TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Failure of American Dream in Afro-American Context in Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun

A Thesis submitted to

Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in English.

By

Dirgha Raj Kaphle

Central Department of English

University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

June, 2007

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

APPROVAL LETTER

The thesis entitled Failure of American Dream in Afro-American Context in Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. The undersigned members of the Thesis Committee have approved it. Research Committee Members: Advisor:_____ External Examiner: Head, ____ Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

In writing this thesis, I have mostly relied upon my thesis proposal approved at the Central Department of English, T.U., Kirtipur. I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Baikuntha Paudel, Lecturer at Central Department of English, T.U., Kirtipur: for his most competent guidance, encouragement and suggestions throughout my work. I am indebted to him for providing me with the necessary materials to bring this thesis in this form.

I am equally grateful to Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Dr. Sangita Rayamajhi, Mr. Sajag Rana for their invaluable suggestions, inspiration and other kinds of help, who graciously responded to some of my queries. I would also like to express my heartful thanks to Mr. Lok Bdr. Chhetri (Srijon) and Namrata Karki for their cordial help to prepare this thesis.

I would like to thank the staff of Central Library, T.U., Kirtipur and American Library Center, Kathmandu; for the help they extended to me during this project in various ways. I also thank to Aashish Kunwar and Niroj Rijal for the efficient typing of the manuscript.

I am especially indebted to my family for giving me all the warmth, and affection that enabled me to complete this work without which the completion of this thesis book wouldn't have been possible.

June, 2007

Dirgha Raj Kaphle

Abstract

Hansberry presents a story of a black family in a Chicago ghetto in which a group of black characters are shown with their dreams. As the play begins with the poem "What happens to a dream deferred", borrowed from Langston Hughes, suggests that there must be massive social explosion when the characters find that their dreams proved to be failure. But Hansberry has artistically tackled the situation to make people aware that dreams are not always fulfilled. So, at the end of the play, there is a note of hope for a new life. Hansberry wants to show social and racial discriminations and disintegration of group identity among the black people as dominant factors to lead American Dream towards its failure in Afro-American context.

Contents

Approval Letter

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I.	1-15
Introduction	1
Hansberry and Her Times	3
Critics on A Raisin in the Sun	6
II.	16-40
Introduction	16
Puritanism in American Dream	16
What is American Dream?	20
The Source of American Dream	23
Confutation of American Dream	26
America: A Nation of Diversity	30
Crowning of Liberty and Education	32
America in Media Network	34
Ethnic Groups and Minorities	36
Mainstream and Ethnic American Dream	37
The American Dream Today	49
Criticism of American Dream	40
III.	41-51
Textual Analysis of A Raisin in the Sun	41
Dramatis Personae	43

IV.	52-56
Conclusion	52
Works Cited	

Characters and their Dreams

43