

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Representation of the Subaltern in Henning Mankell's *The Shadow Girls*

A Thesis Submitted to
Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
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By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Binod Shrestha has completed his thesis "Representation of the Subaltern in Henning Mankell's *The Shadow Girls*" under my supervision. He carried out this research paper from July 2015 to January 2016. I hereby recommend this thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter Approval

This thesis entitled "Representation of the Subaltern in Henning Mankell's *The Shadow Girls*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Binod Shrestha has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

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Binod Shrestha

Abstract

This research explores the representation of the subaltern characters in Henning Mankell's *The Shadow Girls*. Mankell foregrounds the peripheral characters whose voice has been silenced due to the lack of agency. The main characters like Tea-Bag, Tania and Leila are submissive and inferior who live the life of absurdity. They are wretched and stifled because of the suppressive hegemonic power, poor economic background and their inferior rank in terms of class, gender, inability, refugee status and lack of agency. By bringing subaltern characters into the forefront, the novel shows that subalternity is not only limited to South Asian context but it could bring all the marginal voices of the world. On the surface, Mankell pretends to provide platform for the minority group but the true voices of the subaltern characters remain unheard. As the concern of the revolution from lower people, this novel does not provide the platform openly but desires transform Leila as an actress, Tea-Bag neglects authoritarian power and some other characters somehow try to evoke the revolution from the lower in the novel. In short, the novel tries to win readers sympathy and expects revolution for social transformation.

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