

Tribhuvan University

Refutation of Masculine Ideals in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Cranford*

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Master of Arts in English

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Refutation of Masculine Ideals in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Cranford*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Vikash Rajaure, has been approved by undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Vikash Rajaure has completed his thesis entitled “Refutation of Masculine Ideals in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Cranford*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from March 2008 A. D. to May 2009 A. D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Shuv Raj Rana Bhat
Supervisor

Date:.....

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Abstract

This research based on Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Cranford* is the scrutinizing analysis female world. One of the values the women of *Cranford* possess is being independent from men. Even though there is lack of males, the women do not seem to be interested in the men that are available. A surplus of women in a society would lead to a deficit of men, which is opposite from the case in *Cranford*. When Captain Brown inhabits the town of *Cranford*, the women moan over the invasion of their territories by a man; the paradox undeniably illustrates their value of being independent from men. The women of *Cranford* have learned to live without men, and have begun to value being single. In fact, being a spinster is so common in *Cranford* that Miss Matty and other females decline to get married. Commitment to a man is so absurd that the women would rather live with their fears of thieves, burglars, and ghosts instead of living with men. Nonetheless, *Cranford* is Gaskell's vision of continuity of Amazon culture which can alone, it seems in the novel, survive female identity.

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