

Tribhuvan University  
Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Central Department of English

Trauma and Guilt in S. T. Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Mary  
Shelley's *Frankenstein*

A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Masters of Philosophy in English

By  
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July 2018

Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of English  
University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Keshav Chand has completed his thesis entitled "Trauma and Guilt in S. T. Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2014 to July 2018, and completed it successfully. I hereby recommended his thesis be submitted for the final viva voice.

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Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey

Supervisor

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

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Trauma and Guilt in S. T. Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu by Keshav Chand has been approved by the under signed members of the Research Committee.

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled, "Trauma and Guilt in S. T. Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*" is my own original work carried out as a M. Phil. student at the Central Department of English at Tribhuvan University Campus except to the extent that assistance from others in the thesis paper's design and conception or in presentation style, and linguistic expression are duly acknowledged.

All sources used for the thesis have been fully and properly cited. It contains no material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree at Tribhuvan University or any other educational institution, except where due acknowledgement is made in the thesis.

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Keshav Chand

July 2018

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## Abstract

S. T. Coleridge's poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* represent the trauma of guilt caused by protagonists' own actions. These respective texts include guilt-related references of the main characters' activity, which the characters tell in the form of tales. The Ancient Mariner in the poem and Victor Frankenstein in the novel have been suffering from the guilt of trauma caused by their own deeds. Their guilt allegorizes the colonial guilt and regret for the violation of nature's course and their unethical act. All of the characters narrate those incidents, deeds and experiences in order to overcome from their guilt of trauma, which show how people overcome it. This dissertation endeavors to demonstrate, through a close reading of both of the texts in the light of trauma theory, how there is trauma of guilt, and it finally uncovers that both of the writers have used narrativization as means of healing the trauma.

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