

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Disability as Constitutive of a New Structure of Family:

A Critical Reading of Keri Hulme's *The Bone People*

A Thesis Submitted to

Central Department of English in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Bharat Bahadur Thapa

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Bharat Bahadur Thapa has completed his thesis entitled *Disability as Constitutive of a New Structure of Family in Keri Hulme's The Bone People* under my Supervision. He carried out his research from 12th November, 2009 to 5th February, 2010 AD. I here by recommend his thesis be submitted for Viva Voce.

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Dr. Ram Chandra Poudel
Supervisor

Date

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled *Disability as Constitutive of a New Structure of Family in Keri Hulme's The Bone People* Submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Bharat Bahadur Thapa, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee.

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head
Central Department of English

Date

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Abstract

This thesis conducted on Keri Hulme's *The Bone People* unmask how the portrayal of disability that associates deformity with mysticism as to form a new unit of family displays fullness along with respect for the disabled characters and rejects traditional literary representation of disability. The three central characters are disabled either physically or emotionally or culturally or spiritually. Simon's ability to forgive Joe and Kerewin for their ill treatment and many beatings to him energizes the reconciliation of the three under multicultural family devoid of any hierarchies in the name of race, gender and class. Simon's bodily suffering and recovery, in particular, associates him with the suffering of Christ; both figures are Phoenix-like martyrs, with their resurrection from suffering and persecution become redeemers of humankind. This research, thus, sees how the novel challenges the traditional representation of disability and establishes disability as a creative force.

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