

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Unconscious Mind and Psychology of Incongruity: A Psychoanalytical Reading of
Melville's *Pierre, or the Ambiguities***

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

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Hum Kanta Pandey has completed his thesis entitled "**Unconscious Mind and Psychology of Incongruity: A Psychoanalytical Reading of Melville's *Pierre, or the Ambiguities***" under my supervision. He carried out his research paper from August 2009 to March 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

The Thesis entitled "**Unconscious Mind and Psychology of Incongruity: A Psychoanalytical Reading of Melville's *Pierre, or the Ambiguties***" submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Hum Kanta Pandey has been approved by the undersigned members of research committee.

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Abstract

Herman Melville's *Pierre, or the Ambiguities* primarily deals with the anatomy of incestuous and immature love, and its psychological impact on the characters in a physical world or society where rules, norms, systems etc. are of crucial significance. Since it deals with the psychological aspect of the characters, its prime emphasis is on the explication of the individual characters and their formation of identity or subjectivity in a restrictive society. In other words, love is treated psychoanalytically in the novel, for it delineates how the protagonist, Pierre Glendinning, and other major characters like Isabel, Lucy, Mrs. Glendinning etc. are guided by the psychology of incongruity, so, they suffer from neurosis. The literary characters, furthermore, are interpreted as the sublimation of unconscious desires. In this sense, psychoanalysis bilaterally deals with the schema of human psychology and its expression via the literary writings. To accomplish this idea, it excavates the layers of human mind: conscious, subconscious and unconscious; and id, ego and superego.

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