

Tribhuvan University

Intersection of Religion and Patriarchy in Bapsi Sidhwa's *An American Brat*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Rajendra Prasad Adhikari

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September 2012

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled, “Intersection of Religion and Patriarchy in Bapsi Sidhwa’s *An American Brat*”, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Rajendra Prasad Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head,

Central Department of English

Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Khem Raj Khanal, for his kind support, advice, and constructive suggestions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan, University, for the approval of this thesis in its present form. Moreover, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Harihar Gyanwali, Badri Acharaya, and other lecturers of the CDE, who were helpful in providing me useful and appropriate materials, instructions and other suggestions.

At this moment, I also want to express thanks to my family members and my relatives. Especially, I am thankful to my parents, brother and sisters for helping and encouraging me in my study.

Besides, I am grateful to my friends Surya, Subas, Sandie, Lekhnath, Manoj, Ruja, Shree, Rashmi, Deepa, and Sangita for their moral and academic support.

September 2012

Rajendra Prasad Adhikari

Abstract

Sidhwa's *An American Brat* explores Feroza's individuality and freedom by opposing the restrictions and barriers constructed by religious cum patriarchal systems, which are also backed up by female herself like Zareen. Sidhwa tries to expose the condition of Third World women through the characterization of Feroza, who assimilates herself with the American culture realizing her own culture and religion as the prime hindrances for her freedom and identity. Dealing with the then socio-political circumstances, Sidhwa tries to represent the faded condition of women. Nevertheless, she successfully draws the conflictual journey of Feroza from timidity to self assertion. Feroza prioritizes her career over her safe family settlement proposed by her parents. Thus, Sidhwa wants to convey her message regarding the consciousness of identity, individuality and freedom of women that the opportunities like education can enhance in developing their personality even in the detrimental social conditions.

Contents

	Page
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
I. Bapsi Sidhwa's <i>An American Brat</i> as a Third World Text	1-17
II. Intersection of Religion and Patriarchy in Sidhwa's <i>An American Brat</i>	18-44
III. Sidhwa's Proposition of Female Resistance against Religious cum Patriarchal Sub-ordination	45-46
Works Cited	47