

**Tribhuvan University**

**Communitism in Louise Erdrich's *The Antelope Wife***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English T. U.**

**in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the**

**Degree of Masters of Arts in English**

**By**

**Dharma Raj Paudel**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

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**Tribhuvan University**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Dharma Raj Paudel has completed his thesis entitled “Communitism in Louise Erdrich’s *The Antelope Wife*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from July, 2009 A. D. to February, 2010 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva-voce.

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Dr. Beerendra Pandey  
Associate Professor,  
Supervisor

Date: .....

**Tribhuvan University**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Central Department of English**

**Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled “Communitism in Louise Erdrich’s *The Antelope Wife*” submitted to the Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Dharma Raj Paudel has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

**Members of the Research Committee**

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Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

Head, Central Department of English

Date: .....

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## Abstract

The present thesis entitled “Communitism in Louise Erdrich’s *The Antelope Wife*” invites readers to understand Native American Ojibwa cultural tradition. Erdrich traces the cultural legacy that is passed from generation to generation. Oral traditions, sacred metaphysics, naming tradition, use of characters of trickster are some of the characteristic features of Ojibwa heritage. Non-anthropocentric and ecologically oriented worldview that focuses on community and nature continues for the Indian as a source of personal and collective energy, identity and values. The novel written from multicultural perspective helps to appreciate significant differences between Native American and Euro-American cultural traditions. The cooperative multicultural unity that Erdrich depicts leads to an enactment of respectful interdependence across cultural boundaries. Erdrich applies the bead imagery to express the idea of multicultural society and its inherent overlapping spaces and intermingling colours. The new pattern of modern society does not displace Ojibwa heritage and the past. Erdrich dramatizes a vast web of interdependence brought about by the intersection of many cultures, pasts and heritages. Native emphasizes on the importance of living in harmony with the physical and spiritual universe, a deep reverence for the land and a strong sense of community.

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