

Tribhuvan University

(Trans) national Simultaneity in Adichie's *Americanah*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan  
University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu for partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

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March 2018

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “(Trans) national Simultaneity in Adichie's *Americanah*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Birendra Kumar Baniya has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Acknowledgements

I am forever indebted to the following individuals who were directly involved in the creation of this project. I would firstly like to thank Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, for his guidance who continuously inspired me to correct my blooming ideas so that I could formulate ideas I didn't know I had. So, my special gratitude goes to Thapa sir who sacrificed his invaluable time in reading my drafts and also gave me a lot of time in several meetings providing me with sensitive insights and perspectives on my work when I did not have to eyes to catch what you can.

I would secondly like to express my gratitude to Badri Prasad Acharya who advised me to work in the field of transnationalism when I had in crisis of ideas. So I am heavily indebted to Badri sir without whose suggestions, I can not imagine this work.

Similarly, I am greatly obliged to all my respected teachers at CDE: Shankar Subedi, Komal Phuyal, Rai Kumar Baral, Hem Pandey, Dr. Rebatu Neupane, Sarbagya Kafle, Dr. Taralal Shrestha, Khem Raj Khanal and Pradip Raj Giri to name a few.

I also can not think of this paper without my parents. They constantly encouraged me to carry on until the accomplishment. So, heart fully thanks to their financial and emotional supports.

March 2018

Birendra Kumar Baniya

## Abstract

*This paper analyses Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel Americanah as a transnational narrative and its characters as transnational subjects marked by various forms of simultaneity that is of home, belonging, citizenship, identity and nationality, to name a few. Simultaneity is the situation in which two things happen at the same time or it is the situation of togetherness. And the transnational people represent the possibility of having two identities, two homes, two families and two cultures at the same time. For accomplishing this analysis, I bring some of the key theoretical ideas from the theory of transnationalism which broadly refers to the contemporary way of living in a globalized world in which people can easily make cross-border connections. In this globalized world, people can travel the world physically as well as virtually and this paper explores how Adichie's Americanah redefines the monolithic ways of looking at the issues of identity, citizenship, home, family nationality etc. Adichie achieves this redefinitions by representing the fictional characters like Ifemelu and Obinze as the Nigerian citizens who travel temporarily across their national borders leaving their loved ones back in Lagos. In spite of being deterritorialized from their original cultural and geographical location too, they make different linkages across their host lands that is their country of immigration to Nigeria. In America, Adichie's protagonist Ifemelu comes to have a distinct identity, establishes her temporary home and family. After some years in the USA, she also achieves the provision of the American citizenship. Therefore, Adichie makes her characters like Ifemelu and Obinze the transnationals since Adichie*

*aims at redefining the essentialist ways of looking at the issues like identity, citizenship, home, family, nationality and belonging.*