

Tribhuvan University

Magic Realism in Laura Restrepo's *The Dark Bride*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
TU, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master in Arts in English**

By

Samita Chaudhary

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

March, 2014

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Magic Realism in Laura Restrepo’s *The Dark Bride*” by Samita Chaudhary has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of
Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Mahesh Paudyal, of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. I express my sincerest gratitude to him for the encouragement and guidance that he provided which lead me to complete this dissertation in this form.

Similarly I am very much grateful to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of Department of English, Tribhuvan University, for his co-operation and valuable suggestions. I would like to express my sincere thanks to respected teacher Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa for his informal supervision and regular encouragement.

Furthermore I would like to express my deep gratitude to my parents Mr. Surendra Kumar Chaudhary and Mrs. Chandra Kumari Chaudhary and to my brother and sister who always instilled in me drive, ambition, and a quest for knowledge. I am thankful to my friend Mr. Shekhar Chaudhary too who has helped me getting the novel *The Dark Bride* from the USA. Furthermore I am grateful to my husband Dr. Gauri Ram Mahato who has always remained supportive, loving and encouraging. Finally, I would like to thank Sahadev Desktop Service for their valuable suggestions, guidance, computer help and technical support for this thesis.

March 2014

Samita Chaudhary

Abstract

In the novel *The Dark Bride*, Laura Restrepo interweaves the real and fantasies in such a way that it blurs the border between history and fiction, and the past and the present. This sort of admixture of real and fantasy is reflected basically in the portrayal of characters, settings and the incidents of the novel. Restrepo has used the technique of magic realism especially to raise the voice of silenced and marginalized ones by re-narrating the Columbian history in a fictionalized form. In the novel, the main character Amanda is shown as a traumatized character who hides her real identity at first and disguises as a girl. She comes to La-Catunga to make her new identity by engaging in prostitution. And she gets the name 'Sayonara', which in Japanese means a 'good-bye' or a 'farewell'. So symbolically it is a farewell to her traumatic past. The novel starts with the arrival of the mysterious girl Sayonara in La Catunga and ends with the departure of her with the hallucinated figure of the Payanes to whom she loves. But the personal story of Sayonara in the novel is embedded with the history of 1940s of the Columbia. Along with the use of the various elements of magic realism like sense of mystery, real-history-world setting, trauma and memory, post-colonial political critique, Restrepo also explores the border narrative through the technique of magic realism and succeeds in raising the voice of marginalized and colonized ones.

Contents

Approval Letter

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Chapter I. Laura Restrepo and *The Dark Bride*: A Brief Introduction 1-10

Chapter II. Magic Realism in *The Dark Bride* 11-33

Chapter III. Border Narrative through Magic Realism in *The Dark Bride* 34-37

Works Cited