because of tension, there is internal dynamics in Indian society and Indian nation-state in general. The tension is primarily seen between the female and male characters that represent the tradition and modernity respectively. Along with the characters, Malgudi, the setting of the novel is also presented as a platform for the change from tradition to modernity. Moreover, the industrial revolution, colonial mentality and modern hypocrisy have remarkable influence on the characters which further support to add some bricks in the emergence of tension.

Content

Page No

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Chapter I: Introduction

1

Life and Works of R. K. Narayan

1

His Style of Writing

3

Review of Literature

6

Story Synopsis

9

Chapter II: Theoretical Modality

13

Indian Tradition

13

Modern Influence in Indian Society

16

Tradition versus Modernity

19

Chapter III: Textual Analysis

30

Tradition and Modernity: An Analysis of R. K. Narayan's *The Dark Room*

30

Tradition and Modernity: Two Modes of Life

31

Modern Hypocrisy in the Novel

41

Reflection of Industrial Revolution and its Effect on the Indian Society in the Novel

44

Colonial Impact in the Indian Society Reflected in the Novel

49

Chapter IV: Conclusion

55

Works Cited

57