

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Exploration of Ethical Problem in J.M. Coetzee's *In the Heart of the Country***

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, University Campus,  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Arts in English**

**By**

**Bishnu Prasad Lamichhane**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**March 2008**

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The thesis entitled “Exploration of Ethical Problem in J.M. Coetzee’s *In the Heart of the Country*” by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamichhane has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Acknowledgements**

I have been enormously encouraged and supported by a number of respected teachers, colleagues and friends while fulfilling the tough task of this research. At first, my sincere gratitude goes to my thesis supervisor Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya who has played the pivotal role for the completion of the research work through his continuous support and encouragement. I am deeply indebted to him for all his compliments and advice, and I extend my sincere thanks to him for his support.

I am obliged to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of the Central Department of English, for the approval of this research. I am also grateful and wholeheartedly indebted to respected Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Beerendra Pandey, Bijaya Kumar Rauniyar and Ghanashyam Sharma for widening and shaping my intellectual growth.

Many thanks to my teachers Mr Saroj Ghimire, Mr Pushpa Acharya, Mr. Shankar Subedi and all the teachers at Central Department of English for their intellectual assistance and invaluable suggestions.

I am also grateful to my family members especially my wife Bijaya who have helped me in every step of my life with huge support and inspiration. I am highly indebted to the computer typist. Mr Pushpa Raj Paudel, who has assisted me to digitize the research with his accurate and high speed typing skill.

Finally, I cannot forget my friends who have relentlessly inspired and supported me to get this thesis in its present form.

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Bishnu Prasad Lamichhane

March 2008

## **Abstract**

J.M. Coetzee's *In the Heart of the Country* explores the ethical problem in South African white writing. In order to show this problem, Coetzee portrays Magda, a white spinster and narrator of the novel as an immoral and hypocritical character, who initially, hates the immoral activities of her father and wants to struggle with him for the sake of her own identity. But, later, she herself gets involved in illegal sexual relationship with her black servant, Hendrik. She becomes ready to destroy the lives of black servants, Hendrik and his wife Anna because of her self-centeredness, racial prejudice and hypocrisy. It shows that Magda forgets her ethical values and widens the gap in her relation with other. Thus, Coetzee analyzes the problematic in liberal white writers like Allan Paton, Nadine Gordimer and so on. According to Coetzee, these writers exhibit the hypocritical nature in their own writing and produce the fictions under the influence of power. The authority rather promotes their success without reaching into the deeper level. So, Coetzee defends against the closure of authority where the white writers are found in religion or history.

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