

Tribhuvan University

Disability as a Social Construct in Levinson's *Rain Man*

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Master of Arts in English

By

Shrijana Kafle

Roll No: 281117

T. U. Regd. No: 6-2-242-199-2006

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Recommendation Letter

Ms. Shrijana Kafle has completed this thesis entitled “Disability as a Social Construct in Levinson’s *Rain Man*” under my supervision. She carried out this research from March 2015 to March 2016. I, hereby, recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

Mahesh Paudyal

Lecturer

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled, “Disability as a Social Construct in Levinson’s *Rain Man*, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Shrijana Kafle has been approved by the undersigned members of thesis committee.

Members of Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

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Abstract

This thesis analyses Raymond Babbit's disease in Levinson's movie *Rain Man* as a social construct and a form of difference. My argument, here, is that difference and stigma are purely a social construct rather than an innate quality which is created on the basis of differences prevalent in society. Raymond's idiosyncrasies are more the result of loneliness, exile and lack of nurtures rather than his disease. He is the patient of autism which has different traits that makes him different in the majority. These differences are not only the cause of his exile and exploitation but socially constructed norms and stereotypes are more responsible for Raymond's identity crisis. Raymond Babbit, after being in relation with his younger brother Charlie has come into some kind of understanding to the social orders and emotional status of himself. But he was institutionalized in the beginning also and to the end he again is confined to the care house. This research pokes into the so called normal norms and advocated the rights of disables.

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