

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

“Structure of Feelings” in Harriet Jacobs's *Incident in the Life of a Slave Girl*

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for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

by

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This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Structure of Feeling in Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*" by Narayan Prasad Adhikari, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* is an autobiography that narrates the woes of a black slave girl. It is a journey from the extreme suppression and sexual turmoil to the level of awakening, and thereby exposing the structure of feelings. It is the story of struggle between Jacobs, a black slave girl and her cruel white master Dr. Flint; the former attempting to earn freedom for self and her family and the latter to impose his despotism on her and the slaves. Dr. Flint owns a large plantation and several slaves, over whom he rules like a lord. Despite Dr. Flint's persuasion to marry a fellow slave, Jacobs denies his offer guided by consciousness, and accepts Mr. Sand, a white, as her groom in pretext of gaining a free life. In the process, she risks her life, her children and raises voice against the inhumane system, ultimately becoming a rebel in the struggle against slavery. Thus, a black slave girl becomes an activist in the abolition of slavery in the American history, aspired by triple consciousness.

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