

Tribhuvan University

Critique of Reification of Human Values in Robert Galbraith's *The Cuckoo's Calling*

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

Tika Ram Khanal

Symbol No: 283321

Registration No: 6-1-54-907-2002

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September 2017

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Tika Ram Khanal has completed his thesis entitled “Critique of Reification of Human Values in Robert Galbraith’s *The Cuckoo’s Calling*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from November, 2014 to September, 2017 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for the final *viva voce*.

Mr. Badri Pd. Acharya

(Supervisor)

Date:

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Critique of Reification of Human Values” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Tika Ram Khanal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee :

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I am greatly indebted to my respected teacher and my thesis supervisor Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya. This thesis would not have been possible without the scholarly supervision, motivation and constant encouragement of him.

Likewise, I express my deep respect to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English, for granting me a chance to carry out this research work, and his constant encouragement with the genuine ideas, suggestions and materials. I also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my respected teachers Prof. Dr. Jiblal Sapkota, Dr. Taralal Shrestha, Mr. Jibnath Lamsal, Mr. Shankar Subedi, Mr. Raju Baral and Mr. Hem Lal Pandey for their valuable support and suggestions for this research.

I would also like to show my humble respect to my parents Mr. Bhim Lal Khanal and Mrs. Gira Khanal. It is shaped by their sweat and toil.

Tika Ram Khanal

September 2017

Abstract

This study examines network of the human relations which are reified in the novel *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith. John Bristow, who claims to be the brother of a dead super model Lula Landry, wants to reinvestigate the case that has been already declared as a suicide by police, hiring a detective, Cormoran Strike. The reinvestigation uncovers the thrilling mystery that, John is not the brother of Lula in true sense rather he is trying to prove his brotherhood to be the heir of the property of the dead model cum his sister. There are ample of evidences in the novel from which we can find the aspect of commodification as well as reification. The aim of the analysis is to find the indications of optimum materialist faith and reified human value and relations in the novel. The analysis is focused on the relationship of John and Lula. As the novel is of detective suspense genre, the detective's discovery comes with the justification of the murder and main motive. The discovery indicates the monetary motive and the excessive monetary creed. The conduct of the detective himself is largely influenced by reification. The study uses Neo-Marxism as the theoretical tool. At the same time, the study incorporates the concept of sibling rivalry from psychoanalysis. The study finally, shows that the dead model is the victim of the commodification of human relations and values.

Contents

I. Exploration of Excessive Materialist Creed in Human Relations	1-11
II. Critique of Reification of Human Values in Galbraith's <i>The Cuckoo's Calling</i>	12-33
III. Commodification of Human Relations	34-36

Works Cited