

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Racial Oppression in Wright's *Native Son*: Bigger Thomas's Revolution for
Safeguarding Self-Identity

A Thesis

Submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Arts in English

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February 2014

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurung with Class Roll No. 14/063, Exam Roll No. 1055 and T.U. Reg. No. 5754-92, has prepared this thesis entitled “Racial Oppression in Wright’s *Native Son*: Bigger Thomas’s Revolution for Safeguarding Self-Identity” under my guidance and supervision. I, therefore, forward to consider it for final evaluation, approval and acceptance.

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Approval Sheet

This thesis titled “Racial Oppression in Wright’s *Native Son*: Bigger Thomas’s Revolution for Safeguarding Self-Identity” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus by Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurung has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to all those people who have helped me with the preparation of this thesis. I am very much grateful to Mr. Dipendra Parajuli, Lecturer, for his valuable guidance and suggestions throughout the preparation of this thesis.

I am thankful to the research committee, English Department of Prithvi Narayan Campus for giving me permission to write the thesis in the area of my interest. I am also indebted to my teacher and Head of the Department of English, Mr. Rajendra Prasad Tiwari who was ever supportive of my research work.

Similarly, I would like to express my profound indebtedness to my teachers and faculties in the Department of English, including Mr. Homa Nath Sharma, Mr. Nagendra Bhandari, Dr. Saroj Koirala, Dr. Man Bahadur Chhetri, Mr. Ghan Bahadur Thapa, and Dr. Sunita Gurung for their invaluable feedback in course of writing this thesis. I am indebted to the librarians of the English department for their support during the exploration of research materials.

I would like to share my pleasure with those who have been involved in my research writing directly or indirectly despite many inconvenient situations. Creative Computer, Bagar, deserves my special thanks for computer typesetting.

Tek Bahadur Gurung

February, 2014

ABSTRACT

This thesis, entitled “Racial Oppression in Wright’s *Native Son*: Bigger Thomas’s Revolution for Safeguarding Self-Identity” deals with an oppressive American racial background of the 1930s and its result. This research discloses how black people were living and how they revolted to safeguard their identity. The theory of new historicism is used to demonstrate the historical context of 1930 America and Black art theory is used to mirror how black people were motivated to act antisocially. Elements like hate, attraction, sex, relationship, desire, dream, career, repulsion, separation, deprivation, marginalization, discrimination and realization are the keywords used to make the novel’s objective clear.

In Wright’s narrative, the historical background of then America is brilliantly portrayed. So, the novel can be considered as a historical artifact and a literary tool to energize the Black Art Movement. Based on the new historicists’ argument -the historicity of texts and textuality of history is reciprocally concerned- the historical background has been tried to elaborate through the text. Moreover, to excavate the reason why a man is imposed to kill someone has been thoroughly analyzed. A society, where man takes birth, is completely responsible for what man does. And, an environment where man grows up, teaches him to revolt against the situation if it goes beyond the tolerance level. Finally, the study concludes with the finding that- too much oppression results in violence.

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