# GRAFFITI IN KATHMANDU VALLEY: MULTIMODAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

327 (S)

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English

> Submitted by Pratiksha Neupane

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur Kathmandu, Nepal 2019

# GRAFFITI IN KATHMANDU VALLEY: MULTIMODAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

# A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English

Submitted by Pratiksha Neupane

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur Kathmandu, Nepal 2019

T.U. Reg. No: 9-2-0803-0027-2011 Fourth Semester Examination Roll No: 7228583/073 Date of Approval of Thesis Proposal: 19/03/2019 Date of Submission: 03-07-2019

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE**

This is to certify that **Ms. Pratiksha Neupane** has prepared this thesis entitled **Graffiti in Kathmandu Valley: Multimodal Discourse Analysis** under my guidance.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance.

Date: 03-07-2019

.....

Mr. Jagadish Paudel (Supervisor) Lecturer Department of English Education T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION**

The following **Research Guidance Committee** has recommended this thesis for evaluation.

### Signature

**Dr. Gopal Prasad Pandey** Reader and Head Department of English Education T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu

(Chairperson)

Mr. Jagadish Paudel (Supervisor)

Lecturer Department of English Education T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu •••••

(Member)

Mr. Khem Raj Joshi Teaching Assistant Department of English Education T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu (Member)

Date:

## **EVALUATION AND APPROVAL**

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following **Research Evaluation and Approval Committee:** 

#### Signature

Dr. Gopal Prasad Pandey Reader and Head Department of English Education T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu

(Chairperson)

Dr. Binod Luitel Professor (English Education) Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID) Tribhuvan University

••••••

(Expert)

Mr. Jagadish Paudel (Supervisor) Lecturer Department of English Education T.U. Kirtipur, Kathmandu

•••••

(Member)

Date: 22-07 2019

### DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to be the best of my knowledge this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

•

Date: 02-07-2019

.....

Pratiksha Neupane

### **DEDICATION**

To my parents, friends and teachers who always encourage me to take challenges and inspire me for my betterment.

#### ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

First, I am very much indebted to my respected supervisor **Mr. Jagadish Paudel,** Lecturer, Department of English Education, for his guidance and valuable suggestion for carrying out this study. I am grateful to his quick replies, timely and constructive comments. Without his encouragement and effort, this thesis would not have been completed.

I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Gopal Prasad Pandey**, Reader and Head, Department of English Education, TU for providing opportunity, valuable guidance and support for the study since the beginning of my thesis. Likewise, I am grateful to **Dr. Binod Luitel**, Professor and Expert, Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID), Tribhuvan University for his insightful suggestions to make my study more scholarly. Equally, I am grateful to **Dr. Prem Phyak**, Lecturer, Department of English Education, and T.U. for his support efforts, suggestions and encouragement to select this topic for the study.

Likewise, my sincere thanks go to all my gurus and gurumas: **Prof. Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, **Prof. Dr. Tara Datta Bhatta**, **Mr. Laxmi Prasad Ojha**, Lecturer, **Mr. Ashok Sapkota**, Teaching Assistant, **Mr. Guru Prasad Paudel**, Teaching Assistant, **Mr. Resham Acharya**, Teaching Assistant, Department of English Education for providing me directly and indirectly invaluable suggestions, ideas, and encouragement for academic support. I am also grateful to all members of the department for creating such a friendly environment that widened my knowledge of linguistics.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents Megh Nath Neupane, Sabitri
Neupane and my sister Pratima Neupane. Their love and support were not only instrumental in my finishing this research, but indeed made me who I am.
Likewise, my lovely thanks go to my best friends Suman, Rita, Sulochana,
Jyotishikha, Nishma, and all my friends who have always been there for me.

#### Pratiksha Neupane

#### ABSTRACT

This study entitled "Graffiti in Kathmandu Valley: Multimodal Discourse Analysis" was carried out to identify the multimodal features included in graffiti arts and to explore the contents of writing in graffities. Furthermore, this study examined the meaning communicated via images included in the graffities. The study adopted qualitative research design, which was based on Kress and Leeuwon (1996) multimodal discourse analysis. Fifty graffities from different locations of Kathmandu valley were selected for analysis of the data. The data were analyzed based on MDA analytical framework. To accomplish the objectives, I used only publicly appeared graffiti wall arts. The results of the study revealed that multiple features such as presentation of various themes, multiple modes like signs, symbols, colors, words with images, stylish writing structures and linguistic features were noticed in graffiti writing of Kathmandu valley. It was also found that multiple issues were raised in the graffiti, which included politics, gender discrimination, women violence and languages.

This study has been divided into five main section. The first chapter deals with introduction of the study, which consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, Research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study, and operational definitions of key terms. The second chapter includes the review of theoretical literature, empirical literature, implications of the study and conceptual framework. The third chapter discusses the method and procedures of the study. It consists of design, method, and procedures of the study. It consists of design and methods of sample and sampling strategy, sources of data, data collection tools and techniques, data collection procedures, data analysis and interpretation procedures and ethical considerations. The Fourth chapter incorporates the analysis and interpretation of data and the fifth chapter deals with findings, conclusions and recommendations related to policy, practice and further research. References and appendices were included at the last part of the study.

vii

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Declaration			
Recommendation for Acceptance			
Reco	Recommendation for Approval		
Eval	Evaluation and Approval		
Dedi	Dedication		
Acknowledgements			
Abstract			
Table of Contents			
List	List of Figures		
List	of Abbreviations	xiii	
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION			
1.1	Background of the Study	1	
1.2	Statement of the Problem	4	
1.3	Objectives of the Study	5	
1.4	Research Questions	5	
1.5	Significance of the Study	5	
1.6	Delimitations of the Study	6	
1.7	Operational Definitions of the Key Terms	8	
CH	APTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERA	ATURE AND	
	<b>CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK</b>	9-33	
2.1 F	Review of Related Theoretical Literature	9	
	2.1.1 Introduction of Graffiti	9	
	2.1.1.1 Origin and History of Graffiti	10	
	2.1.2 Discourse Analysis	12	
	2.1.3 Multi-model Discourse Analysis	14	
	2.1.3.1 Multimodality	16	
	2.1.4 Semiotic Analysis	18	
	2.1.4.1 Semiotic Resources	18	
	2.1.5 Graffiti in Kathmandu	20	

2.1.6 An Analytical Units in MDA			
2.1.6.1 Thematic Content Representation of Graffiti	21		
2.1.6.2 Graffiti as Form of Multimodality	22		
2.1.6.3 Mode of Communication	23		
2.1.6.4 Socio-political Meaning of Graffiti	24		
2.1.6.5 Graffiti as a Form of Linguistic Landscape	24		
2.1.6.6 Linguistic Features in Graffiti	26		
2.2 Review of Empirical Literature			
2.3 Implications of the Review for the Study			
2.4 Conceptual Framework	33		
CHAPTER THREE: METHODS AND PROCEDURE OF			
THE STUDY	34-36		
3.1 Design of the Study	34		
3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Strategy			
3.3 Data Collection Tools			
3.4 Sources of Data			
3.4.1 Primary Sources	35		
3.4.2 Secondary Sources	35		
3.5 Data Collection Procedures			
3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation Procedures			
3.7 Ethical Consideration			
CHAPTER FOUR: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION			
OF DATA	37-66		
4.1 Analysis of Data and Interpretation of the Data	37		
4.1.1 Contents Represented in Graffiti	38		
4.1.1.1 Expression of Language	38		
4.1.1.2 Cultural Identity	40		
4.1.1.3 Gender Equality	42		
4.1.1.4 Women Violence	44		
4.1.1.5 Politics	46		
4.1.2 Multimodality in Graffiti			

48
49
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
55
56
57
58
59
59
60
61
62
62
62
63
63
64
65
65
67-72
<b>67-72</b> 67
67

5.3 Recommendations		
5.3.1 Policy Related	71	
5.3.2 Practice Related	72	
5.3.3 Further Research Related	72	
REFERENCES		

APPENDIXS

## LIST OF FIGURES

## Page No.

Sample 1= Street Graffiti	39
Sample 2= Street Graffiti	39
Sample 3= Wall Writing	40
Sample 4= Images in Wall Graffiti	41
Sample 5= Images in Wall Graffiti	41
Sample 6= Images in Wall Graffiti	41
Sample 7= Images in Wall Graffiti	41
Sample 8= Images in Wall Graffiti	42
Sample 9= Images in Wall Graffiti	42
Sample 10= Images in Wall Graffiti	42
Sample 11= Street Graffiti	43
Sample 12= Street Graffiti	43
Sample 13= Images in Wall	43
Sample 14= Street Graffiti	44
Sample 15= Street Graffiti	44
Sample 16= Street Graffiti	45
Sample 17= Wall Graffiti	46
Sample 18= Wall Graffiti	46
Sample 19= Wall Graffiti	47
Sample 20= Wall Graffiti	48
Sample 21= Wall Graffiti	50
Sample 22= Wall Graffiti	51
Sample 23= Wall Graffiti	51
Sample 24= Wall Graffiti	52
Sample 25= Wall Graffiti	52
Sample 26= Wall Graffiti	52
Sample 27= Wall Graffiti	52
Sample 28= Wall Graffiti	52

Sample 29= Wall Graffiti	54
Sample 30= Wall Graffiti	56
Sample 31= Wall Graffiti	56
Sample 32= Wall Graffiti	56
Sample 33= Wall Graffiti	57
Sample 34= Wall Graffiti	57
Sample 35= Street Graffiti	58
Sample 36= Wall Graffiti	59
Sample 37= Wall Graffiti	60
Sample 38= Wall Graffiti	60
Sample 39= Wall Graffiti	61
Sample 40= Wall Graffiti	62
Sample 41= Street Graffiti	62
Sample 42= Street Graffiti	63
Sample 43= Street Graffiti	64
Sample 44= Street Graffiti	65
Sample 45= Street Graffiti	65
Sample 46= Wall Graffiti	65
Sample 47= Street Graffiti	65
Sample 48= Wall Graffiti	66
Sample 49= Imaged in Graffiti	66
Sample 50= Spray Wall Graffiti	66

## LIST OF ABBRIVIATIONS

DA	=	Discourse Analysis
LL	=	Linguistic Landscapes
MMDA	=	Multimodal Discourse Analysis
SFL	=	Systemic Functional Linguistic
T.U.	=	Tribhuvan University
UWC	=	University of the Western Cape