

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Tilo's Ceaseless Struggle for Identity: A Study in Chitra Banerjee's *The Mistress of Spices***

**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**

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This thesis entitled **Tilo's Ceaseless Struggle for Identity: A Study in Chitra Banerjee's *The Mistress of Spices*** by Achut Raj Bhatta 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 work basically focuses on the protagonist's ceaseless struggle for identity in the debut novel of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, *The Mistress of Spices*. Tilo, the mistress of spices, has many disguises and names that reveal her multiple identities. Like a Chameleon, she keeps on changing throughout the novel. It makes clear how complex is the problem of identity crisis is. She, like other fellow Indians, has to undergo this identity crisis while trying getting herself adjusted in the foreign land. Accordingly, the narrator changes her name many times, from Nayan Tara to Bhagyavati to Tilottama and finally to Maya, the most appropriate name, since it means spell or enchantment. She has to change her identities many times in order to arrive at a final definition of selfhood. Like Mukherjee's Jasmine, whose name ever changes, Tilo, too, is presented as a nameless person. She begins her journey westward in her quest for new self. She undergoes different agonizing moments in her march towards the cherished goal of her life.

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Date:

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