

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Trauma in Maya Angelo's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Shovakanta Lamichhane

Class Roll No: 101/067

Exam Symbol No: 480108

T.U. Regd. No: 9-1-48-1027-2004

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

April 2018

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of English

Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Shovakanta Lamichhane with Class Roll No. 101/067, Exam Roll No. 480108 and T.U. Regd. No. 9-1-48-1027-2004 has prepared this thesis entitled "Trauma in Maya Angelo's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*" under my supervision, following the format as specified by the Research Committee, Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I, therefore, forward it to the Research committee for final evaluation.

.....

Nirmal Thapa

Lecturer

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara

Date: April 2018

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of English

Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled “Trauma in Maya Angelo’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Shovakanta Lamichhane has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Supervisor

Expert

Head

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus,

Pokhara

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my profound gratitude to Mr. Nirmal Thapa Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus for making constant supervision and guiding me with regular inspiration, encouragement, and insightful suggestion throughout the study. His vigorous efforts made me present this research work in this form. I am also indebted to the Head of the Department of English Bihow Raj Adhikari for the valuable directions in conducting the research.

I would like to extend sincere acknowledgement to the entire group of Professors, Readers, Lecturers, and the Teaching staffs of the Department for their valued inspiration. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues and all my well-wishers who directly and indirectly helped me to complete this work.

April 2018

Shovakanta Lamichhane

Table of Content

	Page No.
Supervisor's Recommendation	ii
Approval Sheet	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Abstract	v
Chapter 1: Manifestation of Ills and Hazards of Racial Inequality in	
<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	1-11
Introduction	1
Biography of the Writer	2
Review of Literature	4
Departure from Other Critics	7
Methodology	8
Organization of the Study	10
Chapter 2: Theory of Trauma	12-26
Chapter 3: Trauma in Maya Angelo's <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	27-40
Chapter 4: Angelou's Concern with Racial Equality	41-42
Works Cited	

Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyze trauma of the main character in Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* who is Maya herself, and come up at the end with her recovery. This book was selected because it seems to hold very important themes which can change many lives. Literature plays its significant role in this book, and thanks to it Maya could manage her serious situations and psychological state to shift from her trauma, insecurity and feeling of shamefulness to self-confidence, race pride and speech recovery. This research includes two chapters where the first one contains a theoretical presentation of the African-American society and literature in the 20th century, as well as the definition of trauma, its types and effects on the person. On the other hand, the second chapter is devoted to analyze trauma and recovery in this book. In this case the author's or the major character's trauma is analyzed from a psychological perspective in order to examine her inner state and feeling as a child who experienced trauma at an early age and how she succeeded to free herself from these cages and traumas throughout literature and her desire for the change. The conclusion that are reached from this research are the importance and power of literature and reading books in Maya's life, how they could do miracles in changing her situation from the worse to the better, and her survival after all what she went through.