

Tribhuvan University

Cultural Politics of Counter Ethnography in Mirja Abu Talib Khan's *Travels*

A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement for the Degree of M. Phil. in English

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February 2018

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Puspa Raj Jaishi has completed dissertation entitled “Cultural Politics of Counter Ethnography in Mirja Abu Talib Khan’s *Travels*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from June 2015 to January 2018 and completed successfully. I hereby recommend his dissertation for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This dissertation entitled “Cultural Politics of Counter Ethnography in Mirja Abu Talib Khan’s *Travels*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Puspa Raj Jaishi has been approved by the undersigned members of Research committee.

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Acknowledgements

This research work began its life as a dissertation for M. Phil. in English at Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur, Kathmandu. Many of its central arguments were born in the rich conversations I had with my friends, advisors, and colleagues during my dissertation writing. Thus, I begin with thanks to those who sustained me in so many ways during that period. I am thankful to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Uprety, Professor of central Department of English, T. U. Kirtipur, for his academic supervision and critical commentary on my work to find my own place in literature.

I also remember to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of Central department of English TU, Kirtipur and to Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Co-ordinator of M. Phil. Programme for all kinds of academic support during the accomplishment of this research work.

My special appreciation goes to Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey, for his encouragement and assistance in searching relevant research materials for my dissertation.

I also offer thanks to the many writers and theorists whose works I address in these pages. My big gratitude goes to my parents who are always with me to inspire throughout my life. I would like to remember my friends Mr. Narayan Prashad Ammai, Sudhan Dhungana, and Chet Raj Binadi, who caged me with their love within domains of reading, thinking, conversing and writing in the academia.

I am also grateful to Surendra Bhatta for printing and setting the research project and finally I am also indebted to my beloved Kamala and my offspring Mimanshu and Dikshu for their valuable assistance in creating sound and positive environment for my reading, thinking and writing this dissertation. Finally, I thank those whose love and attention are foundational to these pages in past and at present.

Abstract

Drawing upon Edward Said's discourse of Orientalism, my dissertation on travelogues of Miraj Abu Talib Khan questions the assumption of Orientalism as a universal and instructive discourse that was conducted exclusively from the West to and for the East. Orientalism, as a global discourse and manifested by numerous rhetorics, has become effective in analyzing and studying the shifting geopolitical, cultural and social forms of power. This research argues that the contribution made by the entry of colonized people from the periphery to the colonial centre from their travels historically and politically been overlooked. Abu Talib Khan's oriental travel developed along its own particular axes by both utilizing and reversing Orientalism through his cultural politics of ethnography. It further aims to illustrate that Talib's travels, both in the colony and the metropole, were active and not passive agent in his negotiations of colonial as well as post-colonial ethnographical space. The travels of Talib has conveyed the hidden stories through autobiographies, diaries, letter, memoirs, poetry, and travelogues to establish himself within the space of, 'writing back', an imaginative endeavor that existed between the colony and the metropole.

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