

**Tribhuwan University**

**Scrutinizing Marxism in Nabokov's *Lolita***

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of English,  
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Kathmandu in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's  
Degree in English.

By

Prem Bahadur Rai

T.U. Reg No. 10417-94

November, 2011

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

The Thesis entitled **Scrutinizing Marxism in Nabokov's *Lolita*** by Mr. Prem Bahadur Rai has been submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu and has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

---

Hukum Thapa  
(Supervisor)

---

External

---

Rudra Paudel  
Department Head of English  
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus  
Exhibition Road, Kathmandu

Date:- .....

## **Acknowledgement**

It is my extreme pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to respected guru Mr. Hukum Thapa, Lecturer of Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu for guiding me without exhaustion and feeling bored. Without his scholarly vision guidance and priceless suggestions during the thesis trial; this thesis would never come into this full shape.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincerer gratitude to Mr. Rudra Paudel who has given me valuable suggestions to prepare the proposal.

Lastly I want to thank my wife Baba who has assisted a lot during the thesis work.

Prem Bahadur Rai

## **Abstract**

The present research work analyzes Nabokov's *Lolita* through Marxist perspective. *Lolita* is a novel of economic crisis, tragedy and slavery. In the novel, Lolita, the protagonist, is a slave and is suppressed by Humbert. Actually Humbert, the stepfather of Lolita, is a Master in nature because he never lets her to be free. Lolita never enjoys her life. Obviously her life has been entangled in economic crisis and tragic circumstances.

*Lolita* is a book about cruelty and sexual exploitation. Lolita has been exploited sexually by Humbert. Humbert is cruel to her. He does not allow her to socialize. She should always remain within the boundary of Humbert's mastership. Therefore, it can be said by claiming that she has been made a sex slave by Humbert.

The researcher has applied Marxism to prove his thesis. The prominent critics like Leslie A.Fiedler, Katherine Kunce, Eric Rothstein, Chester E. Eisinger Karl Marx, Hegel, Theodore Adorno and Gyorgy Lukacs etc. and their critical view have become important sources to prove the research.

## Table of Contents

Letter of Approval	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	iv
<b>Chapter-I</b>	<b>1-13</b>
Nabokov and his Literary Features.	1
Nabokov and his Approach to Marxism	9
<b>Chapter-II</b>	<b>14-27</b>
A Critical Study of Marxism	14
Concept of Marxism	14
Hegel's Dialectical Materialism and A Mode of Production	17
Marxist View on Economy	20
Marxist Theories in Literature	24
<b>Chapter-III</b>	<b>28-42</b>
Scrutinizing Marxism in <i>Lolita</i>	28
Lolita as an Innocent Girl	34
Lolita as Slave; Humbert as Master	36
Economic Crisis in Lolita's Life	39
Tragic End of the Characters	40
<b>Chapter-IV</b>	<b>43-45</b>
Humbert's Exploitation: A Cause of Lolita's Tragedy	43
<b>Works Cited</b>	