

Tribhuvan University

**Discourse of critique of the Disability in Doris Lessing's *Briefing for a Descent
Into Hell***

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

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Ms. Rita Tamang has completed her thesis entitled "Discourse of critique of the disability in Doris Lessing's *Briefing for a Descent Into Hell*" under my supervision. She carried out her research from November, 2010 to, 2011 December A.D. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Discourse of critique of the Disability in Doris Lessing's *Briefing for a Descent Into Hell*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Ms. Rita Tamang has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

This thesis analyzes Charles Watkin's stigmatization in *Briefing for a Descent into Hell* as a social construct. My argument here is that stigma is not an inborn trait rather a socio-cultural construct of the disability experience as such. People with disability and stigma experience existential crisis which can be countered by creating the proper environment in the process of nurturing as stigma is constructed but is not inborn. Watkins's isolation is the consequence of his stigmatization resulting from the misbehaviors and misunderstanding of his colleague and doctors regarding his so called disability in the form of abnormality. The brutality of the concept of normalcy and its psychological effect has been analyzed in this research with reference to Lessing's novel *Briefing for a Descent Into Hell*. Disability is not a lack of ability but an ability to do things differently. It is not inherent but is constructed as a discourse in social context.

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