

Tribhuvan University

**Disruption of Gender Binary: A Feminist Study of Cather's
*Death Comes for the Archbishop***

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

By

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December 2008**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Prem Bahadur Chaudhary has completed his thesis entitled “Disruption of Gender Binary: A Feminist Study of Cather’s *Death Comes for the Archbishop*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 28th June, 2008 to 30th December, 2008 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “Disruption of Gender binary: A Feminist study of Cather’s *Death Comes for the Archbishop*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Prem Bahadur Chaudhary has been approved by the research committee.

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Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my revered supervisor, Mr. Jiva Nath Lamsal for his scholarly counseling, candid suggestions, essential materials and fruitful incitement. Any attempt to verbalize my gratitude to him is bound to be inadequate. The ambition of the completion of this research would have never come true had there not been his indispensable comments.

I owe my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, head of the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for the approval of this dissertation in present form. I am equally indebted to Mrs. Anju Gupta for her valuable suggestion. I am also grateful to Dr. Arun Gupta, Mr. Saroj Ghimire, Mr. Pam Gurung, Dr. Beerendra Pandey and my other respected teachers of the Central Department of English and their cooperation in many ways. Only with their support, the dream of the completion of the thesis has materialized.

My special thanks goes to my friends Buddhi Raj Sharma, Kamal Subedi, Nagendra Koirala, Kesheri Rana and Vijaya Lal Karna for their adequate support during my research. Thanks to my betterhalf Mrs. Bhuwan Chaudhary for her useful suggestion and inspiration. I'd also like to thank my elder brother Surya Bahadur Chaudhary and younger brother Gaj Bahadur Chaudhary for their continuous help and support and finally I thank Nhukesh Maharjan of ASP computer for his invaluable time to type this thesis.

Prem Bahadur Chaudhary

December, 2008

Abstract

Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop* concerns on how Cather dismantles the aged long gender binary which was pervasively prevalent in the society. Cather's construction of Father Latour's identity which oscillates between norms of femininity and masculinity presents gender as an assembled and assumed costume rather than an essential expression of one's sex. Cather works to retheorize the notion of gender by depicting the contradictory character of Latour. Moreover, she projects female characters who deny to yield before patriarchy. Female characters like Dona Isabella, Magdalena and Sada work out to dismantle the walls erected by patriarchy. They do not fit in the role models devised by the society for the whole female gender. Their incessant toil to disrupt discriminating attitude towards female and to assert their individuality in the society blur gender binary.

Patriarchy always desired to relegate female sex from the mainstream and they are given very derogatory role models in the society. But Cather's documentation of characters and their role play subverts the gender binary. Explicating the fact that gender is socially constructed to subjugate female and to prolong the domination of male over female.

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