

Tribhuvan University

Howard Campbell as an Existential Absurd Being in Kurt Vonnegut *Mother Night*

**A Thesis Submitted the Central Department of English
in the partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The thesis entitled “Howard Campbell as an Existential Absurd Being in Kurt Vonnegut *Mother Night*” has been prepared by Namrata Sharma under my guidance and supervision. She carried out her research from July 2015 to June 2016. I recommend this thesis for viva voce.

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Mr. Dr. Shiva Rijal

Supervisor Literature

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Date:.....

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Howard Campbell as an Existential Absurd Being in Kurt Vonnegut *Mother Night*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Namrata Sharma has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

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Date: _____

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Abstract

This research analyzes Kurt Vonnegut's *Mother Night* close from the viewpoint of existential absurdity. It uncovers the absurd, meaningless and purposeless life of the protagonist. This project analyzes the worthless, motionless and empty life of Howard Campbell. The protagonist remains identity less throughout life. He struggles to establish himself as an innocent. He intends to establish reputed identity. Despite his struggle, he fails and faces a sense of loss. His wife is killed. America and Germany refuse to acknowledge his contribution. Consequently, he became a stateless person. Resi deceives him. His literary properties are stolen. Eventually, he is proved as a Nazi war criminal. Howard Campbell remains as an absurd character. Throughout text, the protagonist suffers the condition of alienation, loneliness and crisis of identity. He finds as if there is not any purpose to live. In this regard, this research aims to show the narrator's empty life and his struggle to overcome it. Besides, the research work explores how the protagonist goes through the state of hopelessness, worthlessness, senselessness and emptiness. Moreover, it examines the protagonist as an existential absurd being.