

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

The Journey of Self-Discovery and Survival: A Structural Approach  
to Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in English

By

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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**Letter of Recommendation**

This is to certify that Ms. Anita Dhungana with T.U. Reg. No. 6-2-295-2-2010 has prepared this thesis entitled “The Journey of Self- Discovery and Survival: A Structural Approach to Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi*” under my supervision, following the format as specified by the Research Committee, Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. Therefore, I forward it to the Research Committee for final evaluation.

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Date: February 2022

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

**Approval Sheet**

This thesis entitled “The journey of Self -Discovery and Survival: A Structural Approach to Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, by Ms. Anita Dhungana has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Anita Dhungana

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## **ABSTRACT**

This work concentrates on Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* and explores the language at work. Here, the protagonist can be seen using various symbols to communicate with other characters. The study illustrates the perspectives of great philosopher like Ferdinand de Saussure who emphasized affinity to the nature for the understanding of ultimate mysteries of the world. Thus, the structural approach suggested by Saussure has been adopted as the major tool to cope with the issues raised in the study. The study further analysis and compares attitudes and beliefs of Saussure regarding the use of symbol as language. Lastly, the study concludes the notion of personal freedom from the point of view of structuralism, using the journey of self-discovery and survival.