

Tribhuvan University

Animistic Representation of Myth in Traditional Tharu Songs

A Thesis Submitted to Central Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English

By

Prem Raj Tharu

Symbol No: 6127

Ragd. No: 6-2-808-82-2011

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Prem Raj Tharu has completed his thesis entitled "Representation of Myth in Traditional Tharu Songs" under my supervision. He carried out his research work from November 2018 to April 2019. I hereby recommended this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Bhandari

Lecturer

Central Department of English

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This Thesis entitled "Representation of Myth in Traditional Tharu Songs" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Prem Raj Tharu has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee:

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of the Department

Prof. Dr. AnirudraThapa

Date: _____

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Abstract

This research entitled Representation of Myth in Traditional Tharu Songs explores myths as the process of identity construction of indigenous Tharus in their traditional songs namely: Hurdungwa songs and Astimki songs in Kalram Tharu's Pothy. Myths represent tradition and culture of a specific community that forms their identity by differentiating them from other cultural groups. Indigenous Tharu people have their own type of myth. The study of the Tharu songs shows that myth is created and recreated according to cultural groups' belief system. So, the researcher applies the theoretical approach of myth with the ideas of theorists like Joseph Campbell, Northrop Frye, Mircea Eliade, James George Frazer, Cope Laurence, Robert A. Segal and Devdutt Pattanaik. Specific myths are enacted on specific rites and occasions to create a situation of primordial time. Myths unite people psychologically and physically that relates human beings with universe through society. It represents the understanding of world of a certain ethnic group. Particular ethnic group has distinct types of forkllores and myths that bind them within belief system, culture and tradition that form their identity.

Keywords: Myth, Identity, Culture, Rituals, Primordial