

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**

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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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Supervisor

Date:

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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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