

**Tribhuvan University**

**Disclosing the Hidden Discourse of Cannibalism in Soyinka's *Madmen  
and Specialists***

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

**By  
Pranima Jha**

**Central Department of English  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu  
November, 2008**

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences**

This thesis titled "Disclosing the Hidden Discourse of Cannibalism in Soyinka's *Madmen and Specialists*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Pranima Jha, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head  
Central Department of English

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Abstract**

Soyinka's *Madmen and Specialists* as an exposure of how the native people are misrepresented by the westernized people. Soyinka provides the platform for resisting the colonizer's discourse. Symptomatic reading discloses how the westernized characters express the colonial mentality that shows the western people are superior to the natives. The colonial discourses encourage the westernized people to colonize the native people whether in the cultural or political form. The stereotypes constructed by West about East are the main focus of this study. Symptomatic reading criticizes the picture of native people as the other and westerners' imposition of power and ideology. A westernized people always regard native people as violent and irrational and he wants to create peace, order and prosperity from the western perspectives. The westerners establish the concept to control the native people; therefore, symptomatic reading expresses such exploitation of natives.

## **Acknowledgements**

Inspiration always plays a vital role in every progress in human life. I am greatly indebted to my respected teacher Dr. Siva Rijal whose inspiring suggestions and guidance helped to prepare this thesis. Likewise, I express my deep sense of respect to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, for his inspiring suggestion to complete this task. I heartily express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Abhi Subedi, Dr. Birendra Pandey, Mr. Saroj Ghimira and Mr. Puspa Acharya who persistently encouraged providing me the genuine ideas and suggestions. Similarly, I am thankful to all of my respected teachers in the Central Department of English who directly or indirectly helped in course of my writing.

I want to acknowledge my brother Mr. Prabhat Kumar Jha's valuable ideas and techniques. At last, but not the least, I sincerely thank my friends Pratima Sharma, Nitu Jha, Rima Kumari Jha, Priyanka Jha and Bhuvan Shrestha for getting this thesis typed and printed.

November, 2008

Pranima Jha

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	
Abstract	
I. Introduction: Resisting the Discourse of Other	1
II. Methodology	12
Symptomatic Reading: An Alternative Reading for Resistance	12
Disclosing the Historical Documents: A New Historical Reading	27
III. Disclosing the Discourse of "Other" in Soyinka's <i>Madmen and Specialists</i>	37
IV. Conclusion	56
Works Cited	59