

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**The Modernist Notion of Time in Jorge Luis Borges's "The Garden of  
Forking Path", Salvador Dali's *Persistence of Memory* and Stephen  
Hawking's *A Brief History of Time***

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of English,  
Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

**Anod Bhattarai**

**Central Department of English**

**Kiritpur, Kathmandu**

**August 2008**

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis titled " The Modernist Notion of Time in Jorge Luis Borges's "The Garden of Forking Path", Salvador Dali's *Persistence of Memory* and Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*," submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by **Anod Bhattarai**, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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Internal Examiner

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External Examiner

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Head  
Central Department of English

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

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the scholars, guardians and my friends who directly or indirectly assisted me to give this thesis its present form. The completion of the thesis would have remained a mere dream without their fruitful encouragement, constructive insight and assistance. I am intellectually indebted to my advisor, Dr. Shiva Rijal, who, despite his busy schedule, encouragingly helped me to work. Without his guidance, the preparation of this thesis would not have been possible. My sincere sense of obligation also goes to respectable Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, T.U., and other Professors and Lecturers including the members of the Research Committee of the Department who not only permitted but also encouraged me to work in this field.

My sincere thanks go to Mr. Yubraj Aryal who assisted me to proceed with this thesis with his full effort. I would like to thank Amir Regmi for his kind help in correcting the language lapses. Very special thanks go to my beloved wife, Chandra Kala Ghimire, my parents, and my sister, Ramila Sharma who always encouraged me in my difficulties. I want to thank Prachanda, Sameer, Jeeten, Bibek, Sri Ram, Baburam Khanal, Ram Chandra Sapkota and all my friends who have relentlessly inspired me to complete the thesis.

**August, 2006**

**Anod Bhattarai**

## Abstract

The research entitled “The Modernist Notion of Time in Jorge Luis Borges’s “The Garden of Forking Path”, Salvador Dali's *Persistence of Memory* and Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*” concerns modernism that conceives time as nonlinear and nonlocutionary phenomenon. Before modernism, time was understood as linear and fixed essence but modernist explosion has problematized the essentialist notion of time attributing time as nonlinear and disjuncture phenomenon. Stephen Hawking in *A Brief History of Time* shows how time is nonlinear. He shows neither present is succession of past nor it is followed by future. Time is a nondivisible whole: it cannot be divided into past, present and future. Salvador Dali's Painting *The Persistence of Memory* depicts distorted and scattered images of watches in a barren land which indicate the distorted image of time in the modern age. Jorge Luis Borges in the story *The Garden of Forking Path* explores time itself to be disrupted in modernism. Modern 'man' is understood as an individual who lives in infinite present without history. It is held that since time is not linear, human being cannot assemble his past in its wholeness to constitute history.

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