

Tribhuvan University

Depiction of Partition Violence in *Cracking India* and *Earth*: A Critique from
the Perspective of Subaltern Studies Project

By

Nityanand Mandal

A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English in the partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in English

Central Department of English

Kritipur, Kathmandu

2011

Tribhuvan University

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Depiction of Partition Violence in *Cracking India* and *Earth: A Critique from the Perspective of Subaltern Studies Project*” submitted to the central department of English, Tribhuvan University by Nityanand Mandal, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the research committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Dept. of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

The entire credit to complete this thesis goes to my respectable teacher and guide, Dr. Beerendra Pandey. His special way to make available and scrutinize texts for me as well as invaluable guidance defy description. At the end of the paper, I find myself wordless to express my gratitude for his scholarly supervision. I am also thankful to Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English, T.U. Kiritipur, and other members of Research Committee, who thought I could work on this paper.

I am also thankful to Mr. Ayodhayanath Choudhary, a great literary figure of Maithili and teacher of English literature for being benevolent and help me whenever I needed their feedback. I am also thankful to my friends Sudeep Kumar Jha, Amarendra Yadav, Ganesh Raut, Rampunita Yadav, Shyam Yadav, Keval Kumar Das who put their efforts in completing this project.

Last but not the least, I also want to express my thanks to Mr. Pratap Adhikari my cousin for computer typing and formatting the materials in the acceptable form.

Nityanand Mandal

2011

Abstract

This thesis investigates the problem of representing the Partition of India in 1947. It investigates the representation of the Partition in two sites—the Subaltern Studies project and Bapsi Sidhwa’s novel *Cracking India* (1991). It focuses upon the silence of the subaltern. The Subaltern Studies project questions the representation of the freedom moment of India in nationalist historiography and argues that, in nationalist historiography, only Independence and the elite leaders are celebrated whereas the Partition and the subaltern have been absent. Chapter One of this thesis introduces the view of the Subaltern Studies project. Chapter Two investigates the representation of the Partition in Sidhwa’s novel *Cracking India* and its screen adaptation in Deepa Mehta’s *Earth*. Chapter Three concludes the discussions of the representation of the Partition in the Subaltern Studies project, Sidhwa’s *Cracking India*, and the film *Earth*, contemplating the representation of the Partition and the subaltern. Through an investigation of the silence of the subaltern in these sites, we can detect the limits of the representation of the Partition and obtain a chance to re-think and re-read this history from these alternative versions of the Partition.

Contents

	Page No
Chapter 1: Introduction	1-8
Chapter 2: Representation of the Partition in Bapsi Sidhwa's <i>Cracking India</i> and Deepa Mehta's <i>Earth</i>	9-22
Chapter 3: Conclusion	23-27
Works Cited	28-30