

**Tribhuvan University**

**Personal as Public in Radha Poudel's *Jumla: A Nurse's Story***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the**

**Degree of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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- Dan Bahadur Shahi

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Letter of Recommendation

Dan Bahadur Shahi has completed his thesis entitled " Personal as Public in Radha Poudel's *Jumla: A Nurse's Story*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from October 2018 to March 2019. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Dr. Komal Phuyal  
Supervisor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Personal as Public in Radha Poudel's *Jumla: A Nurse's Story*" Submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Dan Bahadur Shahi has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee:

Members of the Research Committee

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Dan Bahadur Shahi

## Abstract

*The present research project makes a detailed investigation upon the autobiographical memoir Jumla: A Nurse's Story authored by Radha Poudel, an activist, in order to argue that her personal experiences during her service to Jumla, the most remote and backward community, reflect a larger public picture of Jumla's social life. It further argues that to be personal is to be public because the personal accounts embody the association with the public life since person life is associated with the social spectrum. The research attempts to break down the traditional distinction between private and public through Poudel's accounts of personal experiences and its association with the realistic picture of Jumla's society. For this to happen, the researcher will shed a light on the autobiographical concept of memory to discuss why the writer remembers her past and combine it within the theoretical insight of 'personal as political' which was the slogan of the feminist movement during twentieth century. The theoretical concept of 'personal is political' dismantles the conventional notion that there is dichotomy between private and public and assert that private also embodies the reality of the public life. The autobiographical notion of memory under the theoretical insight of Siodonic Smith and Julia Watson has been primary method. In doing so, the research concludes with the finding that the act of remembering is not neutral but political and one's personal memories simultaneously document the public history of the contemporary society.*