

Tribhuvan University

Imaginings of Pakistan in Mumtaz Shah Nawaz's *The Heart Divided*

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By

Hari Shankar Prasad Yadav

Symbol No: 523

Regd No: 6389-95

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

The thesis entitled “Imaginings of Pakistan in Mumtaz Shah Nawaz’s *The Heart Divided*” has been prepared under my supervision by Hari Shankar Prasad Yadav.. I recommend it for evaluation to the research committee.

.....

Dr. Anirudra Thapa

(Supervisor)

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kathmandu

Approval Letter

The thesis entitled “Imaginings of Pakistan in Mumtaz Shah Nawaz’s *The Heart Divided*” by Hari Shankar Prasad Yadav has been submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Research Committee Members:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Kathmandu

Date: _____

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Abstract

The genre of partition literature in the 1940s amply records the historical role of women in India's partition as exemplified by *The Heart Divided*. This dissertation argues that *The Heart Divided* contains a reflection on women and their relation to partition history in South Asian literature from the 1940s. The novel is an example of an early reflection on women and their relation to colonial Indian history because here one encounters a veritable constellation of women from all ends of the political sphere. The novel begins with the young Mohini and her support for a united India. Then there is Zohra, the communist Rajindar, Sughra and Najma, the woman who ends up marrying Habib. All of these women think and talk about contemporary politics and participate in the political developments of the 1930s and 1940s. This dissertation argues that *The Heart Divided* deals with the historical agency of women in colonial India in producing India's partition and that this agency carries educated Muslim's imaginings of Pakistan. For these women, the partition of India is a utopian vision for Pakistan pro-partition Muslims. That Mumtaz Shah Nawaz, as a woman, shows how young women in colonial India were actively involved in conversations and political activism about the formation of Pakistan is a far cry in partition literature which mostly textualizes the Indo-Pakistani experiencing of the trauma of the partition violence.

Table of Contents

Letter of Recommendation		i
Approval Letter		ii
Acknowledgment		iii
Abstract		iv
CHAPTER 1	Introduction: Imaginings of Pakistan in Mumtaz Shah Nawaz's <i>The Heart Divided</i>	1-6
CHAPTER 2	Women's Interrogation of the Colonial Indian History in <i>The Heart Divided</i>	7-43
CHAPTER 3	Conclusion: Reflection on Women's Relation to Partition in <i>The Heart Divided</i>	44-46
Works Cited		