

Tribhuvan University

Representation of the Subaltern in Upadhyay's *The Royal Ghosts*

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Faculties of Humanities,
Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Binod Roka

Roll No. : 131

T.U. Reg. No.: 6-2-40-1424-2006

July 2014

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Representation of the Subaltern in Upadhyay’s *The Royal Ghosts*” submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, by Mr. Binod Roka has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Pradip Raj Giri

(Supervisor)

External Examiner

Chiranjibi Kafle

Head, Department of English

Date: 25th July 2014

Acknowledgements

I am highly indebted to my respected supervisor Mr. Pradip Raj Giri, who assisted me providing suggestions and guidance in order to prepare this thesis.

Likewise, I express my deep sense of respect to Mr. Chiranjibi Kafle, Head, Department of English for his inspiring suggestions to complete this work. I am also thankful to all my respected teachers of Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus who directly or indirectly helped me in course of my writing of the thesis. Similarly, I heartily express my sincere gratitude to my friends Mr. Rajendra Neupane, Mr. Gyendra Lama and Mr. Tanka Dahal who provided me with the genuine ideas and suggestions for the accomplishment of this task.

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents Mr. Krishna Bir Roka and Mrs. Rudra Maya Roka, and my wife, Mrs. Roma Roka who gave their heart and soul to support and encourage me to pursue the higher degree. Finally, I could not help extending a sense of gratefulness to Central Library, American Library and different departments for providing their valuable information and co-operation.

Date: July 16, 2014

Binod Roka

Abstract

The origin of the term subaltern traces back to the medieval age to apply to peasant class. However, the term incorporates the people of lower strata who are marginalized and oppressed. The subaltern studies, thus, tries to find out the real scenario of the people from the margin and to promote them to have their agency insuring their voice. Subaltern studies works through the idea of representation and misrepresentation and Spivak, Gramsci, Guha and many other are the contributors of subaltern studies Gramsci, one of the contributors of subaltern defines: “[. . .] refers to those group in the society who are subject to hegemony to the ruling classes” (215).

In *The Royal Ghosts*, Upadhyay has written various stories trying to represent the characters belonging to the subaltern group, but he fails to do so. Therefore, the present research work addresses on the issue of “Representation of the Subaltern in *The Royal Ghosts*.” aiming to explore the real condition of the characters in the text and deal how misrepresentation does not empower the people from the margin. For this, the researcher has used the methodology of representation and misrepresentation from the subaltern studies as the best tool in this research to deal on their problems of the characters from the subaltern. Subaltern people cannot speak for themselves. Instead, they have got to be represented. Not only this, there can be the case of misrepresentation including interpretation and appropriation of ideas to the point of triviality, semblance, or incoherence considered as abuse. There is misrepresentation of characters in the *The Royal Ghosts* by Upadhyay because the author seems to have his soft corner for the subalterns in making them the protagonists in his stories, but still he does not give them and voice. Instead he makes the elites talk for the subalterns. He makes them be audible only through the elites, which is what we talk as misrepresentation that makes the subalterns remain silent about their own situation.

Contents

Letter of Approval	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
I. Misrepresentation as the Writing Technique of Upadhyay	1-11
II. Subaltern-A Theoretical Tool	12-29
III. Representation of the Subaltern in Upadhyay's <i>The Royal Ghosts</i>	30-53
IV. Conclusion: Misrepresentation of the Subalterns in <i>The Royal Ghosts</i>	54-56
Works Cited	