

**Tribhuvan University**

**Diasporic Consciousness and Third Space: A Study in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*,  
Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, and Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight***

**A Thesis Submitted to Central Department of English, T.U., in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of M. Phil. in English for the Approval of Research  
Committee**

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**May, 2013**

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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled "Diasporic Consciousness and Third Space: A Study in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, and Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight* submitted to Central Department of English, by Shobhakant Regmi, has been approved by undersigned members of the research committee.

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## **Acknowledgments**

I completed this research with the generosity, vision, support, and love of many people, and my words can barely express my gratitude. I hope that each of you knows how much I value all that you have done. First of all, I am extremely grateful to have had a supportive supervisor Dr. Ramchandra Poudel, whose academic expertise inspired me to complete this dissertation in a timely fashion. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, program coordinator in M. Phil., has been a mentor; his contributions to my project and my development as an enthusiastic student are invaluable. Dr. Ammaraj Joshi, Head of Central Department of English, has always inspired to bring the best of me. Dr. Beerendra Pandey inspired me to think more critically about the intersections of Postcolonial studies, and I feel lucky that he not only took an interest in my project, but was also willing to provide such insightful feedback. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma's attention to detail and compelling questions pushed me to refine my arguments and has made me excited about how this project will continue to evolve. Dr. Sanjeev Upreety, Dr. Arun Gupto and Dr. Anand Sharma have helped me understand what a sincere student of literature and philosophy should be like. The English department has provided multi-faceted support since I started the M.A. program. I am indebted to the entire faculty for the intellectual curiosity they inspired in seminars, lectures, presentations, and personal conversations.

I am also extremely grateful to my amazing friends Rameshwor, Vishnu, Umesh, Apar, Prabin Dai, Raj, Kamal, Yogendra, Bishnu, Shivahari, Golman Dai and Hari Dai for their encouragement in all walks of life.

I would also like to thank my amazing family, starting with my parents, Humanath Regmi and Chhalidevi Regmi, my brother Ishwari, Sisters Bishnu and

Ranjata, for their constant love, support, and unwavering belief that I can accomplish anything. Late Maya Gautam, my sister, and Dr. Dilliraj Gautam, my sister in-law have presented me with immense love and care. My parent in-laws, Tikaram Pandey and Yamkala Pandey, brother in-law Madhu Pandey, provided loving care so that I could work peacefully.

My son Abhusan is too young to understand how he contributed to my project, but I hope that someday he will know that nothing I accomplish matters without him. Nothing I say can do justice to the overwhelming love and gratitude I feel for my wife and best friend Shova. She is my partner in every sense of the word, and I marvel every day at how lucky I am to have married her.

Shobhakant Regmi

May, 2013

## Abstract

This research explores the experiences of challenges and opportunities in the life of South Asian immigrants in America represented in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* and Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight*. Whereas *The Namesake* and *Jasmine* narrate the adventures of Indian immigrants in America, Thapa's narrative portrays the episodes in the life of a Nepali immigrant in America. The movement of these characters in the subsequent novels is followed closely in the theoretical light on the issue of formation of third space and diasporic double consciousness forwarded by theorists like Homi Bhabha, Stuart Hall, R. Radhakrishnan and others. Based on the hypothesis that the immigrant characters in the novel create their new identity from the residues of cultural, familial, national and linguistic loss in order to postpone the ultimate crisis of identity, this research work reveals those moments of extraordinary feat and galore through which these characters survive to establish their identity. Hence, the work underscores all the critical voices grounded together to celebrate the exuberance of immigration and finally undercuts the traditional notion about the life of diaspora that they are the wretched of the earth drafted to an ocean of unfamiliarity without proper and warm navigating jackets like home culture, religion, people, language, etc. In the process of research, the researcher happens to confront a revelation that indeed diaspora illumine the very nature of mankind in trying to create himself against the hardships of life, migrants' life is a life 'becoming in unbecoming.'

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