

Tribhuvan University

Marginalization of Ethnic Community in *The Inheritance of Loss*

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

**By
Narayan Paneru**

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

May 2009

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Narayan Paneru has completed his thesis entitled “Marginalization of Ethnic Community in *The Inheritance of Loss*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 27th, November 2008 AD to 30th, April 2009 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Mr. Raj Kumar Baral

Supervisor

Date: -----

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Marginalization of Ethnic Community in *The Inheritance of Loss*” by Narayan Paneru 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
Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the respected supervisor Raj Kumar Baral, lecturer of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, whose sincere effort, helpful suggestions, continuous scholarly guidance, valuable criticism and instructions make this work complete.

I am heartily thankful to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, for providing me an opportunity to work on this project by accepting my proposal. Similarly, I heartily express my gratitude to the respected lecturers of the department who equally provided me invaluable advices and suggestions.

Furthermore, I am indebted to my parents, relatives, friends and especially brother Tej Paneru, friends Binod, Chandradeep, Gagan, Bhuwan, Yashoda and Pabitra. I became able to work on this project because of their support. I would like to express heartfelt valuation to my well-wishers who encouraged and helped me regularly in my studies.

Finally, I wish to thank Mr. Bhisma Raj Paudel (Orchid Computer, Kirtipur) for helping me in computer typing, editing and printing efficiently.

May 2009

Narayan Paneru

Abstract

The present research work analyses the issue of marginalization of ethnic community in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*. People of Nepali speaking community have been residing in India since time immemorial. Though scattered all over India, they are referred as Gorkhas and have been treated as second class citizens in their own country by mainstream Indian discourse. They are bracketed as an ethnic community and denied their fundamental rights and privileges. This thesis explores how Desai toeing the dominant political discourse, represents the Nepali ethnic people as inferior, terrorist, like, illiterate and uncivilized, thus marginalizing them as the 'other' in post colonial India.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Desai's Failure to Trace Out the Ethnic Community in Indian National Life	1
II. Discourse of Modernity	11
Indian Nationalist Discourse	12
Gorkhaland as Ethno-Nationalism	21
III. Marginalization of Ethnic Nepalese People	28
The Gorkhaland Uprising	32
Gyan's Search for Ethnic Identity	39
IV. Conclusion	43
Works Cited	45