

Tribhuvan University

Reversal of Male Hegemony in G. B. Shaw's *Candida*

A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of
Master of Arts in English

By

Lekhanath Lamichhane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August 2007

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to my respected teacher Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, the supervisor of my research work. I respectfully offer a deep sense of love and gratitude to him from the core of my heart for his kind cooperation, love, affection and intellectual plantation during the research work. I again express respectful emotions and desires upon him. He always inspired me to learn life and taught the way of life. He is the true source of my inspiration in thesis as well as in life.

I would like to express my respect to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, for his smiling suggestion. Similarly, I am highly indebted to Dr. Sangita Raymajhi, Reader and lecturer of Central Department of English, who blessed me to complete my thesis work.

I respectfully acknowledge and offer gratitude to my respected teacher Dr. Shiva Rijal, a lecturer of Central Department of English for his helps and suggestions. Likewise, I express deep respect for Mr. Govinda Bhattarai, lecturer of the Department, for his help. Again, I give credit to Mr. Badri Acharya and Mr. Jib Nath Lamsal, lecturer of the Department. I am also highly indebted to all the professors, lecturers, and teachers who helped me in each and every step of my research. And, all the faculty members including staffs of the administration are worthy of my respect.

I should dutifully remain grateful to my parents, Krishna Sharan Sharma and Humakala Sharma; and finally to my brother Kamal Chandra Lamichhane. Their love, affection, economic support led me to complete my Master's Degree.

Lekhnath Lamichhane

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Sunday, January 09, 2022

Abstract

This thesis entitled Reversal of Male Hegemony in George Bernard Shaw's *Candida* demonstrates the power of a female character. *Candida* (1894) explores the female 'space' within domesticity and proves it as vital and decisive. Candida, a courageous and bold woman reverses the prevailing male conception of 'superiority' and shows the universal dependence of male upon female. Morell, a Christian scholar husband to Candida remains submissive to his wife and accepts what she says. Nothing important happens in the play except a woman's free choice. It is Candida who chooses the weaker to support him who thinks himself a strong man. Due to life force, Candida doesn't violate the relation rather redefine her role. Candida stands as a role model of female empowerment. It is a redefinition of women's role. I have tried to explore the drama from a feminist perspective and will dismantle the male's power. At last, Candida reflects the female's subjectivity in relation with life force due to which they are obliged to revolt without violating the convention. It is spirit of Shaw's drama.

Contents

Approval Letter

Acknowledgement

Abstract

Chapter One: Introduction

G. B. Shaw: Life and Background

Shaw as a Dramatist: Subject Matter

Shaw's Theory of Life Force and Creative Evolution

Shaw and Ibsen's Influences upon Him

G.B. Shaw, Candida and Women Issue

Literature Review

Chapter Two: Theoretical Modality

Feminism: General Concept

Feminism, Theatre and Women

Resistance Against Patriarchy: G. B. Shaw as a Feminist 'Playwright'

Chapter Three: Textual Analysis

Reversal of Male Hegemony in G. B. Shaw's Candida

Chapter Four: Conclusion

Works Cited