

Tribhuvan University

Heteroglossia in Sam Shepard's *Burid Child*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in
Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

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This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Mohan Kafle entitled “Heteroglossia in Sam Shepard’s *Burid Child*” has been accepted by the undersigned members of the thesis committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Mohan Kafle has completed his thesis entitled “Heteroglossia in Sam Shepard’s *Buried Child*” under my supervision. He carried out his research work from 27th May 2008 to January 25, 2009. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Abstract

Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* is one of the most celebrated plays in the Americas of the mid 1970s and early 80s. It revolves around a family, where ethics and values are fast falling prey to the immorality of magazine culture. In the play, Dodge and Halie the family heads are indulged in a never-ending chaos that arose due to Halie's illicit relationship with her son. Moreover, the members are ever ready to demoralize and challenge the hierarchy of Dodge, who himself is the victim of alcohol and passive living. The drama moves around the disillusionment of the American dream, which has shattered long before, even they could think of. In such a scenario of personal hatred and suspicion, the drama has an open ending that leaves the viewers to revoke their conscience. This was the scenario of every household in the Americas, during the 1940s and 50s.

Buried Child at the first glimpse is about a disturbed family, which of course it is; besides, it is filled with secrets, incest, murder, and sin thereby engulfing heterogeneous faces of the emerging America, thereby depicting the deteriorating situation of American familial values.

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