

Tribhuvan University

Heteroglossia and Polyvocal Situation in Mistry's Story Collection *Tales from*

Firozsha Baag

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central

Department of English in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Arjun Rai

Roll No.: 966/066/067

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

February 2016

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Arjun Rai has completed his thesis entitled "Heteroglossia and Polyvocal Situation in Mistry's Story Collection *Tales from Firozsha Baag*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from May 2015 to January 2016. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Raj Kumar Baral
Supervisor

Date: _____

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Heteroglossia and Polyvocal Situation in Mistry's Story Collection *Tales from Firozsha Baag*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Arjun Rai, has been approved by undersign members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my reverence and heartfelt thanks to Raj Kumar Baral respected teacher of the Department of English, T. U., Kirtipur, who supervised this research work. His wide-ranging knowledge and study have led to many improvements in the substance and helped me give the final shape of this thesis.

I am especially grateful to the Head of the Department, Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi for his invaluable suggestions and encouragement from the beginning to the final shape of this thesis.

Likewise my gratitude goes to the members of Research Committee. I am very much grateful to all the faculty members of the Central Department of English for their valuable suggestion and encouragement during their lectures.

I record my appreciation to those authors whose works have been cited here. I am always indebted to my parents, Pahal Bahadur Rai and Padma Kumari Rai for their regular inspiration encouragement and support. I feel pleasure to thank my sister Chandra Rai, wife Saelja Rai, son Sayahang Rai and my friends Tirtha Prasain and Suren Kumar Rai for their constant support to complete my work in time.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank Mr. Ramesh Maharjan of Dynamic Computer Service for his computer service for the completion of the thesis.

February 2016

Arjun Rai

Abstract

This research is an enquiry into heteroglossia, polyvocality and democratic novelistic features in Rohinton Mistry's *Tales from Firozsha Baag* and the valorization of Bakhtinian notion of culture that is communal, popular and carnival-like. Some of the major stories of the anthology are studied to see how the authoritarian, monologic perspectives of the characters are cancelled and no dominating, authoritarian, heroic voice rules the stories. The dominant cultural voices of dustoor, the Parsee priest are cancelled in stories like "One Sunday" and "Condolence Visit" by the relatively feeble voices of Rustomji and Daulat respectively. The ethical and cultural correctness of Najamai's voice that blames poor boy named Francis as a thief and beats him in "One Sunday" are tested and doubted in "Of White Hair and Cricket" and "Condolence Visit." The unitary voices are unsettled throughout the anthology letting room for the play of multiple voices. Grotesque and carnival are valorized in the stories like "The Collectors" and "The Ghost of Firozsha Baag" in which the Eric satisfies his bodily desire making Jehangir masturbate him and Pesi chases Vera and Dolly to see their sexual organs respectively. The Parsee phrases like 'dustoor', 'baap re!' establish the language-culture nexus and valorize the folk, popular culture as Bakhtin advocates. Heteroglossic, novel-like, democratic situation prevails throughout Mistry's anthology.

Contents

Page No.

Acknowledgements

Abstract

- I. Mistry's Engagement with Polyphonous Parsee Community in *Tales from Firozsha Baag* 1-10
- II. Heteroglossia and Polyvocal Situation in Mistry's Story Collection *Tales from Firozsha Baag* 11-35
- III. Mistry's *Tales from Firozsha Baag* as a Heteroglossic, Novelistic Anthology of Short Fiction 36-39

Works Cited