

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Existential Quest for Identity in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*

A Thesis

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

By

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**Supervisor's Recommendation**

This is to certify that Mr. Shankar Prasad Marsainee Upadhya has prepared this thesis entitled "Existential Quest for Identity in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*" under my guidance, complying with the format as specified by the Research Committee of the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I, therefore, recommend his thesis to be accepted for defense.

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**Approval Sheet**

This thesis entitled " Existential Quest for Identity in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*" submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Shankar Prasad Marsainee Upadhya has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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## **Abstract**

*Great Expectations*, the best read novel by Charles Dickens follows existential identity quest. This study tries to analyze Pip (the protagonist)'s quest for identity on the theoretical basis of existentialism particularly advocated by Soren Kierkegaard. Pip, the main character of the novel while following identity quest, faces innumerable hardships and adversities on the route of his inner journey. However, he ultimately succeeds to reform himself and become a true gentleman which reflects the idea of Soren Kierkegaard and Jean Paul Sartre's existentialism.