

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Expression of Neurotic Psyche in Susan Minot's *Evening*

A thesis submitted to the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department
of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, for partial fulfillment of the
requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in English.

By

Gita Hamal

July 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis titled “Expression of Neurotic Psyche in Susan Minot’s Novel *Evening*”
submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, by Gita Hamal,
has been approved by the undersigned members of the Thesis Committee.

Supervisor

(Yadab Prasad Adhikari)

External examiner

Hriseekesh Upadhyay

Head, Department of English

Date:- _____

Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Kathmandu

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. Yadab Prasad Adhikari, without whose invaluable suggestions, scholarly guidance and steady stream of inspiration this work would not have been accomplished. He generously read the manuscript and filled the margins with sharp-eyed comments and questions; his incisive marginalia became my primary source of inspiration. My debt to him is deep and enduring.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Hriseekesh Upadhyay, Head of the Department of English, Ratan Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, for the encouragement and valuable suggestions as an elixir.

I specially want to thank some people I met who gave me more wisdom than any book. I am greatly obliged to Dr. Anand Sharma, Dr. Vinay Jha, Mr. Bijaya Kumar Rauniyar and Mr. Rudra Prasad Paudyal for their constructive suggestions whenever I needed.

I do not find appropriate and adequate words to offer my genuine salutation to all my teachers who have accompanied me, guided me and inspired me in course of my lifetime journey within the realm of words.

Finally, I cannot forget my family and friends for valuable cooperation and encouragement.

July 2007

Gita Hamal

Contents

Acknowledgements

Chapter I: Introduction	1-8
1.1 Protagonist With Personality Disorder	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Hypothesis	3
1.4 Significance of the Study	3
1.5 Review of Literature	3
1.6 Methodology	7
1.7 Delimitation of the Study	8
Chapter II: Psychic Trauma as the Base of Modern Novel Writing	9-36
2.1 Origin and Development of Psychoanalysis	9
2.2 Psychoanalysis and Literature	19
2.3 Freud's Psychoanalytic Perspective	21
2.4 Jung's Psychoanalytic Perspective	27
2.5 Lacan's Psychoanalytic Perspective	31
2.6 Psychoanalytical Reading in the Twentieth-Century American Novels	32
Chapter III: Neurotic Psyche in Minot's <i>Evening</i>	37-59
3.1 Episodical Movement Between Present and Past	37
3.2 Confined World as an Illusion in <i>Evening</i>	43
3.3 Disassociation and Schizophrenia: A Panicky Experience of the Protagonist	49
3.4 Revealing of Frustration, Suffocation and Anxiety in Emotionally Crippled Life	54

3.5 Dreamlike Language as a Means to Express Hidden Desire 57

Chapter IV: Conclusion

Inner Struggle of Neurotic Mind in *Evening* 60

Works Cited