

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Reversal of Power Relations in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*

A Thesis submitted to

Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Nogendra Khanal

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

August. 2006

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis titled **Reversal of Power Relations in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Nogendra Khanal has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of the Department

Central Department of English, T.U.

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

The present study would not have been completed without the scholarly supervision and encouragement of my respected teacher Mr. Srijon (L.B.) Chhetri, Lecturer at the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. He provided a scholarly guidance, going through the script and correcting my innumerable mistakes. His invaluable supervision, suggestions and constructive comments encouraged and supported me to complete my research task. The expression of sincerest gratitude would not be sufficient enough to thank him.

Likewise, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to my respected teacher Prof. Chandra Prakash Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, for granting me an opportunity to carry out this research on the subject of my interest. I am equally thankful to the respected teachers Mr. Saroj Ghimire and Sadan Raj Adhikari for providing me invaluable suggestions.

I am deeply obliged to my parents Dilli Ram Khanal and Yagaya Kumari Khanal for their continuous inspiration, support and encouragement for the research task. Similarly my brother Gayatri Raman Khanal's support and suggestion is precious and unforgettable. My thanks also go to my sister Sumita Khanal and nephew Sanjib Dahal who have helped me to finish this research.

At last, my heartfelt thanks goes to my friends Ashok Bhatrai, Nawaraj Khanal, Darpan Bhatrai , Parkash Sharma, Prem Dhital and other friends for their kind cooperation, inspiration, encouragement and mutual help.

Nogendra Khanal

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August. 2006

Abstract

J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace* presents a subtle and multilayered story as much concerned with politics as it is with the itch of male flesh. Post-colonial and post-apartheid South African complexity roots back to its colonization and apartheid. Thus still the white David like people has the early hangover of the colonial and apartheid and Petrus, Three black invaders like people have the revenge ego against the white's domination, and so called superiority. White people's alienation and support to the black's rules and regulation is the true sense of reversed power relations.

Contents

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. INTRODUCTION	1
<i>Disgrace</i> as the Confluence of History and Politics	8
II. NEWHISTORICISM AND POWER	17
Foucauldian Perspective on Power and Discourse	21
Power in Colonial and Post-Colonial Period	28
III. BLACK AND WHITE RELATIONS IN <i>DISGRACE</i>	31
Introduction	31
Brief Summary of the Text	34
Complex Social Adjustment	37
Post-Apartheid South Africa and Power	41
IV. REVERSAL OF POWER	48
Works Cited	