

Tribhuvan University

Traumatic Experiences in Joyce Carol Oates' *Rape: A Love Story*

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

By

Kamal Prasad Neupane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Kamal Prasad Neupane has completed his thesis entitled "Traumatic Experiences in Joyce Carol Oates' *Rape: A Love Story*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from November, 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Raj Kumar Baral

Thesis Supervisor

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Kamal Prasad Neupane entitled "Traumatic Experiences in Joyce Carol Oates' *Rape: A Love Story*" has been approved by undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

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Kamal Prasad Neupane

Abstract

Present research work explores the tormented state of the characters Bethie and Teena Maguire in the novel Joyce Carol Oates' *Rape: A Love Story*. Bethie undergoes series of physical, mental and emotional torture from the beginning to the end of the novel. Similarly, Teena also falls in vicious circle of trauma after she is gang-raped by a group of drunkard men. Almost all the characters of the novel are haunted by the traumatic ghost throughout their lives because of their direct personal experience of the corrupting influence of attorney and notorious impact of rape. Though they want to forget their bitter and shady past, their physical and psychological wound compels them to cope with past which make them traumatic.

Contents

Chapter	Page No.
I. Traumatized Psyche of Oates Characters	1-10
II. Traumatic Experiences in Joyce Carol Oates' <i>Rape: A Love Story</i>	11-41
III. Gang-rape and its Aftermath	42-43
Works Cited	