

Tribhuvan University

Rejection of Archetypes in Deshpande's *That Long Silence*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Arts in English

By

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## Letter of Recommendation

This research study entitled Rejection of Archetypes in Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence* has been prepared by Mr. Amar Khanal under my supervision in the partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Arts in English. I recommend this study to the committee for approval.

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I remain responsible for all errors, omissions and other shortcomings in this work.

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## **Abstract**

*That Long Silence* by Shashi Deshpande is a novel which deals with a woman's attempt to assert her selfhood and realize her freedom. The novel is the revelation of the inner sensibility rather than the outer world of action. In her psychological journey, the protagonist, Jaya, searches release from the constraints of the tradition-oriented situation. She wants to break her role model and her own self. The present dissertation focuses on the haunting presence of tradition over individuality. Despite her education and the career as a writer, Jaya, the protagonist remains silent. In this situation, she finds no option except breaking the silence, which is created by the conventional patterns of society. By recalling her relationships with her family and friends. She is trying to write about herself, she is determined to break a "Long Silence." The whole novel revolves around the conflict between tradition and individuality, persona and self rights and duties. The novel is the struggle for the liberation of the self from the shackles of tradition and exercise for the manifestation of individual capabilities. Dealing with the protagonist Jaya's frustration, her awareness of the problems, her recognition of the crisis and her efforts at resolution, Deshpande portrays the average middle class woman's deeply felt but never so well-expressed experiences.

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