

Tribhuvan University

Psychological Trauma in Cecelia Ahern's *PS, I Love You*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central Department
of English, Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degrees of Master of Arts in English

By

Anushka Palikhey

September 2012

Tribhuvan University
Central Depart of English Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

Letter of Recommendation

Ms. Anushka Palikhey has completed her thesis entitled, “Psychological Trauma in Cecelia Ahern’s *PS, I Love You*,” under my supervision. She carried out her research from June 18, 2012 to September 30, 2012. I here by recommend this thesis to be submitted for *viva voce*.

Maheswor Paudel

Supervisor

Date: September 2012

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Psychological Trauma: Cecelia Ahern’s work in *PS, I Love You*” by Anushka Palikhey has been submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of the Department

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected teacher Mr. Maheswor Poudel for guiding me towards writing this thesis. It has been his scholarly guidance and valuable suggestion that made this project possible.

I am also obliged to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for the approval of this thesis in its present form. I would like to record my thankfulness for his encouragement and critical input right in the beginning of this research.

My special gratitude goes to other respected teachers of the department, my friend Lekh Nath Limbu (Raju Limbu), Sunita Sharma, my sister Iswie Palikhey and my family for their continuous support and encouragement without which my dream to be a successful researcher would have remained unrealized.

Anushka Palikhey

September 2012

Abstract

This thesis is the study of the issue of the protagonist of Cecelia Ahern's novel *PS, I Love You* Holly's emotional response to the overwhelming events that disrupt Holly's previous life. It is in the meantime the study life focusing on her traumatic events. It is an attempt to investigate how Holly's life goes forward without her husband and how it causes an ultimate confusion about her identity, forcing her to live the life in frustration and loneliness. By analyzing the painful situation that the protagonist goes through, this research tries to explain various stages she faces in her life in order to overcome such difficulty.

Content

| | |
|---|-------|
| Acknowledgements | iii |
| Abstract | iv |
| I. Introduction: Ahern, Her work and Trauma | 1-8 |
| II. Psychological Trauma and Cecelia Ahern's <i>PS, I Love You</i> | 9-33 |
| III. Conclusion: <i>PS, I love You: An Epistome of Psychological Trauma</i> | 34-36 |
| Work cited | |