Tribhuvan University

Perception Shift in Paula Vogel's How I Learned to Drive

Ву

Kumari Lama

A Thesis submitted to the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,

Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of

the requirements for the degree of

Masters of Arts in English

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August, 2006

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

This thesis entitled "Perception Shift in Paula Vogel's *How I Learned to Drive*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Kumari Lama has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research C	Committee:
	Internal Examiner
	External Examiner
	Head Central Department of English
	Date:

Acknowledgements

The credit for the existence of this thesis goes to my respected teacher Mr.

L.B. Chhetri, without whose consistent inspiration and invaluable suggestions it could have never been completed. Words fail to convey the depth of my gratitude to him for his close supervision throughout the work going through every line of the manuscript and providing with indispensable comments.

My special thanks go to Mr. Rajendra Panthi, my teacher, who helped me to choose this play for my research. My friend Mr. Om Prakash Niraula is equally praiseworthy for his prominent help on collecting the materials.

This thesis deserves never to become complete in the absence of the name of my parents Mr. Ram Bahadur Lama and Mrs. Meena Lama because of their precious and prolonged encouragement in every step in the course of its conduct.

Ms. Sabita Nakarmi, Mr. Navin Lama and Mrs. Binita Lama are some other expedient persons directly or indirectly contributing in bringing out this thesis in the present form.

Kumari Lama

Abstract

Paula Vogel presents a character, Li'l Bit, who shifts her perception on the things as well as to her loving uncle, Peck. She suddenly ends up her long relationship with Peck. Perception shift, which has brought great change in Li'l Bit is fully a psychological process. Her awakened feelings make her aware of her own 'self', identity' and 'existence'. She wants to end up their incestuous relationship for her individuality and existence. Her conscious state of mind fueled for the materialization of her hidden desire for freedom and individuality. Her consciousness leds her towards freedom from all the boundaries. She even wants to be free from her loving and caring uncle, Peck. Her shifted feelings give her power even to reject the proposal of marriage made by Peck. So, it is clear that Li'l Bit's perception shift and awakened feelings point towards her desire for 'freedom' forever.

Contents

Acknow	ledgment	S
--------	----------	---

I. The World of Paula Vogel	1
Vogel as a Playwright	1
Vogel's How I Learned to Drive	5
II. The Feminist Thinking	11
Introduction	11
Perception Shift in Female	24
III. Perception Shift in How I Learned to Drive	29
The World of Li'l Bit	29
Perception of other Female Characters	33
Li'l Bit's Perception Shift	38
IV. Female's Perception Shift	45
Works Cited	47