

Tribhuvan University

Julian Barnes' *The Sense of an Ending* as a Postmodern Historiographic Metafiction

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

By

Dev Bahadur Ghimire

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

2018

Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of English  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Dev Bahadur Ghimire has completed his thesis entitled "**Julian Barnes' *The Sense of an Ending as a Postmodern Historiographic Metafiction***". I recommend this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

.....

Maheswor Paudel

Lecturer

Central Department of English

TU, Kirtipur

Date: 2074-12-28

Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of English  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

This thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Dev Bahadur Ghimire entitled " Julian Barnes' *The Sense of an Ending* as a Postmodern Historiographic Metafiction " has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee:

Research Committee Members:

---

---

Internal Examiner

---

---

External Examiner

---

Date: 2018-04-11

## Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Maheswor Paudel, Lecturer at Central Department of English, TU, Kirtipur, who encouraged me to undertake research on such a relatively less explored field. I thankfully express my reverence and acknowledge him for providing me with meticulous supervision. His help, patience and co-operation have really left indelible impression on me. Furthermore, his scholarly guidance and supervision enabled me to bring this study in this form.

I am immensely thankful to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head, Department of English, for his co-operation to bring this research in this final form.

April 2018

Dev Bahadur Ghimire

## **Abstract**

The major thrust of this research is to explore how the postmodern metafiction opens up alternative perspectives to the constructed notion of truth, objectivity and validity of narration told by protagonist Tony in Barnes' novel, *The Sense of an Ending*. The self-reflexive narration by the protagonist, Tony, is questioned by installing and subverting at the same time as which bears no objective presentations. For him, understandings of his past turned out to be rather his lies and self-delusion later made him feel paranoia in the remaining life. Tony's recalling of past is challenged when he got the letter given by Veronica finds his direct or indirect role regarding the death of Adrian before that for Tony, the death of Adrian was to meet the philosophical reasoning of his suicidal note. On this light, it is proved that his memory is inevitably unreliable, imperfect and his intentionally fragmented story telling was a construct that produces unrest and remorse on him as he confesses his own responsibility for. In this way, the choice of documentation was subjective and made differences between the world of himself and reality which seeks the readers to see his each and every structures critically in Barnes' novel, *The Sense of an Ending*.

## Contents

### Acknowledgements

I.	The End of Subjects in Julian Barends' <i>The Sense of an Ending</i>	1
II.	Reading Barends' <i>The Sense of an Ending</i> as Historiographic Metafiction	9
III.	Conclusion : Disjuncture of History and Memory	30
IV.	Works Cited	33