

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Evaluation of Gothic Elements in *The House of the Seven Gables*

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

By

Sushma Bhattarai

University Campus Kirtipur

March 2008

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The thesis entitled "Evaluation of Gothic Elements in *The House of the Seven Gables*" by Ms. Sushma Bhattarai has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Research Committee Members:

Advisor: _____

External Examiner: _____

Head of Department

Central Department of English, T.U.

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: _____

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who directly or indirectly helped me to complete my thesis.

I am grateful to Mr. Pam Bahadur. Gurung for his invaluable suggestions without whose proper guidance this thesis would never be completed.

Similarly, Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Department, deserves special thanks for his kind co-operation for making of this dissertation possible.

I am also grateful to Mr. Tika Lamsal and Mr. Ghanashyam Bhandari for their inspiring suggestions and all my respected teachers of the Department who encouraged me to prepare this thesis.

Next part of my gratitude goes to my family members who continuously supported my education and always encouraged me.

Finally, I express my special thanks to Mr. Hera Kumar Maharjan and my friends Suman, Shishir, Dinesh, Sharda, Geeta, Namita, Sujaya and Subodh who helped me to collect useful materials while writing the thesis.

Date:

Bhattarai Sushma

Abstract

Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* shows the moral decay, lust for money, crime, murder and the evils of society through the use of gothic elements. The major theme of book is that the wrong doing of one generation lives into the successive ones, and becomes a pure and uncontrollable mischief . To support the theme, Hawthorne explores sensationalism, mystery, suspense, terror, horror, doubleness and fantasy. While handling the theme of gothic, Hawthorne uses supernatural elements and as well as uncanny effect. These effects directly focus on the human psyche where fear, horror and terror exist inside human mind.

Contents

Acknowledgement

Abstract

	Page No.
Chapter - I: General Introduction	1-7
Chapter - II: Methodology	8-29
Origin and Meaning	8
Features of Gothic Novel	11
Development of English Gothic Novel	15
Features of Modern Gothic Novel	20
Chapter - III: Textual Analysis	30-56
Revelation of Gothic Traits in <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i>	30
Mystery and Suspense	31
Terror and Horror as the Gothic Elements in the Novel	38
Evil of Property	44
Doppelganger as the Gothic Traits in the Novel	47
Symbols and Gothicism in the Novel	50
Fantasy as Gothic Elements in the Novel	55
Chapter - IV: Conclusion	59-60
Works Cited	