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S. No 17 B.A.Part-2 English Hons, Topic: Title of the play *She Stoops to Conquer*. Dr Umesh Prasad Singh, Assistant Prof of English, D. B. College

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Title of the play She Stoops to Conquer

The play *She Stoops to Conquer* has an alternative title: *The Mistakes of a Night*. In the beginning this was known as *The Mistakes of A Night* but now it is known as *She Stoops to Conquer*.

The play is, indeed, a comedy. The major comedies in this play arises from the mistakes of Marlow, and his misunderstanding about Mr Hardcastle's house. Marlow visits the house of Miss Kate along with Hastings with a view to marry her. However, he mistakes her house to be an inn. He mistakes Mr Hardcastle to be the landlord and Mrs Hardcastle to be the land lady, and Miss Kate to be the barmaid. His mistakes fill the play with comic scenes and provide the opportunity for Miss Kate to pretend herself to be a barmaid.

When Kate first meets Marlow, she finds him a shy man. However, Kate knows his peculiar character that he is shy among the ladies of high status, but he is frank and forward among the women of lower class. So in order to win Marlow, Miss Kate pretends to be a barmaid. Then to her great surprise, she finds Marlow a changed man. Marlow begs for her love and wants to kiss her.

This victory of Kate over Marlow is the central action of the play. The whole play moves around this action. As the plot develops, Miss Kate becomes more impotent than Mr Marlow. The action of pretending to be a barmaid forms the plot of the play. But Marlow's mistakes only offer Kate an opportunity to pretend herself as a barmaid.

In the whole of the play Miss Kate appears to be a heroine of the play. The play seems to move around her and her activities. Marlow appears as a sheepish non-heroic character. The title *She Stoops to Conquer* seems to explore the whole story of the play. But

the title *The Mistakes of A Night* deals with the half of the story only .Therefore, the title *She Stoops to Conquer* is apt and superior to that of *The Mistakes of A Night*.