TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Free will, Dependency and Salvation in T. S. Eliot's The Cocktail Party

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

Nabin Kumar Sharma

Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
July 5, 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Free Will, Dependency and Salvation in T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party* by Nabin Kumar Sharma, has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

| Internal Examiner |
|----------------------------|
| |
| External Examiner |
| |
| Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma |
| Head of the Department |
| |

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for the existence of my present thesis. It has been his scholarly guidance and valuable suggestions and that have made this project a reality. I am deeply indebted to him. Any attempt to express my gratitude to him in words is bound to be inadequate. I am also obliged to the Head of the Department Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma for the approval of this thesis in its present form.

My special gratitude goes to my respected teachers of the Department, my friends Ms. Tulasha Limbu, Mr. Dev Raj Limbu, Mr. Amit Adhikari, Mr. Raju Tiwari and my family for their continuous support and encouragement without which my dream to be a research student would have remain unrealized.

Finally, I am indebted to Mr. Raamesh Maharjan for typing and other technical supports.

Nabin Kumar Sharma

July 5, 2007

Abstract

On the surface of T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, it seems to be a classical drama only significant to the spectators of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, from where the plot comes. But the closer analysis of the plot and its theme reveals the play to be a significant one for the modern wastelanders of the twentieth century living after the two devastating world wars. Some of the characters in the play resemble modern wastelanders and some Christ-figures and play important role in the play. They speak a language of twentieth century balancing their poetic dialogue but not twelfth century languages. And finally, the play is set implicitly in twentieth century environment despite its explicit religious setting. So, this play has significance in among the spectators of twentieth century.

Contents

| Chapter One: Introduction | 1-16 |
|---|-------|
| -Eliot and His Family Background | 1 |
| -Eliot and His Time | 3 |
| -A Brief Survey of Eliot's Works | 5 |
| -Eliot as a Modern Poet and Dramatist | 11 |
| -Spiritual Quest in Eliot's Poetry and Plays | 12 |
| -Critics on T.S. Eliot and <i>The Cocktail Party</i> | 14 |
| Chapter Two: Discussion of tools (Modernism and Christianity) | 17-35 |
| -Moral Values and Aims | 17 |
| -Moral Crisis and sin | 19 |
| -Modern World and Absurdity | 23 |
| -Dominant Human Type in Human Culture | 28 |
| -Religion | 29 |
| -Martyrdom and Sacrifice | 32 |
| Chapter Three: Free Will, Dependency and Salvation | 36-53 |
| -Moral Degeneration | 37 |
| -Unconscious Human Interests: Free Will and Fall of Man | 40 |
| -Life Negations, Absurdity and Hegelian Contradiction | 43 |
| -The Evils of Life | 47 |
| -Voyage from Chaos to Order: Martyrdom and Sacrifice | 49 |
| Chapter Four: Conclusion | 54-57 |
| Bibliography | |