## TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Portrayal of the Narrator as a Postmodern Metafictional Historiographer in Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda –* Tek Bahadur K.C. 2008**

**Portrayal of the Narrator as a Postmodern Metafictional Historiographer in Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda***

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English

**in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of**

**Masters of Arts in English**

## By

**Tek Bahadur K.C.**

## Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

**March 2008**

## Tribhuvan University

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

## Approval Letter

This thesis entitled **Portrayal of the Narrator as a Postmodern Metafictional Historiographer in Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Tek Bahadur K.C. 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgements**

This dissertation would not have been possible without the scholarly guidance of my thesis supervisor Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. I express my cordial gratitude to him.

 I would like to extent my deep appreciation to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of the Department of English for his motivation.

 Similarly, I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to Prof. Chandra Prakash Sharma, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Ammar Raj Joshi, Mr. Devi Prasad Gautam, Shankar Subedi, Puspa Raj Acharya, Saroj Ghimire, Sadan Adhikari and Bal Bahadur Thapa who helped me in many ways.

I am grateful to Mr Tikaram Gautam, the Head of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Mahendra Multiple Campus, Baglung for his continual support throughout my studies. Similarly I owe to my spouse Mrs. Shila Panta. Her help has been a great source of inspiration towards the completion of any master's degree.

I am equally thankful to my teacher-staffs of Shiva Ma.Vi, Baglung, Mr. Madhu Gautam, lecturer, Galkot Multiple Campus, Mr. Himal Kandel, Bir Bahadur Bohara and Phom Bahadur Khatri for their noble suggestions.

My thesis would not be complete without good support of my friends; Dilli Bhai, Janak Shahi, Kesab Neupane, D.R. Gautam, KMC, Kathmandu, Anil Gautam, Reeta Thapa, Sabita Paudel and brothers Kedar, Ishwor, Pralad, Sagar, Minu, Sanjaya, Daya, sisters Sarifa, Laxmi, Sakuntala and two "Fuchche" Sheekhar and Sanket.

I would be remiss if I do not mention my parents, brothers, sisters, and relatives for their encouragement. Last but not the least I want to thank to Deepak and Narayan of Resunga Computer Service, Kirtipur for the efficient typing of the manuscript.

March 2008 Tek Bahadur K.C.

iii

## Abstract

Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda*, a novel set in the nineteenth century colonial Australia, is an account of the encounter, relation and separation between British Anglican priest, Oscar and Australian industrialist Lucinda. In this historical fiction, Carey makes his contemporary unnamed narrator, Oscar's great grandson, tell (his)tory of fictional characters Oscar, Lucinda and Miriam and their relation and interaction with historical people of the nineteenth century like George Eliot, Thomas Carlyle, J.S. Mill and Others. The narrator seeks the relevance of such past for present without any nostalgic tone. Moreover, he subverts the realist mode of historiography that makes the novel historiographic metafiction and the unnamed narrator as a postmodern metafictional historiographer.

## Contents

iv

**Page No.**

Acknowledgements iii

Abstract iv

[I. General Introduction 1](file:///D%3A%5CBabita%5C2600-2699%5C2631%5CHari%20dai-english%2012-16.doc#_Toc194198785)-10

[II. Postmodern Historiographic Metafiction 11](file:///D%3A%5CBabita%5C2600-2699%5C2631%5CHari%20dai-english%2012-16.doc#_Toc194198786)-31

[III. Portrayal of the Narrator as a Postmodern Metafictional Historiographer in Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* 32](file:///D%3A%5CBabita%5C2600-2699%5C2631%5CHari%20dai-english%2012-16.doc#_Toc194198787)-48

[IV. Conclusion 49](file:///D%3A%5CBabita%5C2600-2699%5C2631%5CHari%20dai-english%2012-16.doc#_Toc194198788)-50

[Works Cited 51](file:///D%3A%5CBabita%5C2600-2699%5C2631%5CHari%20dai-english%2012-16.doc#_Toc194198789)-53