

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Fragmentation and Rootlessness in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*

A Thesis

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Master of Arts in English

By

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
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Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Dinesh Sharma, a student of academic year 2067 with Exam Roll No. 480288, Campus Roll No. 118/067 and T.U. Registration No. 6-2-347-5-2005 has completed the thesis entitled “Fragmentation and Rootlessness in Flannery O'Connor’s *Wise Blood*” under my supervision in accordance with the rules and regulations specified by the Department of English. I hereby forward it to the Research Committee of the Department for the final evaluation.

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Date: 31st March, 2019

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled “Fragmentation and Rootlessness in Flannery O'Connor’s *Wise Blood*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Dinesh Sharma has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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Abstract

This research work takes Flannery O'Connor's novel *Wise Blood* to interpret the protagonist Hazel Motes' alienation, fragmentation, rootlessness and lack as he is trapped between mirror stage and symbolic stage. His desire for the mirror image results in his being a torn subject. So, finally he blinds himself. The reason for the self-blinding of the protagonist, Hazel Motes is analyzed in line with the notion of Lacan. Further, the act is taken as his struggle to find his subjectivity in the form of redemption. Hazel Motes becomes a split personality due to his disdain towards the corrupt reality and the patriarchal symbolic order dominated by Catholicism. He refuses to accept the rules and restrictions of the symbolic order, so he cannot accept the corrupt modern life. Nor can he return to his mirror stage to have the total grasp of it, that is the spiritual peace and redemption which is already displaced by symbolic order. His desire is to return back to return back to Mirror stage but cannot as he is fragmented due to the circumstances and his diverted psyche.