

TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY

Colonial Vestiges in *The Inheritance of Loss*: A Postcolonial Reading

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of

Masters of Arts in English

By

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TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY

Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr Raj Kumar Adhikari has completed his research entitled “Colonial Vestiges in *The Inheritance of Loss*: A Postcolonial Reading” under my supervision. He carried out his research from April 2008 to December 2008. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Hem Lal Pandey

Supervisor

Date: February 2009

TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled, “Colonial Vestiges in *The Inheritance of Loss*: A Postcolonial Reading”, submitted to the Central Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University by Raj Kumar Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of the Thesis Committee.

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Abstract

Kiran Desai's first novel *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006), by presenting the people, climate and culture of Kalimpong, mixed with Indians and Nepalese, mostly through the elitist and distant metropolitan perspective, and consequently in a darker light than they might have been, draws a totally negative picture of everything of Nepalese both in Indian and Nepal. The disgusting exotic images of these people do nothing to counter balance the colonialism but such attempts come to nothing in the final analysis. The personal biases and slants of the author, as well as the motive behind attempting the work in the first place greatly influence the tone of the work. As brought up in the western hemisphere, she is unable to maintain a neutral position while treating the issues of a colonized country. The misrepresentation of the country also results from the fact that she wrote the novel primarily for the western readership.

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