

Tribhuvan University

Affirmation of Gay Space in the Willa Cather's *The Professor's House*

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By

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis entitled “Affirmation of Gay Space in the Willa Cather’s *The Professor’s House*” by Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of Research committee Members of Research Committee

Members of Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head,

Central Department of English

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Abstract

Willa Cather's novel *The professor's House* attacks the prevalent heterosexual culture by providing the gay relationship. Such affinity can be seen between the main characters Godfrey St. Peter and Tom Outland. The relationship between male characters is strong whereas a female character with male is feeble. Since the novel affirms homosexuality, it disavows the prevalent norms, values and tenets of heterosexual culture and thus counterattacks the prevalent heteronormative society. The novel questions McCarthyism of twentieth century which was active to abolish homosexuality in America. *The Professor's House* was written in the context of sodomy which was prosecuted in America between the periods of 1880's to 1920's. Because of this social boundary gay relationship is not explicitly shown in the novel but implicitly manifested through queer activities.

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