

Tribhuvan University

**Representation and Body Politics in Franz Kafka's *A Hunger Artist* and
*In the Penal Colony***

**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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December, 2016

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Letter of Recommendation

Lila Ballav Khatiwada has completed his thesis entitled “Representation and Body Politics in Franz Kafka’s *A Hunger Artist* and *In the Penal Colony*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from May 2016 to December 2016. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Supervisor

Jiva Nath Lamsal

Date: 20 December 2016.

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Approval Letter

This thesis is submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Lila Ballav Khatiwada entitled Representation and Body Politics in Franz Kafka's *A Hunger Artist and In the Penal Colony* has been approved by the undersigned members of the thesis Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Supervisor

External Examiner

Head

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Date: _____

Acknowledgement

This research is dedicated to my parents Sita Ram Khatiwada and Januka Devi Khatiwada. It is shaped by their labor, toil and sweat. The researcher pays sincere homage and deep gratitude to them.

Here I am indebted to my respected teacher and my thesis supervisor Jiva Nath Lamsal, Central department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur. This thesis would not have been possible without his scholarly guidance, inspiration, and constant encouragement. I express my sincere gratitude to him for such kind of cooperation and help in each step of this project.

Likewise, I express my deep respect to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head Central Department of English, for giving me a chance to carry out this research work, and his persistent encouragement for the genuine ideas. Similarly I'm very grateful to Prof. Dr. AnirudraThapa for his suggestions which taught me the importance of originality in research work.

I am also thankful to all my respected teachers of the Central department of English, Tribhuvan University, for their kind help in course of writing this thesis.

I would also like to take this moment to remember TikaNeupane for their support and encouragement.

Lila Ballav Khatiwada

20th December, 2016

Abstract

This present research deals with the Representation and Body Politics in Franz Kafka's *A Hunger Artist* and *In the Penal Colony*. Besides, this paper explores the commonalities and differences of these stories to show how and why the characters bring the body centrality into question. In the stories entitled *A Hunger Artist* and *In the Penal Colony*, Kafka takes the characters' body to interrogate the socio-historical normativity. In these both stories, the connection of the consciousness with the bodies is justified by the characters. *A Hunger Artist* brings into the ideas of fasting and its effects on the central character. And *In the Penal Colony* the protagonist connects to the notion of punishment with body of both the doomed man and the officer who go through the thrilling forms of bodily torture. To show how the condition of the body is miserable and the condition of the body is presented in a brutal manner is the overall focus of this research. Theoretical insight of Michael Foucault, Hayden White, Catherine Gallagher and Greenblatt are taken as the major supportive tools to justify the claim of the researcher.