

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Racial Ambivalence in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**A Thesis Submitted to Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Masters of Arts in English**

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Rajeev Kumar Singh has completed his thesis entitled "Racial Ambivalence in *To Kill a Mockingbird*" under my supervision. He carried his research from June 2008 to April 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Racial Ambivalence in *To Kill a Mockingbird*,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Rajeev Kumar Singh, has been approved by the undersigned members of research committee.

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Abstract

This research work is an analytical inquiry to the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) by Harper Lee to explore the presentation of ambivalent relationship between the whites and the blacks in American society, i.e. a continual fluctuation between wanting one thing and wanting its opposite. In other words, it refers to a simultaneous attraction toward and repulsion from an object, person or action. Atticus, the main character of the novel is in such situation, mix of attraction and repulsion that characterizes the racial ambivalence between black and white. Hence his identity reflects the racial ambivalence because the black subject is never simply and completely opposed to the white. Rather than assuming that some black subjects are 'complicit' and some 'resistant', ambivalence suggests that complicity and resistance exist in a fluctuating relation within the racial subject.

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