

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Remembering Trauma of the Holocaust in Gunter Grass's Novel *The Tin Drum***

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy in English**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Yub Raj Paudyal completed his thesis entitled “**Remembering Trauma of the Holocaust in Gunter Grass’s Novel *The Tin Drum***” under my supervision. He carried out his research from October 2010 to May 2013. I, hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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**Approval Letter**

This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University, by Yub Raj Paudyal, entitled “**Remembering Trauma of the Holocaust in Gunter Grass’s Novel *The Tin Drum***” has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Abstract

Gunter Grass's novel *The Tin Drum* (1959) is about a representation of the trauma caused by the Holocaust. The novel includes references ranging from the Second World War and the Nazi atrocity upon the German Jews and other minorities to the supernatural power gained by the narrator, blasphemies to Church and Christ, parody, fairy tales, folklore, carnival, philosophy and intertextuality.

At the personal level, the novel is about revolt against parent generation. The demigod character Oskar stops growing at the age of three, can smash glasses with high pitch sound, can grow hump willfully and starts drumming. He is an autobiographical character which portrays him a paradoxical character caused by mental and physical dilemma.

At the societal level, Oskar carries the burden of Germany in his hump. He uses blasphemy to take revenge against church which secretly supports Nazis and their activities. His revolt against Nazi run education system and smashing doctors glass equipments in his lab indirectly represents his disobey of ideology and cry against euthanasia.

*The Tin Drum*, in this light, can be read and interpreted as a remembrance of the reality of trauma in both personal and societal level which is caused by Nazi ideology but inspired by German Christian culture and support of German to Hitler and Nazis.

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