

Tribhuvan University

Expression of Cultural Alienation in Naipaul's *In a Free State*

A Thesis submitted to the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of English Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Ananta Raj Gairhe

May 2007

Tribhuvan University
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Kathmandu
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Expression of Cultural Alienation in Naipaul's *In a Free State*" submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, by Ananta Raj Gairhe, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

The Research Committee:

(Krishna Kumar Bista)

Supervisor

External Examiner

(Hriseekesh Upadhyay)

Head,

Department of English

Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus,

Kathmandu

Date:

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my teacher and thesis supervisor Mr. Krishna Kumar Bista, Lecturer, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, for his invaluable guidance, and inspiration throughout the study without whose support and guidance this thesis would not be completed in this form.

I am highly indebted to Mr. Hriseekesh Upadhyay, Head, Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, for accepting my thesis proposal and encouraging me with scholarly comments and suggestions.

I am grateful to my respected teachers, Mr. Rudra Prasad Paudel and Mr. Hari Adhikari for providing me constructive comments, guidance and information about the research work.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to my friend Mr. Bharat Ghimire and my nephews Ramchandra Pokhrel and Ganesh Pokhrel who supported me to proceed this work. Similarly, I am thankful to my wife, Mrs. Sita Gaihre, for her invaluable support during the completion of the thesis work.

May 2007

Ananta Raj Gairhe

Abstract

This research entitled "Expression of Cultural Alienation in Naipaul's *In a Free State*" aims to show that when people leave their source culture and face other's culture they feel a sense of cultural alienation. All the characters of the novel, Santosh, the narrator of the story "Tell Me Who to Kill", Bobby and Linda, leave their source culture and are confronted to new cultures. The novel presents the post colonial world where people are detached from their root cultures for various reasons. Then, they feel isolated, lost and alienated in the strange culture.

Table of Contents

	Page
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgements	
Chapter I: Naipaul and His Work	1-16
1.1 General Introduction	1
1.2 V.S. Naipaul: His Life and Work	6
1.3 Naipaul's Style	8
1.4 Naipaul's Themes	12
Chapter II: Cultural Expression and Postcolonial Study	17-33
2.1 Culture	17
2.2 Cultural Alienation and Exile	20
2.3 Postcolonial Expression: Colonial Experience	25
2.4 Diaspora: Displacement and Dislocation	29
Chapter III: <i>In a Free State</i> and Expression of Cultural Alienation	34-53
3.1 General Introduction: <i>In a Free State</i>	34
3.2 Diasporic Reflection in the Tramp at Piraeus	35
3.3 One Out of Many: Santosh's Sense of Alienation and Nostalgia	38
3.4 Tell Me Who to Kill: A Victim of Colonialism	41
3.5 Bobby and Linda: Desperate Colonials	47
3.6 The Circus at Luxor: A Symbol of Violence	53
Chapter IV: Conclusion : Cultural Alienation	54-56
Works Cited	