

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Performative Elements in Parusewa Mundum of Puma Community

A Study of Ritual Representation

A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

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March 2013

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Recommendation Letter

This dissertation entitled “Performative Elements in Parusewa Mundum of Puma Community A Study of Ritual Representation” has been prepared by Parshuram Rai under my supervision for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English. He conducted his research from January 2012 to March 2013. I recommend this dissertation for submission in this Department of English.

March 2013

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This dissertation entitled “Performative Elements in Parusewa Mundum of Puma Community A Study of Ritual Representation” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur by Parshuram Rai, has been approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Salutation

I, humbly express my deepest gratitude to my teacher as well as guide, theatre expert in the homeland and abroad, Shiva R. Rijal (PhD.) for his comprehensive and scholarly guidance in accomplishing this dissertation. I am also highly grateful to Amma Raj Joshi(PhD.), Head of the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University and my all the teachers as well as administrative members of this Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University for their academic comments, suggestions and providing related materials.

I am also indebted to Prof. Bishnu P. Rai (PhD.), Prof. Martin Gaenzle(PhD.), Prof. Tulasi Diwasha, Associate-Prof. Bishnu S. Rai (PhD.), Chaitanya Subba(PhD.), Lal Syākarelu Rapacha(Post-PhD.), Marion Wettstein (PhD.), Alban Van Stokhausen (PhD.), Puspa R. Acharya (M.Phil.), Harihar Gyawali (M.Phil.) and T. P. Prasai (M.Phil.) for imparting both empirical and theoretical knowledge in this dissertation.

I, deeply am grateful to the all the Parusewa performer shamans Dal Bahadur Rai, Dill Bahadur Rai, Gaja Bahadur Rai, Bir Bahadur Rai, Bhakta Bahadur Rai, Chakra Bahadur Rai, Ganga Maya Rai and all the team members of the Parusewa performance, who had provided me an authentic authority to record this performance in audio-video during this Parusewa performance in the field work for this research. I am also equally grateful to writers and editors of the books or journals, which I used for writing this dissertation.

I thanks to National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, Governments of Nepal, for providing me grant for this dissertation and Kirat Puma Rai Tupkhabankhala (2003AD) and Sumnima Theatre Academy (1992 AD) for institutional supports.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Bhogendra Lingden (Govt. of Nepal), Shree K. Rai (Govt. of Nepal), Nisha Prasai, Jaya Siwahang, Subha Mukarung, Prem Ribusal (HP), Indu Phombo (HP), Rejoin (HP), Ingsa (HP), Tara Rai, Bandana Rai, Yashoda Rai, Bimala Rai, Benuka Rai, Manju Shrutee Subba, Mamata Rai, Anu Rai, Paru Rai, Deepa Rai, Chandra Chamling (Delhi), Laxmi Rai (Sikkim), Tara Sunuwar (Nrs., Govt. of Nepal), Tongma Rai (Bhutan), Merry Abegero (Philippines), Yuma Limbu (United Kingdom) and my entire well-wishers, who provided their direct or indirect support to me in the course of this dissertation preparation.

I always owe to my family Chatur Kurami Rai (Mother)/Jagat Bahadur Rai(Father), Khada Bahadur Rai(Brother)/Raj Maya Rai(Sister-in law), Indra Bahadur Rai(Brother)/Ganga Maya Rai (Sister-in law), Shivadhoj Rai(Brother)/Shova Rai(Sister-in law), Yashoda Rai (Sister)/Sansharman Rai(Brother-in law) and Rama Rai(Sister)/Bartuman Rai(Brother-in law), who have always encouraged me in my higher education.

I dedicate this dissertation to my dearest Bindiya Rai (Nrs.) because without her all forms of enthusiastic and academic inspiration; I never have become an academician.

Further, I request all researchers to consult the abbreviation, footnotes, figures, glossary as well as photos to find out the close related ritual meaning of ritual and cultural terms, if they are unclear.

March 2013

Parshuram Rai

Abstract

This research is the study of the performative elements in the main ritual enactment Parusewa (PR) *Mundum* of the Puma (PR) community living the Eastern parts of Nepal. Parusewa *Mundum* ritual is the most important ritual performance of Puma community enacted annually in the time of Dongdapa(PR) by Dowa(PR) in the belief of the rejuvenation of the souls of the members of community and renewal of the power of *Holy Mundum* (PR) by the means of the spiritual journey through various performances. This ritual *Mundum* enactment is ritually organized, and has all the features of performances like occasion or stage of performance, certain and limited time span, formal beginning, middle, ending and culturally approved actors and co-actors. This research has examined the necessary elements that qualify a cultural event as a performance and has enlisted some of the major functions of the Parusewa *Mundum* ritual performance for the community that has the codes and conduct based on the oral tradition of the *Mundum* professed, chanted and performed by the cultural shamans bridging the community to the supernatural world of Sumnima(P)-Paruhong(P) and the ancestral gods. Parusewa *Mundum* ritual performance is animistic one as it asserts the bond of community to the nature and the ancestors. The Kirati gods being performed are basically connected to the nature and ancestors. In the defining part of the Parusewa, Dowa goes to trance-like state establishing the communion between the community and the supreme God-Goddess Sumnima-Paruhong. This ritual performance does not only bolster the communal bond among the members of the community rather it also helps establishing the communal identity and existence asserting the identity by the means of visual performance and resisting the written mainstream culture by the enactment of the oral culture based on the *Holy Mundum*.

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Abbreviation

AD	English Year
b.	Born.
BC	Before Christ
BG	Begging.
BS	Bikram Sambat, Nepali Year.
BNS	Bongwa Silee.
BLBS	Bubulibuwasha Silee.
BMS	Bhimsen Silee.
CPS	Chapcha Silee.
CPDP	Chhintang and Puma Documentation Project.
d.	Death.
Dept.	Department.
DNS	Dangre Silee.
DS	Dakchha Silee.
DLS	Dudkosi Lama Silee.
E	Ending.
Ed	Editor.
Edn	Edition.
etc.	and so forth.
et al.	and other.
Govt.	Government.
GRS	Golmarajarani Silee.
HBS	Himalibaini Silee.
HDS	Heddi Silee.

HHS	Huluppa-Hulupma Silee.
HMS	Hinggolamai Silee.
HP	Heavenly path.
HS	Hongma Silee.
HTS	Hetlukma-Thaklukma.
i.e.	That is.
JKS	Jhekwa Silee.
LJS	Lattejhakri Silee.
LKS	Lakayayangma Silee.
JMS	Jalaha-Malaha Silee
M	Middle.
MCH	Mongchhama.
MDS	Manglemdhipma Silee.
MKS	Makwa Silee.
N	Nepali Government Official Language.
NFDIN	National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities.
NP	Nepali and Puma Mix Language.
NPCS	Nachapachiyapa Silee.
Nrs.	Nurse.
OTS	Own Teacher Silee.
P	Puma Language.
Perf.	Performance.
PhD.	Doctor of Philosophy.
PN	Puma and Nepali Mix Language.
PNS	Panchakanya Silee.

PHS	Paruhong Silee.
qtd.	Quoted.
PR	Puma ritual Language.
Prof	Professor.
Rec.	Record, recorded.
SBS	SalpaBhote Silee.
SD	Sakuma-Diwama.
SDS	Siddasikari Silee.
SGS	Singghadevi Silee.
SJS	Sunpatiraja Silee.
SKS	Sakenlung Silee.
SL	Suptulung.
SNS	Sanchoklanchok Silee.
SS	Sumnima Silee.
TNS	Tangtupmi Silee.
Trans.	Translation
TU	Tribhuvan University.
Vol.	Volume.
VDC	Village Development Committee.
WBL	Walema Lam i.e. hillside the route on the thread.
WLS	Wabunima-Kumdanimmo Silee.
WNS	Wakuhonma-Newakohonmo Silee.
WLL	Wabuma Lam i.e. inside the water route.
...	Missing some text.

