#### TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Focalizer's Prejudice towards Nepalese-Indian People in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*: A Study of Counter Focalization

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Shiba Hari Gyawali

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

December 2008

# **Tribhuvan University**

# **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## **Central Department of English**

#### **Letter of Recommendation**

This Theses entitled, "Focalizer's Prejudice towards Nepalese-Indian People in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*: A Study of Counter Focalization" has been prepared by Mr. Shiba Hari Gyawali under my supervision. I recommend this Thesis to be submitted for the vive voce.

Mr.Shuvaraj Ranabhat
Lecturer
Central Department of English
T.U. Kirtipur

Date: .....

## **Tribhuvan University**

# **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## **Central Department of English**

## **Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled, "Focalizer's Prejudice towards Nepalese-Indian People in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*: A Study of Counter Focalization," submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Shiba Hari Gyawali has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

risor
1301
iner
f English

#### Acknowledgements

I am profoundly indebted to my respected teacher and thesis supervisor Mr. Shuvaraj Ranabhat, Central Department of English, for his scholarly and insightful guidelines for the successful completion of the present research. His valuable suggestion and expert supervision has enabled me to carry out this research in its present form.

Similarly, I express my heartfelt gratitude to my respected teacher Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, Who always focused on quality preparation of the research. I would like to express my gratitude to my respected teacher Mr. Saroj Sharma Ghimire and Mr. Badri Acharya, Lecturers at Central Department of English, who helped me in many ways during the research period. I am indebted to all the faculty members of the Department for their valuable suggestions and genuine insights to bring the best of me.

With due respect, I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards my family members-especially I am indebted to my father and mother without whose continuous support and encouragement my dream to be a research student would have been unrealized. My special thanks go to my sister Sabita Gyawali who has been a constant inspiration for me all these days.

I, likewise, sincerely thank my friends Sabita, Laxman, Rem, Ramesh, Deepak, Bhojraj, Bishnu, Ramu, Baikuntha, and brothers Ganesh and Krishna for their continuous help. Last but not least I thank my sister Nita and Asha who constantly stood by me in various ways throughout. Finally, I fondly recall my greatest reverence invariably goes to my mama Somkanta Khanal, Giriraj Khanal and Bishnu Khanal whose sheer love and blessing have always proved to be a beacon of hope and energy, prompting me to ascend every ladder of my life, no matter how much painstaking it may be.

Shiba Hari Gyawali

December, 2008

#### **Abstract**

In *The Inheritance of Loss* the very principle of the narrative introduces multiple characters as focalizers and also keeps a distance between limited heterodigetic narrator. As the multiple focalizer in the novel, the story is presented through the focalizer's perception or ideology and Nepalese-Indian people are focalized as they have been evaluated or understood by the focalizer. The focalization based or Jemubhai Patel, Sai, Biju, Lola and Noni's narration presents the focalized person likewise Gyan and Budhoo. The focalized characters are brought into light by the author but everything in the narrative are filtered through multiple focalizer's perception from whose perspective the Nepalese-Indian character and events of the story are focalized, witnessed or perceived. The narrator narrates his/her thoughts through the consciousness of the multiple focalizer without his/her interventation. Desai's narrative technique is a type where the mind of the narrator is taken as a stage. She seeks to render more coherent and reasonable series of dramatic situations that are intended not as realistic images of society but as devices for exploring and analyzing the minds of her character. Each narrative stance fits into the other as different blocks that lay greater emphasis on compactness and unity of effect in a work of art than in characterization.

# **Contents**

	Page
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. Introduction	1
II. Narratology: Focalization	9
First Person Narrative Technique	15
Third Person Narrative Technique	16
Stream of Consciousness Technique	16
The Eye-Witness	18
Focalization	18
III. Focalization as a Basic Narrative Device in The Inheritance of Loss	28
IV. Conclusion	49
Works Cited	53