

Tribhuvan University

Representation of South African History in J.M. Coetzee's *Dusklands* and *Disgrace*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English,  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Master of Philosophy in English

By

Gunakhar Neupane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

December 2014

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Recommendation**

Gunakhar Neupane has completed his thesis, entitled “Representation of South African History in J.M. Coetzee's *Dusklands* and *Disgrace*”, under my supervision. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for *Viva Voce*.

---

Dr. Shiva Rijal  
Supervisor  
Central Department of English  
Date: .....

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis, entitled “Representation of South African History in J.M. Coetzee's *Dusklands* and *Disgrace*”, submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U., Kirtipur, by Gunakhar Neupane has been approved by undersigned members of the research committee.

**Members of the Research Committee**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_

M. Phil Program

Central Department of English

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected teacher and supervisor of this dissertation Dr. Shiva Rijal whose suggestions and scholarly guidance helped me bring this research work in the present form.

I would like to express my thankfulness to Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Coordinator, M. Phil. Program, for his encouragement, suggestions, and inspiration during the research.

I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Ammaraj Joshi, Head, Central Department of English, for his support, genuine ideas, and motivation during the research activities.

I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey for his suggestion and support without whose kind cooperation and guidance, the work would have remained incomplete.

I would also like to thank my colleagues and friends for their help and support during the writing and production of this thesis.

December 2014

Gunakhar Neupane

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the issues of power, discourse and the construction of South African 'other' in the dominant rhetoric of the Empire from the perspective of new historicism. While doing so, it justifies Coetzee's critique of the dominant historiography and his concerns for the marginalized and ignored aspects of South African culture and history and the minorities such as the labourers and the women. In this connection, this thesis argues that in the selected novels *Dusklands* and *Disgrace* Coetzee rewrites the colonial history of South Africa from the perspectives of the South Africans and projects racial reconciliation and forgiveness as essential conditions not only for the prosperity of post apartheid South Africa, but also as remedies for the suspicion, doubts and mistrust brought about by apartheid and looming large among the people.

## Contents

	<b>Page No.</b>
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. Coetzee and the Rewriting of South African History	1-19
II. History, Power and Narrative in <i>Dusklands</i>	20-36
III. History, Labor and Women in <i>Disgrace</i>	37-51
IV. Representation of South African History	52-55
Works Cited	