

Tribhuvan University

Fragmentation of Self: A Lacanian Study of Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Deepak Prasad Belbase has completed his thesis entitled "Fragmentation of Self: A Lacanian Study of Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood* " under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2070/05/01 B.S. to 2070/12/15 B.S. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Saroj Sharma Ghimire

Supervisor

Date:-----

Tribhuvan University

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled "Fragmentation of Self: A Lacanian Study of Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood* " submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Deepak Prasad Belbase has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

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Abstract

This research work takes Flannery O'Connor's novel *Wise Blood* to interpret the protagonist Hazel Motes' alienation and lack as he is trapped between mirror stage and symbolic stage. His desire for the mirror image results in his being a torn subject. So, finally he blinds himself. The reason for the self-blinding of the protagonist, Hazel Motes is analyzed in line with the notion of Lacan. Further, the act is taken as his struggle to find his subjectivity in the form of redemption. Hazel Motes becomes a split personality due to his disdain towards the corrupt reality and the patriarchal symbolic order dominated by Catholicism. He refuses to accept the rules and restrictions of the symbolic order, so he cannot accept the corrupt modern life. Nor can he return to his imaginary stage to have the total grasp of it, that is the spiritual peace and redemption which is already displaced by symbolic order.

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