

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Ideology and Class Consciousness in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English in
Partial fulfillment of the requirement for
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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March, 2008

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This thesis entitled "Ideology and class consciousness in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*" submitted to the central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Raju Acharya, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my great pleasure to complete this research work under the supervision and constant guidance of Mr. Pushpa Raj Acharya, Lecturer at Central Department of English. This research would not have been completed without his sustained inspiration and assistance. I express my gratitude to my respectable guru Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of Central Department of English. Similarly, I am also highly indebted to my respectable teachers of Central Department of English who encouraged me while preparing this dissertation.

I am also grateful to my parents, wife, sons and villagers who encouraged me at every step of my life to get better education. I would like thank to my friends Madhav, Ramchandra, Krishana, Ishwor, Ganga and Narayan for their regular encouragement. I would also like to express my thanks to Lekhanath Subedi for computer typing and designing.

I am grateful to writers, critics and editors of the source materials from which I have cited.

March, 2008

Raju Acharya

ABSTRACT

Exploitation, class conflict and poverty were continuously frozen in Russian society. Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* unfolds socioeconomic situation of Tsarist Russia. The work depicts the pathetic condition of oppressed class in Russia. It also reflects the tussle between upper and lower class people and their attempts to raise their socioeconomic status. Raskolnikov, the protagonist, and other proletarian characters are captured in the claws of bourgeois system that makes their life deplorable. In reaction, Raskolnikov murders pawnbroker woman. His crime is a resistance to bourgeois system. Sonia is engaged in prostitution because of poverty that is caused by exploitation. Social formation makes her continue her work for survival. Dounia is a victim of bourgeois ideology. She works in Svidrigailov's house for existence in the society. She is ready to marry Luzhin because of economic problems. Seen from the idea of Lukacsian Marxist ideology, the novel portrays the proletarian class consciousness determined by socio-economic status. Raskolnikov resists existence of socio-economic reality. Bourgeois and proletariat characters are hostile to each other due to their own ideologies. Pawnbroker woman exploits poor city people taking high interest. Svidrigailov and Luzhin treat the villagers badly. They exploit Sonia and Dounia. Proletariats try to establish their own ideologies so that they can rebel against the bourgeois society.

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