

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Performing Maghi and Redefining Tharu Identity

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement of the Degree of Masters of Arts in English**

By

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled “Performing Maghi and Redefining Tharu Identity” has been prepared by Milan KushmiChaudhary under my supervision. I recommend this thesis be submitted for the Viva-Voce.

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Performing Maghi and Redefining Tharu Identity” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Milan KushmiChaudhary, has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

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Milan Kushmi Chaudhary

Abstract

This thesis argues that Maghi is more than a festival to Tharus. It is a moment when individual Tharu starts knowing and experiencing being a member of the community in the corner of this world, especially in Bardiya. It is at this moment, he / she starts re-decorating houses, house yard, community places and temples or so on. From children to oldies start dressing up in the attire that evokes the culture of Tharus. Moreover, songs, dances, foods and traditional organizations, which Tharu have nurtured and consumed for ages start dominating the entire community. Though it is impossible to remain cut off from the global and national influence, especially in cultures and lifestyles, it is during the Maghi, Tharu community gets its cultural color and dimension. It at least for a few days in a year the Tharu community gets a new avatar and brings a powerful confidence for Tharus to project who they are and what their identities are.

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