

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Human Connectedness in Don Delillo *Falling Man* and in Jonathan Safran Foer *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
M. Phil. in English

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Approval Letter

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “**Human Connectedness in Delillo’s : *Falling Man and in Foer’s: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close***” submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Hari Bahadur Khatri Chhetri in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of M. Phil in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Hari bahadur khatri chhetri has completed his thesis entitled, “Human Connectedness in Delillo’s : *Falling Man* and in Foer’s : *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*” under my supervision. He carried out his dissertation from January 2014 to December 2015. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey

Supervisor

Date: 24 December 2015

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Somewhere I read Zora Neale Hurston say, “Research is formalized curiosity. Its poking and prying with a purpose.” However, merely the wish of poking and prying with a purpose does not lead to finite direction unless some external force is exerted, and formalizing is also a daunting task. I am pleased to take this opportunity express my deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, who has been the external source, and has molded my senses into research insight. I owe a lot to him, for he has supported me at every juncture of research difficulty and provided me continuously genuine suggestions, and directions.

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Abstract

Unlike the general line that postmodern literature is anti-humanistic and inimical to human solidarity, this dissertation through its critical scrutiny of two 9/11 novels—Don DeLillo’s *Falling Man* and Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*—argues that postmodern novelistic responses to the terror attacks of 9/11 show a paradigm shift towards human compassion and human connectedness. The shift frames the idea of solidarity not just within specific cultural, gendered or ethnic backgrounds, but addresses the ability for that solidarity to engage in a global unification of human understanding—a cosmopolitanism-type notion of solidarity. This away-postmodern discourse demonstrates that a white, male, American narrative can transcend being culturally specific and become universally human specific by purposefully exploring what it means to be human today. The away-postmodern discourses emphasizes on the ability to feel connectivity and to feel love by demonstrating the need for exploring the human, for engaging in a sense of solidarity and for emphasizing the need for feelings of compassion. Mainly this dissertation focus on Marxist, Feminist as well as Polish solidarity.

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