

Tribhuvan University

Ambivalence of Power in Michelle Obama's *Becoming*

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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April 2019

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Letter of Recommendation

Sudip Raut has accomplished his Master Degree's thesis entitled "Ambivalence of Power in Michelle Obama's *Becoming*" under my supervision. He has carried out this research from November 2018 to May 2019. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Raj Kumar Baral

Supervisor

Date.....

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Approval Letter

This research work entitled “Ambivalence of Power in Michelle Obama’s *Becoming*” submitted to the Central Department of English in Tribhuvan University by Sudip Raut has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Supervisor

External Examiner

Head
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Date:

Acknowledgements

It is my immense pleasure to express my profound gratitude to my respected supervisor Raj Kumar Baral, Lecturer, Central Department of English, T. U., Kirtipur, for making constant supervision, intellectual guidance and constructive suggestion in course of completing this work in this form. I am also indebted to the Lecture of the Central Department of English Dr. Tara Lal Shrestha for the valuable directions in conducting the research.

Equally, I feel honored to extend my sincere thankfulness to Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Head of the Central Department of English, for the approval of this research work. At the same time, I take this delightful opportunity to thank to other respected Professors, Associate Professors and Lecturers of the Central Department from the depth of my heart who always encouraged me by giving inspiration and instruction.

Meanwhile, I owe my cordial thanks to my parents, Tej Bahadur Raut and Saraswoti Raut whose love, care and support continuously drive me towards my better educational career and academic achievements. Even my special thanks go to my other family members who managed favorable environment and provided me all sorts of financial and familial helps during the process of writing this research work. Similarly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues and all my well-wishers who directly and indirectly helped me to complete this work.

Finally, I personally credit the professional supports from all the staff of the Central Department of English.

28 May, 2019

Sudip Raut

Abstract

This research paper entitled "Ambivalence of Power in Michelle Obama's Becoming" explores the cultural hegemony of the white supremacy over the black community in America on the ground of ambivalence of power. The concern of the black domination and discrimination and the way of treating black community by the supremacy of white society make the need for this research. Taking theoretical insights on cultural hegemony, cultural ambivalence, cultural identity and discursiveness of power as proposed by Antonio Gramsci, Homi K Bhabha, Stuart Hall and Michael Foucault respectively, this research reveals that any individual who rises from marginal ground to higher position feels hegemonic domination. Acquiring supreme power hardly means the ultimate solution of any form of hegemony and free from the ambivalence of power. This study discloses that Michelle Obama herself feels as the victim of cultural hegemony though she has been the First Lady of America. It is realized that the hegemonic sentiment occurs in Obama not because of any other forces except ambivalence she feels while executing power. This can be well addressed by foregrounding the multiple voices on the basis of ambivalence of power that focuses on the theory of cultural hegemony.

Keywords: Ambivalence, power, cultural hegemony, ideology