

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Reversal in Power Positions: A study on power struggle in David Mamet's *Oleanna*

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By

Shiva Poudel

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis titled **Reversal in Power Positions: A study on power struggle in David Mamet's *Oleanna*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Shiva Poudel has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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Abstract

Unequal power relation leads to power abuse, which results in power struggle between the characters in David Mamet's *Oleanna*. This struggle is to gain power by subverting the power of the power holder which becomes possible by coming up with a strategy for resistance, which ultimately causes power reversal. *Oleanna* portrays the human desire to be powerful to get a position to fight against the power abuser and also in the process to get a chance to assert own identity and significance. This is depicted when to resist the power of John, power at any cost becomes the motto of Carol as gaining power over the opponent can make her the 'subject' and thus able to assert her power. Mamet through this play, shows the true nature of humans, that is to fight for power and position, only through which they can find a space for themselves and assert their identity and existence.

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