

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Construction of Gender Identity in Ayan Hirsi Ali's *Nomad: A Personal Journey*
*through Clash of Civilizations***

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

By

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May 2014

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Letter of Recommendation

Mrs. Sarmila Shrestha has completed her thesis, entitled “Construction of Gender Identity in Ayaan Hirsi Ali’s *Nomad: A Personal Journey through Clash of Civilizations*,” under my supervision. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for *viva voce*.

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Approval Letter

The Thesis entitled “Construction of Gender Identity in Ayaan Hirsi Ali’s *Nomad: A Personal Journey Through Clash of Civilizations*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sarmila Shrestha has been approved by the undersigned members of research committee.

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Acknowledgements

This thesis would not have been completed unless I have got assistance from my respected teachers, friends, and parents whose contributions in many ways to the research became milestone.

The credit for the completion of this thesis goes to my respected research supervisor Dr. Ram Chandra Poudel for his invaluable supervision, suggestion, critical and creative comment that helped shape the thesis in its present form. This dissertation would never have appeared in its present form without his kind and scholarly guidance.

Moreover, I am thankful to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English for providing opportunity to conduct this research work. I express my gratitude to all the lecturers in Central Department of English for their direct and indirect help. Similarly, I am very much grateful to my mother Sakali Shrestha whose love and inspiration are highly admired. With due respect, I am always indebted to my brothers Basant and Dhrub for their support with continuous love and care from abroad.

May 2014

Sarmila Shrestha

Abstract

This research work attempts to study Ayan Hirsi Ali's *Nomad: A Personal Journey through Clash of Civilization* from the perspective of globalization and examines the fixity of the identity of female in Islamic society and fleeting of the same identity in the west in the age of science and technology. In this study, Appadurai's and Featherstone's concept of globalization has been utilized for analysis. In so doing, I have used Butler's idea of performativity, Foucault's ideas of discourse and Althusser's idea of "subjectivity," and "ideology." The study argues that "lack of movement" creates fixity in identity resulting in domination, suppression, and hierarchy but "nomadic movement" creates fluid identity resulting in freedom, equality, and sense of respect. For instance, in Africa the protagonist suffered a lot but in Holland she was happy. The memoir is the record of pain, sufferings, and condition of Muslim women in their culture. In short, this memoir, at large, brings the plight of voiceless and identityless women into visibility talking about their real condition from the real ground.

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