

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Sense of Loss, Identity Crisis and Construction of Imaginary Homeland in

Hridaya's *Letter From A Lhasa Merchant to His Wife*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled, "Sense of Loss, Identity Crisis and Construction of Imaginary Homeland in *Letter From A Lhasa Merchant to His Wife,*" has been prepared by Mr. Basant Raj Pokharel under my supervision. I recommend this thesis to be submitted for the *viva voce*.

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Letter of Approval

The Thesis entitled, "Sense of Loss, Identity Crisis and Construction of Imaginary Homeland in Hridaya's *Letter From A Lhasa Merchant to His Wife*," submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Basant Raj Pokharel has been approved by the undersigned members of research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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Abstract

The present study in Chittadhar Hridaya's novel *Letter from A Lhasa Merchant to His Wife* deals with the diasporic experience of Lhasa Merchant who is out of his homeland Kathmandu to host country Tibet. As a member from a culturally rich Newar community of Kathmandu, the Merchant's identity is shaped and formed with his own culture. When he moves to Lhasa, he assimilates the Chinese culture, tradition and way of life. As a diasporic man, his identity becomes hybrid because of the influences of Tibetan socio-cultural environment. In Tibet, he gets the diasporic experience like hybridity, memory, nostalgia, sense of dislocation, rootlessness, alienation and identity crisis. To escape from the bitter reality of displacement and rootlessness, he uses memory as an ultimate tool. That is, this thesis shows how the earnest and lovesick Lhasa Merchant develops into a bitter, confused and uprooted man after the adaptation of Tibetan culture and way of life.

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