ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLS USED IN THE GREAT GATSBY

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfillment for the Master of Education in English

> Submitted by Gita Kumari Chapagain

Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2013

ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLS USED IN THE GREAT GATSBY

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfillment for the Master of Education in English

Submitted by Gita Kumari Chapagain

Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2013

T.U. Regd No.: 9-3-28-193-2006

Campus Roll No.:423

Second Year Examination

Roll No.: 280306/2065

Date of Approval of the

Thesis Proposal: 2069/1/15

Date of Submission:24/03/2013

ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLS USED IN THE GREAT GATSBY

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfillment for the Master of Education in English

> Submitted by Gita Kumari Chapagain

Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2013

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that Mrs. Gita Kumari Chapagain has prepared this thesis entitled Analysis of Symbols Used in *The Great Gatsby* under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance.

Date: 24/03/2013

.....

Prof. Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan (Guide)

Department of English Education

Faculty of Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation from the following

Research Guidance Committee: Signature Dr. Anjana Bhattarai Reader and Head (Chairperson) Department of English Education TU, Kirtipur Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra **Professor** (Member) Department of English Education Chairperson English and Other Foreign Languages **Education Subject Committee** T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan (Guide) Professor (Member) Department of English Education TU, Kirtipur

Date: /03/2013

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following **Thesis Evaluation and Approval Committee:**

Signature Dr. Anjana Bhattarai Reader and Head (Chairperson) Department of English Education TU, Kirtipur Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra **Professor** (Member) Department of English Education Chairperson English and Other Foreign Languages **Education Subject Committee** T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan (Guide) Professor (Member) Department of English Education TU, Kirtipur

Date: 29/03/2013

DECLARATION

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original;
no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree
to any university.

Date: 23/ 03/ 2013

Gita Kumari Chapagain

DEDICATION

I gratefully dedicate this thesis to

My loving mother and my caring husband

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my inner most gratitude to my thesis supervisor, **Prof. Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan,** Department of English Education, for his influential guidance, encouragement and constructive feedback throughout my research study. Therefore, I feel very much lucky to have worked under his supervision.

I am exceedingly grateful to my respected Guruma **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai,** Reader and Head of the Department of English Education for her kind support and providing an opportunity to conduct this research study.

Likewise, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Prof. Dr.**Chandreshwor Mishra, for his excellent and remarkable academic support and encouragements to complete this research work. I am also extremely grateful to my respected Gurus **Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, **Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai**, **Prof. Dr. Tirtha Raj Khaniya**, **Dr.Anju Giri**, **Dr. Tapasi Bhattacharya**, **Dr.Vishnu Singh Rai**, **Mr.Ram Ekbal Singh**, **Dr. Balmukunda Bhandari**, **Dr. Tara Datta Bhatta**, **Mr. Raj Narayan Yadav** for their priceless suggestions to energize my study behavior which empowered me to carry out this research study.

I owe a particular debt to Mrs. Madhu Neupane, for her encouragement and constructive feedback to complete my research. Similarly, I extend my decent gratitude to Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma, Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak, Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi, Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokherel and Mrs. Hima Rawal.

I also acknowledge with gratitude to Mr. Khem Raj Joshi who helped and advised me to explore my research work. Likewise, I am grateful to Mr. Ashok sapkota, Mr. Resham Acharya, Mr. Ramesh Ghimire, Mr. Laxmi Ojha and Mr. Guru Prasad Poudel for their academic support and positive suggestions in my research study.

I would like to extend my deep respect to **Mrs. Madhavi Khanal**, Librarian, for her kind support during my study. I am equally grateful to **Durka Computer** for helping in typing and setting.

Likewise, I am very thankful to my brother in law, **Mr. Bikram Pandey, Mr. Raju Pandey** and my friend **Basanta Devkota** for their co-operation and valuable suggestions in my thesis writing.

I would like to make a special mention of my family members. I am highly indebted to my husband **Mr. Birat Pandey** for extending his whole hearted support in my every sorts of academic activities. My thanks would be incomplete without mentioning my sweet daughter **Aaushree Pandey**. I cannot forget my late father **Homnath Chapagain** at this moment. Similarly, my loving mother **Devkala Chapagain** receives my special gratefulness. Likewise, I would like to remember my brothers and sisters: **Yogesh**, **Bishal**, **Rita** and **Laxmi** and to my all family members for their every support and co- operation to carry out this research work successfully.

Finally, I would like to thank all my well-wishers, academicians, and friends for having in some way influenced the development of this research work.

Gita Kumari Chapagain 2013

ABSTRACT

The present study entitled "Analysis of Symbols Used in *The Great Gatsby*" aimed to find out the symbolic uses of the words and phrases in the novel *The Great Gatsby*. The symbols were extracted purposively by using the theoretical tools of symbolism and analyzed within the context of occurrence. The research study was based on the library research and the study followed the norms of qualitative methods of data analysis within the form of 'words' and 'phrases'. After analyzing the symbols, it was found that Fitzgerald reinforced various personal and private symbols in the novel. Different colors, characters, places, events, seasons, gestures etc. are used as symbols. Color symbolism are highly focused. Among those symbols the green light is found to be the most influential symbol in the novel.

This study consists of four chapters. Chapter one deals with general background, review of related literature, objectives and significance of the study. Chapter two includes methodology of study sources of data, sampling procedure, tools for data collection, process of data collection and limitations of the study. Chapter three consists of analysis and interpretation of the collected data. Chapter four discusses the finding and recommendations based on the analysis and interpretation of the data that are followed by reference and appendices.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page No.
Deci	laration	i
Reco	ommendation for Acceptance	ii
Recommendation for Evaluation		iii
Evaluation and Approval		iv
Ded	ication	v
Ackr	nowledgements	vi
Abst	ract	viii
Tabl	le of Contents	ix
Sym	bols and Abbreviations	xi
CHA	APTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-31
1.1	General Background	1
	1.1.1 Genres of Literature	2
	1.1.2 Elements of Novel Theme	5
	1.1.3 Symbol, Symbolism and Symbolic Movement	9
	1.1.4 Symbolism as a Movement	15
	1.1.5 Importance of Symbolism	20
	1.1.6 Importance of Literature in Language Classroom	21
	1.1.7 Introducing the Writer	23
	1.1.8 Introduction to the Novel <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	24
	1.1.9 The Writer's Age/ Literary Genres	26
	1.1.10 Qualitative Research	28
1.2	Review of Related Literature	29
1.3	Objectives of the Study	31
1.4	Significance of the Study	31
CHA	APTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	32-33
2.1	Sources of Data	32

	2.1.1 Secondary Source of Data	32
2.2	Sampling Procedure	32
2.3	Tools for Data Collection	33
2.4	Process of Data Collection	33
2.5	Limitations of the Study	33
CHA	APTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	34-76
3.1	Public Symbols	34
	3.1.1 Colors as Symbols	34
	3.1.2 Symbolism of Color Contrast	47
	3.1.3 Seasons and Climate as Symbols	49
	3.1.4 Nature as Symbols	51
	3.1.5 Education as Symbol	55
	3.1.6 Values as Symbols	56
3.2	Private/ Personal Symbols	56
	3.2.1 American Dream as Symbols	57
	3.2.2 Characters as Symbols	58
	3.2.3 Places as Symbols	64
	3.2.4 Objects as Symbols	66
	3.2.5 Events as Symbols	71
	3.2.6 Costumes as Symbols	73
	3.2.7 Names as Symbols	73
	3.2.8 Actions/Gestures as Symbols	75
CHA	APTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	S 77-80
4.1	Findings	77
4.2	Recommendations	78
REF	FERENCES	81-82
APPENDICES		83-87

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TGG : The Great Gatsby

p : page number

HUP : Harvard University Press

CUP : Cambridge University Press

ELT : English Language Teaching

etc. : Etcetera

i.e. : That is to say

ibid : Ibidem (in same book or passage)

I. Ed. : Intermediate in Education

I.A. : Intermediate in Arts

M.Ed. : Master of Education

T.U. : Tribhuvan University