

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Postmodern Recovery of History in A. S. Byatt's *Possession: A Romance*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Katuwal has completed his thesis entitled "Postmodern Recovery of History in A. S. Byatt's *Possession: A Romance*" under my supervision. He carried out his research work from August 11, 2009 to March 07, 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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**A letter of Approval**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Postmodern Recovery of History in A. S. Byatt’s *Possession: A Romance*” by Ganesh Bahadur Katuwal submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Abstract

There are two stories running parallel in A. S. Byatt's *Possession: A Romance*. First, in the present time, where two Harvard academicians, Roland Mitchell and Dr. Maud Bailey get indulged in a project to discover the writings and life of a Victorian poet, Randolph Henry Ash. Second, in the course of their research, the academicians unearth the love story of poet Ash with Christabel LaMotte, a contemporary poet of his time. Poet Ash, according to the established notion was leading a content life with his family, and was not engaged in any untoward incidents and affairs. However, the discovery by Roland and Maud that Ash was involved in a serious love affair with Christabel was sure to compel historians to re-examine the Victorian history. These two parallel plots in the novel, make a point of departure from the traditional aspect of reading history. As such, it is essential to re-read the past events from memory aspect, a post-modern way of re-examining the lost history based on events and issues that were ignored because of relatively lesser importance.

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