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
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

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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.

Members of the Research Committee

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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.
CONTENTS

Chapter I. General Introduction 1-9

Chapter II. Ethical Criticism 10-28
  
  Pre Levinasian Ethics
  
  Levinasian Ethics and Post Levinasian Ethics

Chapter III. Exploration of Ethical Problem in J.M. Coetzee's In the Heart of the Country 29-47
  
  Magda's Ethical Problem in Terms of Interracial Relation
  
  Magda's Ethical Problem in Terms of Intra-racial Relation.
  
  Magda's Ethical Problem in Terms of Intra-Personal Relation: Her Narrative Unreliability and Self-Deception.
  
  Exhibition of: Ethical Problem in South African White Writing.

Chapter IV. Conclusion 48-51

Works Cited 52-53