

– Ramesh Lamsal, 2009

Resistance through Ritual Performance: A Post-colonial Study of *The Bacchae of Euripides*

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Resistance through Ritual Performance: A Post-colonial Study of
The Bacchae of Euripides

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Ramesh Lamsal

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Ramesh Lamsal has completed his thesis entitled **Resistance Through Ritual Performance: A Post-colonial Study of *The Bacchae* of Euripides** under my supervision. He carried out this research paper from July 2008 to June 2009. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva-voce.

Dr. Shiva Rijal

Supervisor

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**Resistance through Ritual Performance: A Post-colonial Study of *The Bacchae of Euripides***" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Ramesh Lamsal has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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Internal Examiner

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Date:

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Ramesh Lamsal

Abstract

The Bacchae of Euripides by Wole Soyinka is an adaptation of Euripides's *The Bacchae*. Soyinka's version contemporizes the text into social, cultural and temporal setting of post-independence era of Nigeria. This play is a significant post-colonial revision of former *The Bacchae* where ritual performance of black community is highlighted. The dance becomes a motif throughout the play and it brings solidarity and liberation among the people. This play supports the message that any tyrant ruler has to suffer and ultimately has to become victim of death before the welfare of community and the god. The ritual performance like dance, songs, chants, ceremonies, festivals, communion rites have so vibrant capacity to resist over any tyrannical ruler and these are the tradition of Yoruba people. This play explores the indigenous traditions and strong roots of ritual which is reaction against materialistic western theatre and master narrative canonical text.

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