

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Tropes of Garbage in *Ragtime***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English,  
Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Baburam Upadhyaya Gautam has completed his thesis entitled “Trope of Garbage in *Ragtime*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from June 2008 – January 2009 I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for Viva Voce.

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Ghanshyam Bhandari

Supervisor

Date :2065-10-2

**Tribhuvan University**  
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**Letter of approval**

**This thesis entitled Tropes of Garbage in Ragtime by Baburam Upadhaya Gautam has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research committee.**

**Members of the Research Committee:**

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**Baburam Upadhyaya Gautam**

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## **Abstract**

E.L. Doctorow's novel *Ragtime*, is a collection of tropes that are generally on unacknowledged by the so-called objective history of ragtime era. This research sees *Ragtime* as a text, which gives the concerns of blacks, immigrants, jews and women the central focus in the history. Doctorow, as an archeologist goes to the past to collect such unacknowledged historical knowledge and tropes to put forth into the centre, interrogating the so-called objective history of ragtime America. Doctorow, locating himself in the interstices of contemporary knowledge and information production, tries to collect such tropes from the garbage to give a new form of history. The present researcher, by using Foucauldian concept of genealogy and Benjamin's illumination theory, brings the references of characters from the margin and silence, with their personal histories from the past events to show the tropes of garbage. This research reverses the concept of reading history and reads it from the perspective of marginalized and silenced groups which were unacknowledged by historical discourse and thrown into the garbage.

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