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Ethical Memory and Politics of Trauma: A Critical Reading of *Palpasa Café* and *Forget Kathmandu*

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Ethical Memory and Politics of Trauma: A Critical Reading of *Palpasa Café*  
and *Forget Kathmandu***

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in partial  
fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of Masters of Arts in English**

**By**

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**December, 2008**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Devendra Sharma Paudel has completed his thesis entitled " Ethical Memory and Politics of Trauma: A Critical Reading of *Palpasa Café* and *Forget Kathmandu* " under my supervision. He carried his research from June 2008. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Pushpa Raj Acharya

Supervisor

Date:

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**Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

**Letter of Approval**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Ethical Memory and Politics of Trauma: A Critical Reading of *Palpasa Café* and *Forget Kathmandu*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Devendra Sharma Paudel, has been approved by the research committee.

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Devendra Sharma Paudel

## Abstract

This thesis analyses the cultural politics of memory and trauma in Narayan Wagle's *Palpasa Café* and Manjushree Thapa's *Forget Kathmandu*. My argument is that Wagle and Thapa's memory of war is contaminated by the cultural ideologies. Their memory, thus, takes an ethical turn and becomes a part of the larger ideological politics. Their narrativization of trauma – contaminated by ideology uses the language of demonization. The thesis argues that writer's authorities, editing and censorship practices ultimately lead their literature of trauma that narrativization to traumatic memory. Wagle uses largely against the Maoists in *Palpasa Café* while Thapa does the same against the Nepalese Army in *Forget Kathmandu*.

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