

Tribhuvan University

Myth as a Hope for Renewal in *The Strong Breed* and *Buried Child*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English

By

Sushil Lamichhane

University Campus

Kirtipur

September 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis entitled "Myth as a Hope for Renewal in *The Strong Breed* and *Buried Child*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Sushil Lamichhane 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

I would like to extend my earnest gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Shuva Raj Ranabhat, Lecturer in Central Department of English without whose responsible guidance this research would have remained in my dream only. I am really thankful to Shankar Prasad Subedi who guided me for proposal writing. I am equally grateful to the Head of the Department of English Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Dr. Arun Gupto, Devi Prasad Gautam, Baikuntha Paudel, Saroj Ghimire and Ghanashyam Bhandari. No words will be enough to appreciate their invaluable suggestions and instructions to meet the expected goal.

My sincere thanks go to my wife Mrs. Kalpana Khanal and my friend Suresh Dhungana for their regular support. I would like to express my gratitude to all my well wishers who share my happiness in this moment.

To conclude, I would like to appreciate Deepak Basnet of Resunga Computer Service for his efficient printing.

Sushil Lamichhane

September 2007

Abstract

This research study basically analyzes the mythical elements in Wole Soyinka's one-act play *The Strong Breed* and Sam Shepard's three act play *Buried Child*. Soyinka and Shepard have employed the Yoruba myth and vegetation myth of Corn-King respectively in their plays, that hope for renewal of community and land. The main aim is to show the capacity of renewal and regeneration in African and American societies. This study attempts to show how sacrifice of human beings as an Oluwo leads to renewal of society in *The Strong Breed* and how the transmission of spirit of old Corn-King to the new successor leads to renewal of land in *Buried Child*.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Introduction **Error! Bookmark not defined.**-9

II. Myth Criticism **Error! Bookmark not defined.**-22

III. Textual Analysis **Error! Bookmark not defined.**-44

 Mythical Elements in Wole Soyinka's *The Strong Breed* **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

 Mythical Elements in Shepard's *Buried Child* **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

 Comparison and Contrast Between *The Strong Breed* and *Buried Child* **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

IV. Conclusion **Error! Bookmark not defined.**-46

Works Cited **Error! Bookmark not defined.**