

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Assimilation as a Two-Way Transaction: Home and Abroad in Mukherjee,  
Tan and Thapa

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

By

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This is to certify that Laxman Bhatta has completed his thesis entitled “Assimilation as a Two- Way Transaction: Home and Abroad in Mukherjee, Tan and Thapa”, under my supervision. He has prepared this thesis for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for Master of Philosophy in Arts (English) from Tribhuvan University. I recommend this thesis for viva voce.

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**Approval Letter**

This thesis titled “Assimilation as a Two- Way Transaction: Home and Abroad in Mukherjee, Tan and Thapa,” submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Laxman Bhatta has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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## Abstract

This research explores the assimilation problems in the life of Asian immigrants living in America represented in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* and Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight*. *Jasmine* narrates the assimilation problem of an illegal Indian immigrant in America whereas *The Joy Luck Club* portrays the generation gap, cultural conflict and miscommunication between Chinese born mothers and their American born daughters. Thapa's narrative depicts identity crisis of a Nepali immigrant living in America due to the assimilation problems. The attempt of these characters in the subsequent novel is followed closely in the theoretical light on the issue of dividedness of the characters while living in the alien land and diasporic experiences forwarded by theorist like Vijaya Mishra, R. Radhakrishna and Stuart Hall. The diasporic characters attempting to assimilate in America face a split self identity and dividedness due to the failure of assimilation. They can neither completely forget the past nor can they accept socio-cultural values and assumptions of American society. As a result they suffer from hybridity, alienation and frustration. Hence, this research underscores the immigrants' attempts of assimilation as a two way transaction: leaving them inbetween the past and present.

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