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By Sajana Dahal

Performativity and Improvisation in Teej Festival

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Performativity and Improvisation in *Teej* Festival

**A Thesis submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English.**

By

Sajana Dahal

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

2010 A.D.

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Sajana Dahal completed her thesis entitled “Performativity and Improvisation in *Teej* Festival” under my supervision. She carried out her research from July 2009 (A.D) to May 2010.

I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

(Dr. Shiva Rijal)

Supervisor

Central Department of English

Kirtipur.

Date:

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Performativity and Improvisation in *Teej* Festival” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sajana Dahal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

(Head)

Central Department of English.

Date: _____

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Abstract

Teej is the greatest festival of the Hindu women, often celebrated by Nepalese Hindu women take fasting and pray for the long life of the husbands as they regard their husband as the incarnation of Lord Shiva. Without taking a single drop of water Hindu women take fasting for the well being of husband, late husband and would be husband. *Teej* now is under the grip of modernization and globalization by the modern education system thereby gradually losing its inherent ritual performativity aspects in its local space. The very process of ritualistic practices known as *Teej* has gone through the transformation because of social changes that occur. But it still contains performativity in a tremendous manner. Despite the influences of modernization and social awareness led by education system, the ritual of *Teej* has managed to preserve some inherent cultural qualities in its local space by improvising its traditional aspects in new form.

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