

Tribhuvan University

Recreation of History to Regain Cultural Pattern in Toni Morrison's *Jazz*

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Recreation of History to Regain Cultural Pattern", submitted to Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Dependra Bhandari has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

This work has tried to reveal how expressive arts like blue music or jazz have functioned as a mode and institution of intervention and, therefore, as a blue print and recourse, re-position, and re-examine African-Americans' way of life, their needs, their aspirations their history/story-in short and aesthetic tradition of their culture. This thesis has tried to explore opposition that separates art and politics, for Morrison cultural structures of injustice and oppression without jeopardizing the artfulness of her fiction. By using dislocations in time and space free indirect discourse, multiple positioned narrative voices, skeins of freighted images instead of authorial omniscience as commentary among other narrative techniques. She is able to recreate the Afro-America past. This study shows how Morrison became multivalent cultural icon who spoke truth to empower, gave voice to voiceless Afro-Americans. *Jazz* represents grief, politically situated yet not personally chosen maternal neglect and loss, the ravages of war, passionate sexual love, and female as the object of a murderous gaze.

Morrison thematically establishes memory as a potential force for restoring the past. *Jazz* offers alleviation from the displacement to the preservation of family and cultural memory as a source of self-definition where the loss of 'memory' reinforces the loss of 'family', 'fertility' and 'identity'.

Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Abstract | |
| Acknowledgement | |
| I. Morrison, Jazz and Secular Tradition | 1 |
| General Introduction | 1 |
| Critical Reviews on Jazz | 5 |
| II. Black Tradition | 10 |
| Introduction | 10 |
| Secular Music: Blues and Jazz | 14 |
| Secular Songs | 19 |
| Popular Culture | 22 |
| Rap Music | 25 |
| Hip Hop Culture | 29 |
| III. Recreation of Black History in Jazz | 36 |
| Sense of Loss: Excluded History of the Blacks | 36 |
| Memory, Trauma and Identity in the City | 43 |
| Recreating History: Regaining Cultural Pattern | 51 |
| IV. Conclusion | 70 |
| Works Cited | ii |