

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Narrativization of Trauma in Coetzee's *Disgrace*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

in partial fulfillment of the requirement for Degree of

Masters of Arts in English

Universal College

Maitidevi, Kathmandu

By

Shreeram Prasad Silwal

Year of Admission: 2008/9

September 2011

Tribhuvan University

Department of English

Universal College

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Shreeram Prasad Silwal has completed his thesis entitled “Narrativization of Trauma in Coetzee’s *Disgrace*” under my supervision. He worked on this dissertation from March 2011 to September 2011. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted to viva voce.

.....

Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya

Supervisor

Tribhuvan University
Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Narrativization of Trauma in Coetzee’s *Disgrace*” submitted to Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Shreeram Prasad Silwal, has been approved by the undersigned members of research committee.

Members of Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Department of English

Universal College

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

This dissertation would not have been possible without the scholarly guidance, generous help and genuine encouragement of my thesis supervisor Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya, a lecturer of Central Department of English, T.U. and Universal College who supported me throughout my thesis with his patience, knowledge and experience. I am highly indebted to him and express my sincere honour to him.

I owe sincere and earnest thankfulness to Mr. Diwakar Upadhaya, the head of English Department of Universal College for allowing me to work with this research.

I am equally indebted to the respected principal of the college Dr. Shiba Datta Gnawali for his encouragement, kind concern and the help he provided for the completion of work.

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Padma Devkota, Prof. Khagendra Bhatarai, and Dr. Anirudra Thapa for their guidelines and motivation to initiate my research.

I would like to express my gratitude to my respected teachers Mr. Shuvraj Ranabhat, Mr. Laxman Gautam and Mr. Sagar Bhatta who helped me in many ways during the research period.

Similarly, words fail to convey my thanks to my friends Mr. Kapil Chhetri, who provided his help with efficient typing of manuscript and Mr. Bhandev Kapadi, who helped me with his experience during the research period.

I am truly indebted and thankful to my honourable parents Mr. Keshav Prasad Silwal and Mrs. Khila Devi Silwal and brothers Yubraj Silwal, especially Shiva Silwal who have given me their unequivocal support throughout, as always, for which my mere expression of thanks likewise does not suffice.

Finally, it is a great pleasure to thank everyone who helped me complete my dissertation successfully.

September 2011

Shreeram Prasad Silwal

Abstract

J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace* depicts legacy of apartheid as a cause of communal violence in post-apartheid South Africa. However, Coetzee, by narrativizing post-apartheid South African trauma attempts to reduce the intensity of trauma of South Africans and in the same way attempts to build the lost identity of the blacks. He, in order to shatter stereotypical understanding of people about blacks, shows gradual social and economic progress of the blacks. Similarly, he also presents the possibility of forgiveness in new South Africa which is must to establish peace and harmony between the whites and the blacks. The positive attitude of newer generation whites towards blacks marks the possibility of racial reconciliation between the whites and the blacks. Lucy, after being inhumanly raped by blacks totally forgives the black rapists unconditionally and such ethical act of newer generation people gives hope that peace and harmony will be established in the country. In the same way, the novel also offers the difficulties confronted by whites with racist attitude. The disgrace of fallen whites like Lurie, who still have problematic attitude towards the blacks shows people like him are getting a kind of the ethical obligation in post apartheid South Africa in order to transform themselves to adjust to the pace of the country.

CONTENTS

Chapter- I: General Introduction 1-14

Chapter- II: Narrativization of Trauma in Coetzee's *Disgrace* 15

Apartheid as Historio-Cultural/National Trauma in *Disgrace* 15-24

Construction of Community in *Disgrace* 24-34

Narrativization of Trauma, Identity Formation and Working through of
Trauma in *Disgrace* 34-46

Ethical Responsibility and Forgiveness in *Disgrace* 46-59

Chapter- III: Conclusion: Traumatic Awakening in *Disgrace* 60-62

Works Cited: