

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Reliving and Affirming Trauma in Mahesh Bikram Shah's *Chhapamarko Chhoro*

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English in partial fulfillment of the
requirement for the degree of M.Phil in English**

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Laxman Gautam has completed his thesis entitled, "Reliving and Affirming Trauma in Mahesh Bikram Shah's *Chhapamarko Chhoro*" under my supervision. He carried out his dissertation from August 2010 to July 2012. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Approval Letter

This is to certify that the thesis entitled , "Reliving and Affirming Trauma in Mahesh Bikram Shah's *Chhapamarko Chhoro*" submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Laxman Gautam in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of M.Phil in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research divulges historical trauma of the main characters in Mahesh Bikram Shah's collection of short stories entitled *Chhapamarko Chhoro*. The stories disclose mini-narratives which consist in multiple kinds of sufferings undergone by Nepalese people from different walks of life during decade-long insurgency but are eclipsed by the grand-narratives like democracy, freedom, identity etc. supposedly upheld by the warring forces. These traumatic experiences felt at many levels- personal, social, cultural, economic and political- have stemmed from a sense of severe loss disguised in various forms of physical and mental violence. This sense of loss causes historical trauma which is acted-out once triggered by any stimulation that reminds the original catastrophic event and is worked-through if acknowledged and adapted to the wheel of life. The research explores the acting-out and working-through of the trauma. It argues that Shah's choice of not showing literal devastation of war is to depict the traumatized state of victims' psyche which bears greater intensity and tells more intricate aspects of shocks than could have been possible otherwise.

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