

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**An Attack on Scientific Optimism:
A Study of Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle***

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

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July, 2007

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “An Attack on Scientific Optimism,” Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Surya Prasad Kafle, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Acknowledgement

I am intellectually indebted to my respected and honorable thesis supervisor, Dr. Beerendra Pande, who, despite his busy schedule, encouragingly helped me to give the final shape of this study. This dissertation would never have appeared in its present form without his kind and invaluable guidance. I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the scholars, guardians, and my friends who directly or indirectly assisted me to give this thesis its present form. The completion of the thesis would have remained a mere dream without their fruitful encouragement, constructive insight and assistance.

I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the central Department of English, T.U., who advised me to persevere in my efforts to complete this work. More than that, I would like to express a deep sense of respect to him for providing me the working field.

I am wholeheartedly indebted to respected Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Prof. Chandra Prakash Sharma, Prof. Bishnu Raj Pande, Dr. Sangita Rayamajhi, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti and Dr. Shiva Rijal for their warm encouragement and suggestions to complete this work. Similarly my indebtedness goes to the respected teachers Mr. Shankar Subedi and Badri Acharya who kindly helped me while writing this work.

I heartily express my gratitude to my teachers Mr. Hem Sharma Paudel, Mr. Pushpa Acharya and Mr. Shuvaraj Ranabhat who paved my way to materialize this work. Moreover, my sincere sense of obligation also goes to other professors and lecturers including the members of the research committee of the Department who not only permitted but also encouraged me to work in this field.

My sincere thanks go to the computer typists Rajiv Maharjan and Bishow Maharjan who assisted me to digitize this thesis with his accurate and high speed typing skills. Likewise, my special thanks go to the Friend's Computer Service. I would like to thank my friend Mr. Shivahari Mainali for his kind help in correcting the language lapses.

Finally, I like to acknowledge my friends Chakra Oli, Kumar Gurung, Durga Mani Sharma, Prakash Parajuli, Dol RajAryal, Kedar Pokhrel, Ranjan, Kisor, Hira Lal, Prakash and all those friends who have contributed by helping me. I extend my gratitude to my father Mr. Daya Ram Sharma and other family members for providing me constant support and encouragement.

July, 2007

Surya Prasad Kafle

Abstract

The novel *Cat's Cradle* is a more obvious reaction to the twentieth century's worship of science. It mocks people who believe they can understand, can control everything and survive the world's mysteries. Kurt Vonnegut tries to portray ironies in the scientific invention on the atomic bomb and ice-9. The real source of ice-9 is a speculation about this science fiction invention. John imagines ice-9 as a play thing of Felix Hoenikker's gift to the children. It directly shows an irony to Felix Hoenikker's attempt to invent imaginative discovery, ice-9. In *Cat's Cradle* there is a actual danger of man's misuse of experimentation with atomic structures. Ice-9 results from a recombination of atoms. Vonnegut ridicules the hubris by emphasizing that sheer human stupidity is not only alive in the twentieth Century but armed to the teeth. Vonnegut has suspicion over science as being beneficial. Vonnegut's dystopic ironic attitudes towards science exposes its other side in *Cat's Cradle*.

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