

Tribhuvan University

**Recapturing the Trauma of Partition of India: A Reading of Manto's Short
Stories**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

Mohan Neupane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

July, 2009

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Mohan Neupane has completed his dissertation entitled “Recapturing the Trauma of Partition of India: A Reading of Manto's Short Stories” under my guidance. Therefore, I recommend this dissertation to be submitted to the Central Department of English for final examination of viva voice.

Mr. Ramesh Thapa

Supervisor

Central Department of English, T.U.

Date:

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Recapturing the Trauma of Partition of India: A Reading of Manto's Short Stories” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Mohan Neupane has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:

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Abstract

The partition history of India carries the traumatic experience of sectarian violence which even has been the indigenous phenomenon of India. Independence brought with it the trauma of the country's partition which made millions homeless and brought incalculable misery in its wake. As several creative writers who move round on the literary battlefield of partition, Saadat Hasan Manto's stories also deal with psychosis of divisiveness, of dismembering, the rupture with the past and unprecedented violence of absurd dimensions, trauma and even death. Besides depicting the deep pangs of partition, Manto brought to the forefront the lasting unspeakable psychic pain of the sufferers' to the present as 'trauma'. Be they the characters of "She is Alive", "A Lump of Cold Flesh", "The Last Solute" or "Three and a Half Annas", the life of the sufferers' portrayed by Manto leaves one shocked and scattered. Not even the Indo- Pak conflict on Kashmir escaped the master's attention. "The Last Solute", "Toba Tek Singh", are his tribute to the comradeship between the Indian and Pak armed forces of those days and the long-lasting haunting images of these episodes are the outcome of the psychic trauma.

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