

Tribhuvan University

Rewriting History in Edward Zwick's movie *Blood Diamond*: A New Historicist

Reading

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

Padam Bahadur Bhandari

T.U. Regd. No. 6-2-568-17-2008

Symbol No. 281968

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

June 2016

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Padam Bahadur Bhandari has completed his thesis entitled “Rewriting History in Edward Zwick’s movie *Blood Diamond: A New Historicist Reading*” under my supervision. He carried out this research from July 2015 to June 2016. I, hereby, recommend this thesis to be submitted for the viva voce.

.....

Dr. Dhruva Karki

Supervisor

Date:

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Rewriting History in Edward Zwick’s movie *Blood Diamond: A New Historicist Reading*”, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuwan University, by Padam Bahadur Bhandari, has been approved by the undersigned member of Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of the Department

Central Department of English, T.U.

Date _____

Acknowledgements

I am heartily grateful to my respected teacher and thesis supervisor Dr. Dhruva Karki, Associate Professor at Central Department of English, T.U. whose constant supervision, constructive suggestions, regular inspiration and valuable instructions made me complete and present this research work in this form. The completion of this thesis would not have been possible without his precious assistance, support and encouragement.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my teachers Mr. Badri Acharya, Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa and Mr. Raju Baral for their rigorous support and suggestion for this study. I am equally grateful to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English and all professors and lecturers of the Department for their direct and indirect support, advice and suggestion during the completion of this research work.

Words cannot convey the depth of my gratitude to my late mother Suk Maya Bhandari whose blessing and inspiration made me achieve this success in my life. I am deeply indebted my father Jagat Bahadur Bhandari, Brother Nirajan Bhandari, Sister-in-law, Tara Karki, Sisters, Sarswoti Thapa and Ganga Bista for their love, support and encouragement. I cannot forget the support of Brother-in-law Saha Bahadur Thapa, Kosh Bahadur Bista, Man Bahadur Bista and Sister Bina Gurung. I am thankful even to my relative brothers Shiva Khadka, Ishwor Bhandari, Ganesh G.C. for their encouragement and help in various ways. At last, my sincere gratitude and acknowledgement goes to all those who directly and indirectly provided company in bringing this project to completion.

June 2016

Padam Bahadur Bhandari

Abstract

This research work depicts the reflection of historical facts of Sierra Leone Civil War during 1996 to 2001 in *Blood Diamond* (2006), a war thriller based on the terror and violence occurred in Sierra Leone. The film captures the realistic violence of the nation through cinematic representation which is examined as the rewriting of Sierra Leone history in fictional form as a New Historicist Reading. The film illustrates violence and unrest in the African country at the end of the twentieth century bringing an issue of social and political reality during the Civil War. It includes real historical incidents like trade and conflict associated with diamond, rise of Revolutionary United Front (RUF), and involvement of the child soldiers in the military, the Civil War, mass killing and unfair power politics. Various political and non-political groups and Europeans' quest for diamonds involve illegal trade. Terrorist groups and smugglers especially the westerners white exploit the mines in Sierra Leone. Natives of Sierra Leone resort to exile and refuge while searching treasures and valuables in Sierra Leone. Zwick's movie reflects the real history and how power politics is practiced in Sierra Leone Civil War in 1990s. It exposes natives' plights under the western imperial rulers. Zwick's movie unravels sordid realities of Sierra Leone Civil War from the new historicist's perspective comprising theoretical insights of Michael Foucault, Stephen Greenblatt, Louis Montrose, H. Aram Vesser and Peter Barry.

