# **Tribhuvan University**

**Process of Nation Formation in** *Purple Hibiscus* 

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

By

Rajesh Sapkota

**Central Department of English** 

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

May 2011

### **Tribhuvan University**

### **Central Department of English**

# **Letter of Approval**

The thesis entitled "Process of Nation Formation in *Purple Hibiscus*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Rajesh Sapkota has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

| Members of the Research Committee |                               |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                                   |                               |  |
|                                   |                               |  |
|                                   | Internal Examiner             |  |
|                                   | -                             |  |
|                                   |                               |  |
|                                   | External Examiner             |  |
|                                   |                               |  |
|                                   |                               |  |
|                                   | Head                          |  |
|                                   | Dr. Amma Raj Joshi            |  |
|                                   | Central Department of English |  |
|                                   | -                             |  |
|                                   | Date:                         |  |

#### Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor, Raj

Kumar Baral, Asst. Lecturer of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University,

for his scholarly guidelines and indispensable suggestion to accomplish this thesis.

I have no words to convey my feelings of gratitude to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University for his cooperation and valuable suggestion in every step of this research work. I am highly obliged to say thanks to my teachers Ghanshyam Bhandari, Harihar Jnawali, and Shankar Subedi, for their generous help to complete this work. Without their encouraging supervisions and suggestions during the thesis work, this thesis would never take this present shape.

My gratitude goes to my parents whose warm affection enabled me to accomplish this work. My special thanks go to Mr. Tirtha Prasai and Rajesh Kumar Pathak for their valuable suggestion and help. I am equally thankful to Ramesh Maharjan who has finished typing work on time.

May 2011

Rajesh Sapkota

#### Abstract

In her debut novel *Purple Hibiscus*, Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie strongly resists the values of the colonizers creating nationalistic narrative and the linguistic space using the colonial Catholic religion as the site of discursive struggle. Papa-Nnukwu, the so-called heathen father, disinherited by his Catholic son Eugene just for following the Nigerian cultural values, has been idealized by the narrator indicating his values far democratic than the Catholic values. Nigeria is on the state of political turmoil, ruled by military Junta and people are living suffocating life and the national and cultural values are invaded by the Catholic Church brandishing them as heathen. Fifteen years old narrator grows to the state of maturity and nationalistic awareness crossing the barriers of the rigid, imported Catholic values imposed by her father. She surpasses her father's hatred to her grandfather and the Nigerian values amidst political tyranny in the country and patriarchal tyranny at home and grows to love them by heart.

# **Contents**

| Letter of Approval  |          |
|---|----------|
| Acknowledgements  |          |
| Abstract  | Page No. |
|   |          |
| I. Ngozi Adichie and The Rise of Nigerian National Consciousness    | 1-10     |
| Purple Hibiscus: The String of Nationalism                          | 5        |
| II. Nation, Nationalism and Resistance                              | 11-25    |
| III. Nation Formation in Adichie's Purple Hibiscus                  | 26-43    |
| Imagined Linguistic Community of Christianity                       | 41       |
| IV. Victory of Nigerian Nationalism Over Imposed Colonial Discourse |          |
| Works Cited   |          |