

Tribhuvan University

Cultural Mobility and Identity Construction in Bapsi Sidhwa's *An American Brat* and
Bharati Mukherjee's *Desirable Daughters*: A Diasporic Reading

A Thesis Proposal Submitted to the Central Department M. Phil. Program in English
for the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of M. Phil. in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Bed Prasad Aryal has completed his thesis entitled “Cultural Mobility And Identity Construction in Bapsi Sidhwa's *An American Brat* and Bharati Mukherjee's *Desirable Daughters: A Diasporic Reading*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2072/009/15 B.S. to 2075/04/25 B.S. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

RamchandraPaudel

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Cultural Mobility And Identity Construction in Bapsi Sidhwa's *An American Brat* and Bharati Mukherjee's *Desirable Daughters: A Diasporic Reading*” submitted to the Central Department of English, M. Phil. Program, Tribhuvan University by Bed Parsad Aryal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

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Abstract

This research explores various crosscurrents and undercurrents of western culture which creates adverse conditions for Indian and Pakistani immigrants in Bapsi Sidhwa's *An American Brat* and Bharati Mukherjee's *Desirable Daughters*. In both novels characters from Indian continent migrate to United States of America in search of better life, education and wealth. As times pass by, they go through cultural and psychological clashes. They feel they are inferior and below the human line. They do not get education, health facility and freedom. Natural rights and fundamental rights are mere dream for them. In the midst of prejudice and other anti-migrant hassles, they do not hesitate to adapt the shifting cultural locale as a strategy of survival. The characters of the novel; Feroza, Tara, Parvati and Padma adopt western way of education, culture and religion as a camouflage to resist western atrocities. However, they are sandwiched in-between in the midst of western culture. They create imaginative community as diaspora. With the application of diasporic concepts and notion propounded by Arjun Appadurai, Stuart Hall and Franco Jean, the research explores the new hybrid identity and cultural transformation of expatriates.

Key Words are Diaspora, Mimicry, Hybridity, Adaptation, Survival, Inbetweenness.

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