

Tribhuvan University

Quest for African American Cultural Identity in Wright's *The Native Son*

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

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Letter of Recommendation

Narayan Prasad Joshi has completed his thesis entitled “Quest for African American Cultural Identity in Wright’s *The Native Son*” under my supervision from April 2012 to October 2012 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voice.

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Supervisor

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Quest for African American Cultural Identity in Wright’s *The Native Son*” by Narayan Prasad Joshi, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research on Richard Wright's *Native Son* (1940) inherently studies the African American cultural identity of black people in America. *Native Son* which is a story of a young black boy, Bigger, who kills an American girl accidentally and is sentenced to death in an unfair trial, is viewed as a masterpiece that questions the presuppositions that have been postulated by the imperialistic societies. This project also identifies the cultural heritage of African American. The Protagonist Bigger as the representative of the society wants to preserve her own native culture. He advocates for his own language and ritual practices to establish his cultural identity against mainstream culture. Thematically and structurally *Native Son* is dominated by struggle for freedom from all forms of oppression and realization of full potentiality of one's complex bicultural identity as an African American. At the end, violence is stronger force; it gives the real consciousness to Bigger as an individual to perceive his cultural identity even at the time of death.

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