

**Tribhuvan University**

**Fluctuation of Immigrants' Life in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake***

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Rosy Dangi

Campus Roll No. 380

T.U. Regd. No: 6-2-54-987-2004

March 2013

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis, entitled "Fluctuation of Immigrants' Life in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*" submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, by Rosy Dangi, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

.....

Rudra Prasad Paudel  
Associate Professor  
(Supervisor)

.....

External Examiner

.....

Chiranjibi Kafle  
(Head, Department of English)

Date:.....

## Acknowledgements

I cannot even think this thesis would have been completed with my single effort. It is an accumulative effort of valuable suggestions and constant support of my supervisor, motivation of HOD of English, inspiration of friends along with my perpetual endeavor toward it. I am grateful to all of them who assisted in this work from their side. Really, I have no words that can express my deep respect to my respected teacher and supervisor, Mr. Rudra Prasad Paudel, Associate Professor and Campus Chief of Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus for his scholarly guidance always in a happy mood, undisturbed and diligent attribute. His constant supervision without boredom enabled me to bring this work into its complete shape. I am deeply indebted to him. I am much grateful to respected sir Chiranjibi Kafle, the HOD of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus for providing me the opportunity to research on the topic "Fluctuation of Immigrants' Life in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*". And also I am grateful to him for the inspiration and suggestion for this research work.

I am much indebted to my parents, Mr. Deepak Kumar Dangi and Mrs. Usha Dangi who gave me birth, brought up and provided all the facilities to get this level. I always worship their hardship paid upon me. I want to heartily thank Mr. Dhanuram Bhandari who helped me with valuable suggestion and stimulated me by referring the novel for this research. I never forget his inspiration to me to be bold for any kind of challenge.

Rosy Dangi

## Abstract

Jhumpa Lahiri's novel, *The Namesake*, moves almost all about fluctuation of immigrants' life during their lifetime in an alien land, America. Lahiri pours her diasporic feelings in the novel through different characters to dig out actual situation of fluctuation and its impact on immigrants in general. She shows how the life of immigrants is uncertain and full of ups and downs due to the effect of new culture and new environment. This novel also galvanizes the idea that trauma of culture can be a tool for bringing fluctuation in the living process of the immigrants in a new place. This novel has vividly shown that diaspora and Post-colonialism (shift in new culture) are the main cause of unsuccessful life of immigrants, and as a result, affects the life of the characters: Ashima, Ashoke and Gogol Ganguli. Ashima is often palpitating and Gogol embroils in the turmoil of vague, uncertain and bogus life in the new land. Likewise, Sonu's marriage is not a happy marriage as it was thought. Lahiri has proved that the shift in the new environment is the main cause of uncertain and undeveloped life of immigrants in America.

The focus of Lahiri to write this novel *The Namesake* is to show the fluctuation of Ganguli family in particular and of Indian immigrants in general by bringing representative characters like Ashima, Ashoke and Gogol Ganguli.

## Contents

<b>Letter of Approval</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Chapter I: Introduction</b>	<b>1-10</b>
Immigrants' Fluctuation in Lahiri's Fiction	1-2
Diasporic Feature of Lahiri in Her Works	2-10
<b>Chapter II: Theoretical Concept of Post-colonialism and Diaspora</b>	<b>11-26</b>
The Idea of Post-colonialism and Post-colonial Nation	11-20
Post-colonial Idea of Nation: A Thematic Discussion	20-23
Migration and Diaspora	23-26
<b>Chapter III: Post-colonialism and Diaspora in Lahiri's <i>The Namesake</i></b>	<b>27-50</b>
An Overview of Post-colonialism and Diaspora in the Novel	27-42
Diasporic Impact on Ashima Ganguli	42-45
Gogol Ganguli Affected by Diasporas: Failure of Life	45-50
<b>Chapter IV: Conclusion</b>	<b>51-53</b>
Fluctuation on Immigrants due to Diaspora	
<b>Works Cited</b>	<b>54-55</b>