

Tribhuvan University

Responsibility to the Traumatized Other in Manto's Partition Stories

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By

Purnima Rai

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

This Thesis entitled “Responsibility to the Traumatized Other in Manto’s Partition Stories” has been prepared by Miss. Purnima Rai under my supervision. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for the viva-voce.

Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey

Central Department of English

Date: November 2016

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

Approval Letter

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Responsibility to the Traumatized Other in Manto’s Partition Stories” by Purnima Rai, submitted to the M.Phil Program in English, Tribhuvan University has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey

External Examiner

Head of English Department

Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi

November 2016

Date:

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Abstract

This dissertation concentrates on or analyses Sa'adat Hassan Manto's partition stories that reflects or presents his humanism through the emphasis on responsibility to the Other, in this case, towards the traumatised partition victims. Furthermore, his partition stories present the realism of partition violence starkly but humanistically-morally rather than culturally-ethically. Drawing upon the theory of responsibility to the Other, this dissertation assumes that to be considered a good, true and authentic representation of communal violence, literature should be purged of all sentimentality of the writer and s/he should take the moral responsibility for all crimes and evils committed by giving agency to the traumatised victims, and Manto's partition stories have these mentioned qualities. This dissertation draws upon Hannah Arendt and Emmanuel Levinas's theory of responsibility to the Other, Jacques Derrida's concepts such as "democracy to come," "cosmopolitanism," and "forgiveness;" and Giorgio Agamben's concepts such as "*Muselmann*," bare life, and agency. By drawing upon the mentioned theorists, this dissertation argues that Manto's partition stories are true and authentic representation of macabre violence which invests the victims with the agency of their trauma; and projects him as a responsible writer and a true humanists, a champion of the human rights.

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