

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

**What the Nation Imagines of Children:
An Analysis of Government School Level Textbooks**

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
M. Phil. in English

by
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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Saroj G. C. has completed his thesis entitled "What the Nation Imagines: An Analysis of School Level Textbooks" under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M. Phil. in English. He carried out his research from December 2014 to September 2015.

I hereby recommend that his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "What the Nation Imagines of Children: An Analysis of School Level Textbooks" submitted to the central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Saroj G. C. has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Date: September 2015

Glossary

Aadibasi	Aboriginal
Bhasa	Language
Bir Itihas	Brave History
Birata	Bravery of Patriotism
Chakari	sycophany
Desh	Country
Dharma	Religion
Dibyopadesh	Holy Gospels, precept
Gorkhali	Basically an adjective attributed to the people living in the area Gorkha, but it became as national adjective signifying one of the main traits of Nepali-ness.
Himal	Himalayan Area
Itihas	History
Jaat	Caste
Kal	Era
Khukuri	Special kind of crooked knife
Moti	Pearl
Mukhiya	The political and administrative head of local governance during the period Panchyat System
Mukhtiyar	Premiership (Prime Minister)
Pahad	Hill Area
Purush	Man (purushtwa: Manliness, manhood, masculinity)
Rastriya	National

Swabhimaan	Self-esteem
Swachchha	Clean, Pure
Terai	The Plains
Varna	Ethnicity

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Somewhere I read Zora Neale Hurston say, "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose." However, merely the wish of poking and prying with a purpose does not lead to finite direction unless some external force is exerted, and formalizing is also a daunting task. I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, who has been the external source, and has molded my senses into research insight. I owe a lot to him, for he has supported me at every juncture of research difficulty and provided me continuously genuine suggestions, and directions.

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Abstract

This research tries to seek answers on the question: what the nation imagines about children? It is an attempt to make an interpretation of the schools texts of find out what kind of citizenry is imagined by the existing education system. By exploring values and discourses pitched in the prescribed lessons of school level texts, I argue that the school level textbooks, which are the materialization of what is designed in the curriculum, practice a particular form of knowledge that prompts children toward "obedient but critical citizen to be." The little space for the critical pedagogical practice on the part of learners gives rise to the larger space for the domination of official knowledge. The study is motivated by how the school becomes an opportune place for such a project of nation and what nation imagines of the children through school educations.

Though value neutrality and serene primary goal of teaching of four skills of knowledge in order to educate the students, the values related nation, democratic culture, history, national objectives of the nation, and values of civic life and citizenships and salient features of the Nepalese society and facilitation become dominant in content; the designers of the curriculum have agendas which are something more than materials to enhance the learning skills of the students. The present study explores the treatment of those values embedded in schoolbooks and reveals implication. Despite the seriousness of social divisions and tensions, the texts present the issues in a conciliatory tone; the tensions and gaps are downsized in a milder way. The school level textbooks become an opportune forum to exercise certain kind of form of historical knowledge to produce the desired citizen. However, pupils should be encouraged to play an active role in the life of both the school and their community.

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini
BS	Bikram Sambat
CBS	Central Bureau Statistics
CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
CNAS	Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies
CPN-M	Communist Party of Nepal- Moist
CW	Cold War
FPSC	Framework of Primary School Curriculum
HMG	His Majesty's Government (Nepal)
IC	Interim Constitution
ME	Moral Education
NEPC	National Education Planning Commission
NN	Nepali Nationalism
PEC	Primary Education Curriculum
RI	Rastriya Itihas (National History)
UML	United Moist Leninist