

Tribhuvan University

Brecht's *Three-Penny Opera*: A Critique of Anti-Capitalism

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “ Brecht’s *The Three-Penny Opera: A Critique of Anti-Capitalism*”, submitted to the Department of English , Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan university, by Mr. Shyam Krishna Maharjan has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Abstract

*The Three-Penny Opera* is an ideal vehicle to condemn the bourgeoisie convention of commodification and exploitation and to agitate for social change by establishing dialectical and sometime alienated relationship between audience and drama to participate the audience on intellectual argument with the work.

The world of *The Three-Penny Opera* is full of the poor, the criminals, and the immoral characters as the system has centered the power and money on a few hands. The world is poor. So, the people are obliged to indulge in crime and immoralities, exploitation, treachery. Brecht intended the drama to serve as an incentive to his readers and audience to think about the prevailing social condition and to urge them to bring needful changes in those conditions.

This research has tried to explore anti - capitalist theme of the drama studying the condition of human being, especially the working or poor people, in capitalist society. Besides it, it also focuses on critical analysis of the arbitrariness of social values like religion, love, charity, friendship and law in the drama following the Marxist analysis of literature. The research work finds the drama as anti-capitalist in theme and style since Brecht has used epic theatre approach to denounce the degenerated condition of the poor in the system and to compell the audience to be thoughtful on the deplorable condition where people have to indulge themselves into crime and immoralities. The research seeks to show, the capitalism and crime has relationship of brother and sister. Crime and immoralities are not the by- product of the system rather it is an extension of the system.

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