

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Charles Johnson's *Middle Passage* as a Document of Subaltern Consciousness

**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
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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Rishi Raj Ghimire has completed his thesis entitled “Charles Johnson’s *Middle Passage* as a Document of Subaltern Consciousness”, under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2008 A.D. to August 2010 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voice.

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A letter of Approval

This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Rishi Raj Ghimire titled, “Charles Johnson’s *Middle Passage* as a Document of Subaltern Consciousness,” has been approved by undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

Charles Johnson's *Middle Passage* is a classical slave narrative. By re-writing the slave narrative that looks like truth, the novel is drawn from the real image of nineteenth century. Through the experience of the protagonist Rutherford Calhoun, the novel deliberately presents the political idea about slavery, freedom, disillusionment, consciousness and the contemporary status of African American people. By inserting the imagination of history of nineteenth century that looks like truth, Johnson presents the novel as a document of subaltern consciousness. Johnson uses subaltern studies as a narrative tool to focus on consciousness gained by the Allmuseri tribe. Allmuseri are the minor group that lacks the unity of being. They are the community of black people in America. They are in search of their identity, history and freedom. Through historical imagination, Johnson presents his aspects of rebellion against the mainstream status quo, by building consciousness of the marginalized subaltern group.

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