

Tribhuvan University

Scampering Spaces: A Heterotopic Reading of Hanumandhoka Durbar Square

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial Fulfilment
of the Requirements for the Degree of M Phil of Arts in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Megharaj Adhikari has completed his thesis entitled "Scampering Spaces: A Heterotopic Reading of Hanumandhoka Durbar Square" under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2013 A. D. to June 2015 A. D. I hereby recommend this thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled "Scampering Spaces: A Heterotopic Reading of Hanumandhoka Durbar Square" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Megharaj Adhikari, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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Abstract

The Hanumandhoka Durbar Square (HDS) has been established as a monument in the history of Nepal. With time, the HDS changes and adapts. The dominant spatial action in the HDS utilizes the Heterotopias to isolate the objects, activities and individuals that are considered strange in order to maintain the originality and stability of the dominant art and cultural forms. Heterotopias help maintain the spatial stability as a self-organizing system. The HDS provides shifting sites of reflection and distance within the system that increases the capacity of the HDS to change and adapt over time. Therefore, a better understanding of modern heterotopia is essential for a better understanding of how the spaces like the HDS changes and adapts over time despite various interventions caused by the natural disasters like the earthquake. This research proposes and examines that scampering features of space utilize control mechanisms and maintain the originality of the spatial practice and its performativity in heterotopic forms. Conservation of the HDS as human property by UNESCO is just a safeguarding of the outer structure yet it cannot prevent the destructions and interventions. What remains intact and steady is the local people's contact with the HDS. The art, literature and the cultural performances are the vital forces to retain the memory of the space more than the UNESCO's conservation does. Hence, the public's contact with the HDS retains the original memory of the space despite of the realized varieties in it. The cultural understanding is employed to maintain the stability of the HDS. However, with time, there is evidence that the heterotopia itself will reconfigure in its present form due to various reasons like the natural disaster. Therefore, the spaces keep scampering in the HDS site.

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