

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

The Establishment of a Multi-Cultural National Identity as Resultant of Violence and  
Bodily Suffering in Keri Hulme's *The Bone People*

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

Sundar Bahadur Khatri Chhetri

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

2010

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Sundar Bahadur Khatri Chhetri has completed his thesis entitled "The Establishment of a Multi-Cultural National Identity as Resultant of Violence and Bodily Suffering in Keri Hulme's *The Bone People*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from January 2010 to July 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

---

Krishna Prasad Sapkota  
Supervisor

Date: 25\07\2010

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Approval**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "The Establishment of a Multi-Cultural National Identity as Resultant of Violence and Bodily Suffering in Keri Hulme's *The Bone People*", submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Sundar Bahadur Khatri Chhetri, has been approved by the research committee.

Members of the research Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

Head

Central Department of English

Date: .....

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota for his scholarly guidance, genuine suggestions, and warm responses and, of course, for his incessant encouragement for bringing this thesis into its full-fledged form.

I am equally indebted to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English for his kind cooperation and genuine inspiration to keep my work going. I would like to express profound gratitude to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma for providing me scholarly suggestions and genuine guidance. I am equally grateful to the professors and lecturers of the department who provided me invaluable suggestions and fruitful instructions throughout my thesis.

Furthermore, I would like to remember my parents, Tej Bahadur Khatri and Radhika Khatri, who are pathfinders to my higher study. My humble gratitude goes to my respected and responsible brother Kamal Khatri. At this moment, I cannot forget the name of my sister whose inspiration is unforgettable in my life. Sincere respect goes to my sister Maina Karki for her regular encouragement and help throughout my study. I am equally indebted to my sister-in-law Manju Khatri who provide sufficient inspiration and feedback to my study. I am really owed to my relatives, friends and well-wishers for their effective help throughout my life.

Last but not the least my warm thanks goes to Mr. Rajiv Maharjan whose excellent and efficient typing, editing and printing made this research into this present shape.

**Sundar Bahadur Khatri**

## **Abstract**

This research on Keri Hulme's *The Bone People* attempts to unfold how the narrativization of violence and suffering that results into the eventual establishment of a harmonious, multi-cultural nationalist discourse. The analysis of suffering and regenerative desires of the three central characters: Simon, Kerewin and Joe unmask a more constructive political activism thereby leading to establish a new, dynamic post-imperial nationalist concern. It is significant through the reconciliation which ostensibly unites Kerewin, Joe and Simon as the heart, muscles and mind of a new post-imperial body. Kerewin, Joe and Simon represent three bodies in one; a pseudo-family unit of terrestrial trinity which avoids biologically essentialist modes of national and historical continuity. This national ethos is not based on binary opposition between Pakeha and Maori but based on discourse that devoids any hierarchies in the name of class, race and gender. Here, violence is central to Hulme's vision, an idea that redeems a nation from binary opposition in term of class and race.

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
I. The Movement from Colonial Violence to Public Resolution and Regeneration	1-8
II. Cultural Nationalism	9-27
III. The Establishment of a Multi-Cultural National Identity as Resultant of Violence and Bodily Suffering	28-53
V. Conclusion	54-55
Works Cited	