

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

A Postmodern Reading of John Updike's *Rabbit at Rest*

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Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled A Postmodern Reading of John Updike's *Rabbit at Rest* submitted to the Central Department of English, T. U., Kirtipur by Dipak Dhakal has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

John Updike's *Rabbit at Rest* raises the postmodern issues like subversion of narration, celebration of fragmentation, pastiche, dissemination and so on. The novel depicts the condition of American people in the later phase of the twentieth century as symbolized by Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom. Rabbit, in his mid 50s, is living in Condo Florida. His son Nelson, wife Janice, and children come to stay with him and disaster unfolds as Rabbit has a serious heart attack and it is discovered that Nelson has been embezzling to feed this cocaine habit. The novel presents the contemporary issues of 1980s like sexually-obsessed thoughts, the confinement of marriage, the realities of marital obsessed Americans, family disintegration, sexually transmitted diseases, drug addictions and so on. These issues themselves become the determining factors of postmodern novel. This thesis examines how Updike's America is moving forward in the course of time along with all these societal problems.

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