

Tribhuvan University

Politics of Memory in Subedi's *Chasing Dreams* and *Dreams of Peach Blossoms*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of M. Phil. in English**

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Ram Prasad Ghimire has completed his thesis entitled "Politics of Memory in Subedi's *Chasing Dreams* and *Dreams of Peach Blossoms*." He carried out his research in 2011 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled "Politics of Memory in Abhi Subedi's *Chasing Dreams* and *Dream of Peach Blossoms*" submitted to the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University by Ram Prasad Ghimire has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

The present dissertation is concerned with why Abhi Subedi has used memory in his *Chasing Dreams* and *Dreams of Peach Blossoms*. By using personal and cultural memory in the texts, Subedi subverts the prevailing hegemonic structure of history and gives articulation to the subdued voices of women, artists, and other marginalized people of the society. He uses cultural memory in *Dreams of Peach Blossoms* to focus on the pathos of ancient life in Bhaktapur city produced by patriarchy and feudal system. The play gives a lot of spaces to the woes and agonies of Maijus, artists, and other subordinated people who sacrifice their lives merely to raise the ego of kingship and patriarchy. Patriarchal agents and feudal kings of that time usually choose the distant places for Maiju's marriage to maintain their diplomatic relations. As they leave their familiar language, friends and motherland for new places, they become speechless and alienated beings. However, the patriarchy does not feel their pathos for it takes them just as the objects to be exchanged wherever it decides to. Similarly, the play produces an artist, who has to be either disabled or banished as he has created a unique art to satisfy the King. The history of patriarchy and feudalism ignores such pathos of Maijus and the artists. However, Subedi uses memory to give articulation to such silences. Another important aspect of this study is that it focuses on how Subedi's use of memory critiques the corrupt people who sell their own cultural heritage for money. Like in *Dreams of Peach Blossoms*, *Chasing Dreams*, represents the dreams and desires produced by patriarchy in women and those that are constructed in other minorities by the corrupt dominating people of the metropolitan world. In the text, Subedi's use of personal memory reveals the poetic persona's sincere responses to his encounters with different critical situations of his life, particularly in Kathmandu. Pollution in natural environment of

Kathmandu city seems to him to be an echo of "garbage hills" piled up in the hearts of people. Subedi's persona realizes that though in city life there are many mouths to speak, their words fail to represent genuine ideas and feelings. This "invisibility" of city is made visible in the text through the use of personal memory. Thus, Subedi, in both the texts, uses memory to alleviate the suffocations in order to provide a healthy space for the expression of the minorities.

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