

Tribhuvan University

Discourse in Disciplinary Gaze in Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*

A Thesis Submitted to

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

by

Ramesh Kandel

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

December, 2006

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

The thesis entitled "Discourse in Disciplinary Gaze in Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*," Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Ramesh Kandel has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee

Internal Examine

External Examiner

Head
Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgement

I am profoundly indebted to my parents for their encouragement in my academic route. The credit for the existence of this thesis goes to my respected research supervisor and the Head of the Central Department of English Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma for his invaluable supervision, constructive comments and suggestions, which helped me give the shape of thesis in its present form.

My special thanks go to my friends Mr. Sadan Raj Adhikari and Mr. Pam Bahadur Gurung for their priceless contribution in designing and formatting the work. Similarly, I am deeply indebted to my friend Mr. Rukmagat Pandey for his prominent help on collecting the materials.

This thesis deserves never to become complete in the absence of my friend Mr. Ramesh Chandra Gyawali because his precious assistance and prolonged encouragement in every step helped me get this thesis in its present form. Similarly, my friends Mr. Bijaya Acharya, Nirmal Bhusal, Yadu Sapkota and my brother Tilak Gaire deserve my heartfelt thanks for their continuous inspiration in completing this research work. Last but not the least, I would like to extend my gratitude to Oasis Computer for its fine typing, designing, setting, and printing.

Ramesh Kandel

December 2006

Abstract

The present research explores the discourse in disciplinary gaze of characters in Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*. Protagonist attempts to escape from the discursive morality assigned to her as to achieve republic of spirit and gain material prosperity, but the society practices and continues its established discursive gaze having disciplining motif towards protagonist so that it would be easy to keep control over her mental and physical activities. Escape from station to room or New York to abroad provides no hope at all. Her inability to break free from discourse and disciplinary gaze can't offer alternative way to life providing authenticity to her earlier position except to succumb her on the alter of power. Circumstances that discourse has created and power that disciplinary gaze has practiced discourages her to fight against financial crisis and social conventions that impair her physically and mentally. Burden of failure with no hope drags her to death.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Acknowledgement	
Abstract	
I. Introduction	1-10
II. Disciplinary Gaze as Discourse and Power	11-46
Discourse	11
Ideology	24
Power	31
Discipline and Disciplinary Gaze	35
III. Disciplinary Gaze and Suicide in <i>The House of Mirth</i>	47-79
IV. Conclusion	80-82
Works Cited	