

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Nation's Trouble in Transition in Tennessee Williams's

A Streetcar Named Desire

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

By

Agni Prasad Gnawali

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

March 2008

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled "Nation's Trouble in Transition in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*," submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Agni Prasad Gnawali 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 express my gratitude to my respected supervisor, Dr. Shiva Rijal for his scholarly guidance. This research work would never have seen the light of day without his kind help.

Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, Kirtipur. I feel very happy to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Research Committee for granting me an opportunity to carry out this research work. Similarly, I am highly indebted to Prof. Padma Prasad Devkota, Prof. Abhi Subedi, and Dr. Beerendra Pandey, Mr Hem Sharma Poudel for their invaluable suggestions. Likewise, my thanks go to dear friends, Mr. Durga Prasad Koirala, Punya Prasad Koirala, Jitendra Nepali and others who helped me in this endeavour.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents, my better half, Haripriya Gnawali and others, who made a lot of sacrifices for my higher studies. I cannot forget their constant help and support that has inspired me to complete this research work.

I am also thankful to the proprietor of M. M. Communication, Kirtipur for typing and printing this thesis.

March 2008

Agni Prasad Gnawali

Abstract

Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947) highlights, through portrayal of typical Southern character, Blanche and Stanley, and their personal narrative, the nation's trouble in transition during postwar America when the country was transforming into harmonious, prosperous and equitable society, the people went through different sorts of troubles because the war had not only destabilized the country physically, but also it had caused social, moral and cultural destruction. So, the people were in the process of nation building and they were rebuilding their lives. This has been beautifully shown through the southern representative character, Blanche and Stanley and his wife, Stella, who find themselves into constant conflict due to their respective beliefs in tradition, culture and modernity. In this way, all this reflects America's trouble during the transitional period.

Contents

Acknowledgements iii

Abstract iv

Chapter I. Introduction 1-15

Chapter II. Nation, Narration and Literature 16- 30

Chapter III. Nation's Trouble in Transition in *A Streetcar*. . . 31- 43

Chapter IV. Conclusion 44-45

Works Cited