

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Sense of Belatedness in William Styron's *Sophie's Choice*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
In the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in English

By

Kushal Lamichhane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September, 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The thesis entitled **Sense of Belatedness in William Styron's *Sophie's Choice*** by Mr. Kushal 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:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” I am highly indebted to my thesis supervisor Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari for his support and encouragement during this tedious process of shaping the dissertation. Any attempt to extend my gratitude to him in words actually remains inadequate.

Likewise, I am grateful to Dr. Krishana Chandra Sharma, the Head of the English Department for the approval of this dissertation in its present form. I am equally indebted to Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Birendra Pandey, Dr. Sangita Rayamajhi for shaping my intellectual growth. Thanks to all the teachers at the Central Department of English for their intellectual assistance.

I am whole-heartedly grateful to my parents, brothers and sister, without whose inspiration this thesis would be impossible.

Finally, I cannot forget my friends who helped me by encouraging and assisting in every way during this research work.

September, 2007

Kushal Lamichhane

Abstract

Every Poet, by nature, aims to be original and wants to establish his own sublime. He struggles to create his own individual poetic vision without being overcome by the poetic influence of prior poet. Stingo, in *Sophie's Choice* wants to create his unique identity in writing. He is pulled by his desire to be a writer but equally finds himself in the 'vague notion' of writing. In the process of seeking his voice in writing, he must pass through different revisionary flights that Bloom has identified. In *Sophie's Choice* Styron dramatizes the young writer's struggle to occupy a literary territory, and his attempt to evade prior poet's suffocating influence.

Contents

| | Page No. |
|---|--------------|
| I: Introduction | 1-9 |
| II: Dialectics of Poetic Influence | 10-26 |
| Revisionary Ratios | 13-21 |
| Poetic Incarnation and Antithetical Criticism | 21-31 |
| Poetry of belatedness and Poetic Inter-textuality | 23-26 |
| III: Sense of Belatedness in William Styron's <i>Sophie's Choice</i> | 27-44 |
| Stingo as a Belated writer | 27-30 |
| Bloom's Revisionary Ratios and Stingo in <i>Sophie's Choice</i> | 30-39 |
| Female as Muse in Stingo's Progress | 39-41 |
| Projection of Authorial Voice | 41-42 |
| Poetic Inter-textuality | 42-44 |
| IV: Conclusion | 45-47 |
| Works Cited | 48-49 |