

**Tribhuvan University**

**Trickster as the Trope of Resistance in Richard Adams *Watership Down***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of**

**Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

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**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Recommendation**

Rabindra Neupane has completed his thesis entitled “Trickster as the Trope of Resistance in Richard Adams *Watership Down*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from November, 2011 to, June 2012 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for *viva voce*.

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Dr. Ani Rudra Thapa  
(Supervisor)

Date:

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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “Trickster as the Trope of Resistance in Richard Adams *Watership Down*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Rabindra Neupane has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of Research Committee

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## **Abstract**

This thesis is a study of *Watership Down*, a novel by Richard Adams. The research work deals with the trickster as a trope of resistance. In the novel, the characters Hazel, Fiver and the group of rabbits under Hazel's leadership resist against General Woundwort's dictatorship, who do not want the benefit of others. The novel, with the use of trickster trope, reveals that human beings lack humanity. Contrary to human beings, there are some of the rabbit figures like Hazel, Fiver and El-ahrairah who are endowed with human qualities such as cooperation, search for identity and freedom. Through human qualities in rabbit figures, the writer satirizes the selfish nature of human beings. The thesis draws upon idea about trickster forwarded by many thinkers such as Roger Abrams, Virginia Hamilton, Marget P. Baker, Gerald Vizenor, Chris LaLonde and others. Trickster figures in the novel teach the readers about the value of cooperation which human beings lack now a days. By focusing on the life of animals which are thought to be insignificant, the research shows that fantasy novels such as Adams', far from being animal stories, are example of social commentary about human politics and culture.

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