

Tribhuvan University

**Fictionalization of History:
Dismantling *The Da Vinci Code***

**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

Sumina Manandhar

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The undersigned members of the Research committee have approved this thesis entitled “**Fictionalization Of History: Dismantling *The Da Vinci Code***,” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sumina Manandhar.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:

Acknowledgements

The credit for the preparation of this thesis goes to my respected research supervisor Dr. Beerendra Pandey for his invaluable scholarly supervision, constructive comments and suggestions that helped me to give the shape of thesis in its present form.

Moreover I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of the Central Department of English for granting me permission to conduct this research, subject of my interest. At the same time I am highly indebted to my respected teachers Prof. Dr. Abhi Subedi, Mr. Sarad Chandra Thakur, Mr. Puspa Acharya, Mr. Saroj Ghimire for providing me the guidelines and invaluable suggestions. Without their suggestions and instructions, the thesis would not have been completed. With due respect, I would like to express my gratitude towards my parents especially for their continuous support and encouragement in my academic career.

I express my special thanks to my friend Ramesh Sharma, Pravin Subedi, Suman Shrestha who always kept encouraged me about my work, criticized the superfluties and appreciated its strength. Thanks are due to Dilli Raman Subedi (Kirtipur) for computer typing, formatting and printing out the materials.

Sumina Manandhar

August 2007

Abstract

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is a historical fiction. By fictionalizing the history that looks like truth the novel has deliberately been made the historical operation that is drawn from the real history of earlier Christianity and Bible. It is a fiction which is based around a man who discovers a code that reveals the true identity of the Holy Grail to be nothing more than the very bloodline of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene. Thus, the ideas are about the corruption in the Catholic Church, politics of Constantine, the union of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, and the mortality of Jesus Christ. The title of the fiction alludes to the hidden messages allegedly concealed in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. By fictionalizing the historical events Dan Brown puts forward his view that history has been written by the "winners." Also, by presenting a controversial fiction through the representation of Christianity as a false religion, Brown suggest that controversy is good to inspire discussions and debates that will ultimately lead to a more solidly defended faith.

Contents

| | Page |
|--|--------------|
| Acknowledgements | |
| Abstract | |
| I. An Introduction to Dan Brown's <i>The Da Vinci Code</i> | 1-8 |
| Preliminaries | 1 |
| Historical Background | 4 |
| Critical Response to <i>The Da Vinci Code</i> | 6 |
| II. Historiography: History As Fiction and Fiction As History | 9-22 |
| III. Dismantling Code in <i>The Da Vinci</i> | 23-44 |
| IV. Conclusion | 45-48 |
| Works Cited | |