

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**The Politics of Postmodern Narrataive: Julian Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot* as a  
Historiographic Metafiction**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Art in English**

**By**

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Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has completed his thesis entitled **The Politics of Postmodern Narrative: Julian Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot* as a Historiographic Metafiction** under my supervision. He carried out this research from June 2009 to December 2009. I hereby recommend this thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Mr. Badri Prasad  
Acharya  
Supervisor  
Date: .....

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
Faculty of Humanities and social science

Approval letter

This thesis entitled **The Politics of Postmodern Narrative: Julian Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot* as a Historiographic Metafiction** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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## **Abstract**

Julian Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot* tells the story of Geoffrey Braithwaite, an English doctor, who is the character as well as the narrator of the present novel, is obsessed with nineteenth Century French novelist Gustave Flaubert. In this historical fiction, Braithwaite narrates the fictional and non fictional history of nineteenth century realist novelist, Gustave Flaubert. While narrating Flaubert's history he becomes self-confessional, self-reflexive and reveals his own autobiography. Geoffrey states that he has three stories to tell: Flaubert's, his own and his wife Ellen's. The novel is comprised partly of fiction and partly of literary criticism, as the book traces Geoffrey's search for 'facts' about Flaubert and his works. At the last part of the novel Geoffrey is unable to find out the actual 'truth' or 'fact' about the authentic Flaubertian parrot and his wife's suicide. The narrator seeks the relevance of the past for the present without any nostalgic tone. Moreover, he subverts the realist mode of historiography that makes the novel historiographic metafiction. While mixing up fictional and factual events Barnes uses inter-textuality, inter-connectedness, self-reflexivity, contradiction, irony, self-opinion, open ending and parody of the past history of Gustave Flaubert, which is the Barnes's politics of postmodern narrative.

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