

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Exploration of Ethnic Nationalism in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*

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

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January 2018

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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Udaya Subedi with T.U. Regd. No. 6-1-48-900-2005 has prepared his master's thesis entitled "Exploration of Ethnic Nationalism in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*" under my supervision, following the format as specified by the Research Committee of the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I, therefore, forward it to the Research Committee for final evaluation.

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Approval Sheet

The thesis entitled “Exploration of Ethnic Nationalism in Kiran Desai’s *The Inheritance of Loss*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Udaya Subedi has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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Acknowledgements

The completion of this thesis could not have been possible without motivational and valuable assistance of my respected teacher Nagendra Bahadur Bhandari, Lecturer at the Department of English, Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. My limited comprehension and skill of English language has been prolific in sharpening my overall academics by his constant help despite his busy schedule. I am indebted to Lecturer Nagendra Bahadur Bhandari for sharing his valuable knowledge and skill to complete this work.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Prof. Bishow Raj Adhikari, Head of English Department, Prithvi Narayan Campus, who always provided me with comments, constructive guidelines and valuable information during my study.

Date: April 2018

Udaya Subedi

Abstract

The novel, *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai explores how ethnicity is constituted through the discourse of nationalism. Nationalist politics as represented in *The Inheritance of Loss* becomes a major venue for accomplishing masculinity. In the novel, Gorkha ethnic identity becomes the driving force for the ethnic nationalism of Indian Nepalese fighting for Gorkhaland. Kiran Desai uses the socio-political turmoil to present vivid point pictures of the social, cultural and political conditions of India. To prove the thesis statement, data for this research were collected from textual reading and analytical library research. The primary and secondary data were reviewed focusing authentic, academic, and commercial references.

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