

Tribhuvan University

Blurring of the Demarcation between History and Fiction in Peter Carey's *True History of
the Kelly Gang*

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

By

Sushma Regmi

University Campus

Kirtipur

March 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Blurring of the Demarcation between History and Fiction in Peter Carey’s *True History of the Kelly Gang*” submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U., Kirtipur by Sushma Regmi 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

In carrying out this research work, I have been helped and encouraged exuberantly by a number of teachers, colleagues and friends. First and foremost I would like to extend my profound gratitude to my respected supervisor Mr. Nirmal Adhikari of Central Department of English for his support and encouragement during the tedious process of providing concrete shape to my thoughts.

Similarly, I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of Central Department of English, T.U., Kirtipur, for granting me the opportunity to carry out this research work.

I am equally grateful to Prof. Abhi N. Subedi, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Sanjeeb Upreti, Dr. Beerendra Pandey for shaping my intellectual growth. I extend my thanks to my teachers Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya, Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa, Mr. Puspa Raj Acharya, Mr. Sadan Raj Adhikari and Mr. Saroj Ghimire.

I am whole heartedly grateful to my parents along with my other family members for their assistance in one way or other for helping me to get this state in my life.

I am also thankful to my friends Bibek, Binod, Deepak, Manish, Pramesh, Sabita and Sushil, who encouraged and helped me during the juncture of this research work.

March 2007

Sushma Regmi

Abstract

The present research work is the study of Kelly history about the suffering of the marginalized Australians from new historicist perspective. The research is able to recuperate the colonial history of Ned Kelly by amalgamating history and literature which is the inter-textual output. By creating fictional love story between Ned and Mary and fictional daughter of Ned Kelly, the suppressed history is written by Peter Carey as a revisionist writer. The painful life of the Kellys during colonial period and the inhuman treatment of the colonizers especially English police are clearly examined. The suppressed and unraveled past comes into existence which is the best way to renovate the Kelly history in the historical fiction. Peter Carey analyzes the relationship between English colonizer and Australian colonized as the relationship of power. He thinks that the English colonizers created discourses about the colonized like Ned Kelly due to their power politics. So, Carey tries to explore the unexplored terrain within Australian Kelly history of the late nineteenth century. This research thematizes the postmodernist and especially new historicist concern with the radically indeterminate and unstable nature of textuality and subjectivity.

Contents

Acknowledgments	iii
Abstract	iv
Chapter I. Introduction	1–11
Peter Carey and his works	1
True history of the Kelly Gang: A Synopsis	2
Critics on <i>True History of the Kelly Gang</i>	4
Significance of the Study	7
Chapter II. Relation between History and Fiction	12–36
General Background	12
Nietzsche and Foucault's Concept of History, Power, Truth and Discourse:	
Departure from Old Historicism	14
New Historicism: Stephen Greenblatt and Louise Montrose	27
Impact of Postmodern Historical Theory on Historiography and the Problems	
of Representation	31
Chapter III. Blurring of the Demarcation between History and Fiction in	
Peter Carey's <i>True History of the Kelly Gang</i>	37–64
General Background	37
Official History	39
Counter History	43
Interrelation among Discourse, Power and Truth in the Novel	53
Chapter IV. Conclusion	65–67
Works Cited	68–70