# Central Department of English Tribhuvan University Glorification of Nature in Wendell Berry's Essays and John Muir's Travelogues

## A thesis submitted

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts (M.A.) in English

to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University

By

Usha Rosyara

**University Campus** 

Kirtipur

## **Tribhuvan University**

# **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

This thesis entitled "Glorification of Nature in Wendell Berry's Essays and John Muir's Travelogues" by Usha Rosyara, has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the Thesis Committee.

| Members of the Research C | Committee:                    |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                           | Internal Examiner             |
|                           | External Examiner             |
|                           |                               |
|                           | Head                          |
|                           | Central Department of English |
|                           | Date:                         |

### Acknowledgements

I heartily express my gratitude to my respected teacher Mr. Amma Raj Joshi who has frequently helped me with invaluable suggestions and guidance. Without his ever- encouraging and ever- inspiring suggestions, this dissertation would not have come in this shape. Every difficulty has been eased with his kind guidance and cooperation. He has omitted lots of mistakes that repeatedly came across my writing while developing ideas. Likewise, he has provided the essential materials and valuable time. Actually, the words are not enough to express my heartfelt thanks to him and I am highly indebted to his scholarly guidance.

I am equally grateful to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head, Central Department of English, Kirtipur for granting me a chance to carry out this research work. And I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. D. P. Bhandari who encouraged and inspired me to do this work.

Similarly, I am equally thankful to lecturers of Central Department of English, T. U. Mr. Devi Gautam, Mr. Hem Sharma Paudel and Mr. Rajendra Panthi who helped me to generate ideas systematically. I am equally thankful to all my teachers and friends who have directly or indirectly encouraged me to carry out the research.

I am deeply indebted to my family members who accompanied me in every moment of despair. I have always got complete support, inspiration and cooperation from my family. Every difficulty, I encountered during my work, vanished immediately due to the constant support of my family.

Finally, I am thankful to University Computer Service, Kirtipur for their help to computerize my research work in time.

#### **Abstract**

Ecological literature paves the way of eco- awareness in the mind of contemporary people. It aims at knowing the earth. Actually, the description of the natural entities is an effort to understand ecology as all other social issues intersect with the complex issues of natural world. The whole understanding of ecology depends on interconnectedness. The new understanding comes through the long experience of the natural world and its ways. People start to realize the essentiality of nature in their life only when they know it. Eco -awareness implants on human mind and the ideas of human connectedness with nature makes a response to the need of humanistic understanding of our relationship with natural world.

John Muir and Wendell Berry try to help us understand nature, and human relationship with nature by glorifying it. Their writings are based on their direct observation and experience. By interconnecting human beings and natural world, both the writers try to germinate seeds of eco-awareness in the mind of contemporary people. The words that they use are originally linked to natural and oral culture. And the words provide remedies to resolve loss, tension and paradoxes of the world. So, their writings are a great source of inspiration for modern people who are negligently overlooking at their permanent home-nature.

## **Contents**

| 1. Eco- Literary Awareness: An Introduction                                       |    |
|---|----|
| 2. Ecocriticism: Its Origin and Place in Literature                               | 12 |
| 3. John Muir and Wendell Berry as Eco-aware Writers                               | 22 |
| 4. Glorification of Nature in John Muir's Travelogues and Wendell Berry's  Essays | 36 |
| a. Appreciating Nature  | 37 |
| b. Associating Nature with God  | 40 |
| c. Knowing and Understanding Nature   | 42 |
| d. Associating and Connecting Nature  | 43 |
| e. Aestheticizing Nature  | 44 |
| f. Showing Nature's Grandeur and Its Vastness                                     | 46 |
| Berry   |    |
| a. Utilitarian Perspectives   | 49 |
| b. Religious Perspectives   | 51 |
| c. Ethical Perspective  | 52 |
| 5. Purpose of Nature's Glorification in Wendell Berry's and John Muir's Writings  | 55 |
| 6. Conclusion   | 65 |
| Works Cited   |    |