

Tribhuvan University

Rebellion Against Male-Dominated Society by Isabel Archer in *The Portrait of a Lady*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Jiban Chandra Rai

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

February 2007

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Approval Letter**

This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University, by Jiban Chandra Rai, titled “Rebellion Against Male-Dominated Society by Isabel Archer in *The Portrait of a Lady*” 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**

This dissertation would not have been possible without the scholarly guidance, invaluable suggestions and constant support of my thesis supervisor Mr. Rajendra Panthi of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. I express my sincere gratitude to him.

I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of Central Department of English for his cooperation and motivation.

I am equally indebted to Dr. Birendra Pandey, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Mr. Rajendra Giri and Mr. Ghanshyam Kafle for their warm encouragement and suggestions during the research period.

Similarly, words fail to convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Himalaya Pokhrel who regularly helped me in many ways despite his busy time.

I am equally thankful to my friends Bigyan Rai, Kaji Rai and Chintamani Parajuli, Dipendra Pokhrel and brother Hem Bahadur Rai for their supports. In course of completing this thesis, I received help and suggestion from various persons and institutions. I am indebted to them.

I am whole-heartedly grateful to my parents Dilmaya Rai and Madan Rai who provided me the opportunity to achieve higher education. I am also grateful to my elder sister Sapana Rai who always encouraged me to complete this thesis. On this auspicious occasion, I would also like to express my love to my sisters, Bipana Rai and Binita Rai.

Finally my special thanks goes to Resunga Computer Service, Kirtipur, that helped me in computerizing and printing.

Jiban Chandra Rai

February 2007

### **Abstract**

In this research, an attempt has been made to analyze James's masterpiece *The Portrait of a Lady* via the feminist discourse. Transplanted to Europe from her native America, Isabel Archer, the protagonist of the novel, has candour, beauty, intelligence, an independent spirit and a marked enthusiasm for life. Principally concerned with the question of freedom the novel also explores the issues of woman's situation in the society. Woman is trapped by the discourse which society has created. Isabel is not judged by the male characters of the novel for her intelligent, her creative mind and studious behaviour. Her personality is threatened by male aggression, even in the form of a proposal. The freedom, she seeks, is cracked by the society. But she keeps on revolting.

## Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Introduction **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Literature Review **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

II. History of Feminist Literary Criticism **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Gender, Just a Created Discourse **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

The Debate Over Women's Rights **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

III. Revolutionary Character of Isabel Archer: A Textual Analysis **Error!**

**Bookmark not defined.**

Too Many Ideas of Isabel Archer **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Marriage, a Problem for Isabel **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Challenge of Isabel Archer in Male-Dominated Society **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

IV. Conclusion **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Works Cited **Error! Bookmark not defined.**