

Tribhuvan University

Narrativization of Trauma in Maupin's *The Night Listener*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
of Master of Arts in English

By

Anita Kumari Shah

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

April 2013

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

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Anita Shah has completed her Thesis entitled  
Narrativization of Trauma in Maupin's *Night Listener* under my supervision. She  
carried out this research from September 2012 to April 2013. I hereby recommend  
this thesis be submitted for the viva voce.

---

Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya

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

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Narrativization of Trauma in Maupin's *Night Listener*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ms. Anita Kumari Shah, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Head

Central Department of English

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Acknowledgements**

First of all I would like to extend my gratitude to my teacher and thesis supervisor Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya for his close guidance and immense help to complete my work.

I am grateful to the respected head of Central Department of English, Dr. Amma Raj Joshi.

Words would remain always insufficient and incapable to express my gratefulness towards my mother and father, Mrs. Gulab Shah and Mr. Ram Bahadur Shah who have sacrificed a lot to educate me from my very childhood. I realize that without the contributions of my parents and other family members, I could never have completed my Master's degree. With utmost gratitude, I bow down at the feet of my beloved Master Swami Anand Arun who has given me a new life and without his inspiration, I would never have complete this thesis. I have no words to express my thankfulness towards Pragya, my best friend, who always trusted in me and helped me grow as a beautiful human being. With her constant reminder and help only I have been able to complete my thesis.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my beloved Swami Gyan Deepak who has taught me the simple truths of life to become happy and free and who also helped me in typing this thesis. Besides, I am grateful to my Guru Shree Rajneesh, my beloved Shivapuri Baba and Shirdi Sai Baba. Without their invisible company and guidance I would not prefer to live this life. I know without them my life is nothing but an illusion. I bow down in gratitude.

April 2013

Anita Kumari Shah

## Abstract

This research explores the various causes resulting into cultural trauma in Armistead Maupin's *The Night Listener*. This novel presents the issues like homosexuality, child sexual abuse, physical and mental violence and its effect, HIV/AIDS and so on as the causes of cultural trauma. By presenting the major character who is a homosexual and by narrating the experiences in the first person, this novel is able to highlight different psychological and physical effects resulting from cultural trauma. The protagonist narrates the first hand experiences of being homosexual in the twentieth century America. There are the characters who are suffering from traumatic effects due to biased ideology regarding certain sexuality and diseases. Pete is living a fearful life as he has lost the trust regarding human relationship, Jess is fighting against the social discriminations due to his homosexuality along with his HIV, Donna is unnaturally overprotective toward Pete, Gabriel's grandfather commits suicide being unable to expose his sexuality, and Mathew Shepherd is killed by cowboys. There are many issues like breakups and betrayal that have traumatic effect upon characters. This novel, in, overall exposes the cultural trauma in contemporary society through different characters' bitter experiences as they are 'unique' and unmatched with the majority of people living in the society and their expectations

## Contents

Recommendations

Approval Letter

Acknowledgement

Abstract

I. Maupin's *The Night Listener* as a Trauma Fiction 1-9

II. Cultural Trauma in Maupin's *The Night Listener* 10-43

III. Narrativization of Trauma in Armistead Maupin's *The Night Listener* 44-46

Work Cited