

Tribhuvan University

Mountaineering: A Space for Cultural Identity in Jamling Tenzing Norgay's *Touching
My Father's Soul*

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central
Department of English, in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis, entitled " Mountaineering: A Space for Cultural Identity in Jamling
Tenzing Norgay's *Touching My Father's Soul*," has been conducted by Sanjib Lal
Shrestha under my supervision. I recommend his thesis to be submitted to the research
committee for the viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Mountaineering: A Space for Cultural Identity in Jamling Tenzing Norgay’s *Touching My Father’s Soul*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sanjib Lal Shrestha, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

This research “Mountaineering: A Space for Cultural Identity in Jamling Tenzing Norgay’s *Touching My Father’s Soul*” discovers the cultural identity and its practices of Sherpas. The central motive of this research is to show the celebration of Sherpas root or indigenous culture in the genre of autobiography. Jamling, as an autobiographer and a representative of Sherpa Culture, highlights the unique identity of Sherpas and Nepalese mountain. This thesis explores how the protagonist of the autobiography finds his identity in mountain climbing that his father, Tenjing Norge Sherpa also had done as the first man to atop the Everest. The Sherpas basic identity lies in their culture which is rooted in mountain life style, mountaineering, worship of mountains as gods and celebration of Buddhist mode of life. Thus, the research exposes that mountaineering is not only a profession of Sherpa but also a space for constructing and promoting their cultural identity.

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