

Tribhuvan University

Colonial Vestige in Tagore's *Letters to a Friend*

A Thesis Submitted to

Central Department of English, T.U.

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Kalpana Sharma

Roll No. 283

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September, 2015

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

I certify that Kalpana Sharma wrote this thesis entitled “Colonial Vestige in Tagore’s *Letters to a Friend*” under my supervision, during the period from 2014 to 2015. I recommend the thesis be submitted for viva-voce.

---

Mahesh Paudyal

Supervisor

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “Colonial Vestige in Tagore’s *Letters to a Friend* “  
by Kalpana Sharma has been submitted to the Central Department of English  
Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the  
Research Committee.

Members of Research Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

Head of Dept.

\_\_\_\_\_

Central Department of

English

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

## **Acknowledgements**

I thank Mr.MaheshPoudel,the supervisor of my thesis, who guided me through this project and helped me end up this work. I also thank Prof. Ammaraj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University for allowing me to go ahead with the project. I am thankful to my lecturers Mr. Sarad Chandra Thakur, PradipGiri and Mahesh poudel for their intellectual suggestion and inspiration. I also thank my friends, brothers SudipSharma, Swoyam Sharma, and Rajan Sharma and my dear and loving husband Mr.PramodNeupane for inspiring me to move ahead with this thesis, by giving me the environment necessary for the task.I am indebted to my mother and father who always supported me to march ahead in the path of education by caring and raring my two kids until the studying period. I am thankful to everyone who directly or indirectly helped me accomplish this work.

KalpanaShrama

Sepember, 2015

## Abstract

This thesis examines Rabindranath Tagore's *Letters to a Friend* and shows how colonial mentality has expressed in letters written to his English missionary friend C.F. Andrews. In the process of writing letters, Tagore plays a role of colonial agent through his all letters. Indian peoples have been represented by the words like gaudy, ragged, tenant, uncivilized, narrow and limited in Tagore's letters. This research proof Rabindranath Tagore a colonialist who always hightens the west by the numerous praiseful words in letters writtentto his missionary friends C. F Andrews along with the inferiorization of Eastern people. Edward said's postcolonial theory *Orientalism* became very supportive to theory explores the challenge done by East that the discourse created by the West towards East is mere lies and myth. Main goal of this research is to show Tagore as colonialist and anti patriotic person in his book *Letters to a Friend*. In short, the major findingof this research is not only Tagore as colonial agent but also highlights the importance of nationality and patriotism that all citizen who love their country should have in their life until we live in this world.

## CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	(i)
Abstract	(ii)
Chapter I: Tagore, His Colonial Mentality and <i>Letters to a Friend</i>	1
Chapter II: Rabindranath Tagore as a Colonial Agent in <i>Letters to a Friend</i>	15
Chapter III: Letter to a Friend: A Document with Colonial Trace	46