

Tribhuvan University

**Redefining Traditional Masculinity in Parijat's *Blue Mimosa* and
Bisheshwor Prasad Koirala's *Sumnima***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Tribhuvan University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master's of Philosophy in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Mohan Bahadur Kunwar has completed his thesis entitled “Redefining Traditional Masculinity in Parijat's *Blue Mimosa* and Bisheshwor Prasad Koirala’s *Sumnima*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from May, 2016 to August, 2018 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for the final *viva voce*.

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Letter of Approval

This dissertation “Redefining Traditional Masculinity in Parijat's *Blue Mimosa* and Bisheshwor Prasad Koirala's *Sumnima*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mohan Bahadur Kunwar in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.Phil. in English, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research explores how masculinity is projected in both male and female characters in Parijat's *Blue Mimosa* and Bisheshwor Prasad Koirala's *Sumnima*. The construction and representation of plural masculinity on the basis of sex, race, and religion becomes a prominent interrogation. It identifies how hegemonic masculinity is represented and constructed in the protagonists of the novels who represent ethos of significant epoch of Nepali society during 1970s. The paper deploys R. W. Connel's concept of hegemonic masculinity and Judith Halberstam's concept of female masculinity as the core theories to bring out the representation of plural masculinities in these Nepali novels. This research identifies the concept of hegemonic masculinity, female resistance against patriarchy, and the female masculinity on the basis of historicity of Nepali masculinity. It deeply critiques notion of plural masculinity and its multifarious articulations like ethnicity, religion, sex, and age in Parijat's *Blue Mimosa* and Bisheshwor Prasad Koirala's *Sumnima*. In Nepal, the studies of men and masculinity remains rare compared with the studies of women and femininity. The critiquing of masculinity and depiction of masculine female characters serves to change the negative attitudes towards females and to create gender equality in Nepal.

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