

Tribhuvan University

Ambivalent Identity in Anita Desai's *Voices in the City*

**A Thesis Proposal Submitted to the Central Department of English,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Kabindra Raj Tiwari has completed his thesis entitled “Ambivalent Identity in Anita Desai’s *Voices in the City*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2065/07/27 to 2068/01/25. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for *Viva Voce*.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Ambivalent Identity in Anita Desai’s *Voices in the City*”
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Abstract

The present research analyses Anita Desai's *Voices in the City* from the cultural ambivalence and cultural imperialism aspects. Anita Desai's *Voices in the City* (1964) is about the story of an archetypal Indian protagonist Nirode and his family. It discusses on the issues of the remains of colonization and impact of British imperialism during the transitional phase of the socio-cultural and socio-political situation of Indian society that reflects ambivalent identity of the protagonist and other characters as well. Brought up in Indian society with English environment, Nirode is a colonial subject who distinctly observes the city of Calcutta and tends to escape from such cultural tendencies of modern Indian cultures and the British cultures which cause his identity ambivalent. Nirode's position as victims and resistant to both cultures, his subject is determined amidst the socio-cultural, socio-economic and socio-political power relations played by both British and Indian institutional cultural values and practices of the transitional phase of Indian society that creates ambivalent identity in the life of the protagonist and other characters which happens around the city of Calcutta.

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