

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Effects of Heredity and Environment in Eugene O'Neill's *Beyond the Horizon*

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By

Narayan Prasad Neupane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kathmanudu by Mr. Narayan Prasad Neupane entitled **Effects of Heredity and Environment in Eugene O'Neill's *Beyond the Horizon*** has been approved by undersigned members of the Thesis Committee.

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:

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Abstract

This research makes a naturalist study of O'Neill's play *Beyond the Horizon* with reference to its exploitation of nature, symbol, setting and characters. It is a naturalist play where two major characters, Robert Mayo and Andrew Mayo are influenced by the effects of heredity and environment. The instinctual quality which is transferred by ancestors or parents plays a great role to determine the life of offspring. Robert and Andrew Mayo do great labour to get success in their occupation but that ends as meaningless due to the instinctual effect. O'Neill opines that naturalist plays are traditional which relate to the tragic elements: alienation, death, violence and suicide. The play also displays the truth which comes out from experience related in observation and experiment. Most of the naturalist writings are concerned to instinctual and accurate depiction of life and show the reality of the world.

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