

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Redrawing the Boundaries of Identity:

A Study in Michael Ondaatje's Novel *The English Patient*

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the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in English**

by

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This thesis entitled **Redrawing the Boundaries of Identity: A Study in Michael Ondaaje's *The English Patient*** by Ram Prasad Adhikari submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

The present research reads novel of Michael Ondaatje - *The English Patient* with a focus on its central character, Almasi, who is trying to redraw his identity in the alien land. It examines Almasi's redrawing of his identity through his character, work and his interactions with others. He deliberately tries to negate his nationality by living in the desert where he creates for himself an alternate identity. He admits himself as an international 'bastard', born in one place and choosing to live somewhere outside. The plane crash has made the "English" patient forget his national origins. It appears that this amnesia has brought his earlier wish to 'erase' his name and place he had come from to full realization. The whole novel moves smoothly with the possibility of knowing who the 'English' patient really is by mentioning the name Almasi. The name appears without any direct reference to its bearer. Almasi is the only name without a clear referent and therefore designate the unnamed and unnamable character in the novel. He exists as the centre and focus of the action despite the fact that he is without name or identity for much part of the novel.

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