

Tribhuvan University

Contextual Reading of Orhan Pamuk's *Istanbul: Memories of a City*

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

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September, 2012

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Letter of Recommendation

Narayan Paudel has completed his thesis entitled " **Contextual Reading of Orhan Pamuk's *Istanbul: Memories of a City***" under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2068/07/15 B.S. to 2069/05/10 B.S. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “**Contextual Reading of Orhan Pamuk’s *Istanbul: Memories of a City***” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Narayan Paudel has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Acknowledgements

First and most gratefully, I would like to acknowledge my gratefulness to my respected Guru and supervisor Mr. Shankar Subedi, the Lecturer at the Central Department of English, for guidance, inspiration, suggestions and constructive feedback from the very beginning to the completion of this thesis. Without his constant and continuous supervision and intellectual guidance, this research work would have never witnessed its present form. I feel very lucky to have worked under his supervision and guidance. Therefore, I would like to extend my sincere and hearty gratitude to him.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English, for the approval of this research work in its present shape. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to respected teachers Saroj Sharma Ghimire and other teachers who inspired me to materialize my dream of Master of Arts in English Literature.

I am extraordinarily grateful to my dearest parents for their encouragement, support, love and blessing to complete my M. A. in English. Similarly, encouragement, co-operation, inspiration and moral support provided by my father Bidur Paudel and mother Saraswati Paudel remain great inspiring force to carry out this dissertation. I would also like to thank my friends Deviraman Tripathi, Bhojraj Khanal, Pralhad Subedi and others, who directly and indirectly helped me to bring this thesis in its present form. Finally, I am equally grateful to Indra Shrestha and Subedi Stationary and Computer Centre, Kirtipur for its typing and technical support.

Narayan Paudel

September, 2012

Abstract

Pamuk's book *Istanbul: Memories of a City* is a review of significant moments of Turkey's history through which the writer addresses issues of national representation and identity. Pamuk's work revises Turkish cultural memory at a crucial moment of the country's history. Istanbul, in its geographical position, transforms it into a border city, since it constitutes a great that connects Europe to Asia. Moreover, it has been under the rule of different peoples along history and has enjoyed a position of hegemony for several centuries. The centre of Istanbul, the greatness of the Ottoman Empire is taken into account. The book highlights the Turk's internal vision as a nation when the maintenance of secular government and the wish to reach economic development with the financial support given by the European Union. Pamuk asserts his anxieties, his joys and his melancholy since he was a child. This special relationship with space makes Istanbul reflect not only the writer's feelings, but also those of the collectivity. By acknowledging that Istanbul is his home, as the writer wanders through the city, recalling his personal memories, he transforms Istanbul into the nation's home; in other words into a symbol that consequently embodies the nation's identity. The writer's presentation of Istanbul allows the reader to travel across time and led by the writer's hand; discover the layers of civilizations that made Istanbul one of the most important capitals in world history. By visiting, painting and describing the Istanbul of the present through the remains of the past, Pamuk revises and rewrites Turkish official memory, making Turks and foreigners aware of the importance of the blend of the East with the West.

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