

Tribhuvan University

Cultural Identity and Diaspora in Linda Grant's *When I Lived in Modern Times*

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

Asmi Subedi

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

January 2015

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

**Letter of Recommendation**

Asmi Subedi has completed her thesis, entitled “Cultural Identity and Diaspora in Linda Grant's *When I Lived in Modern Times*,” under my supervision. She carried out this research from July 2014 to January 2015. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

.....

Saroj Sharma Ghimire

Supervisor

Date: .....

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

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis, entitled “Cultural Identity and Diaspora in Linda Grant's *When I Lived in Modern Times*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Asmi Subedi, has been approved by undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Head

Central Department of English

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: .....

## **Acknowledgements**

It is a matter of great pleasure and opportunity for me to express my sincere and hearty gratitude to my thesis Supervisor Saroj Sharma ghimire, Lecturer, Central Department of English, T.U. Kirtipur, for his invaluable and regular assistance, supervision and guidance during the research period. Without his cooperation and guidance, I would not have been able to present this thesis in this form

I am very much grateful to Prof. Dr Amma Raj Joshi , Head, Central Department of English, for his invaluable suggestion and encouragement to carry out this thesis.

Likewise, my gratitude goes to the members of the Research Committee. I am very much grateful to all the faculty members of Central Department of English, for their valuable suggestions and encouragement during my study at department.

I am always indebted to my parents Neelam Subedi, Uttam Subedi, Sita Subedi for their regular inspiration encouragement and support.

## **Abstract**

*When I Lived in Modern Times* by Linda Grants is the story of immigrant's struggle for cultural identity in an inhospitable land. Since Evelyn is in search of her new identity, she cannot totally follow the roots and travels a different places as a influential character who wants her identity.

Linda Grants presents the character who have lost her identity as a Jews and is in search of it in Jewish Land. But as a diasporic character she has been haunted with some sense of loss. The researcher contends that there is a comparison of now and then, here and there, in the life of diaspora. While searching for identity in a new land Evelyn unknowingly feels a sense of home and mediates or negotiates the memories of the past with the cultural difference in the present. Through these characters the novelist emphasizes on the importance of culture as well as how people become diasporic when the memory haunts and when one couldn't adopt the culture of new land.

## Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Struggle for Identity in *When I Lived in Modern Times* 1-14

II. Hybridity, Diaspora and Crisis of Cultural Identity 15-38

III. Identity as Hybrid Construct 39-40

Works Cited