

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Storytelling, Text, and Memory in Robert J. Conley's Mountain Windsong

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By

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This Thesis entitled " Storytelling, Text, and Memory in Robert J. Conley's *Mountain Windsong*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Suvadra Shiwakoti has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research committee.

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Abstract

Robert J. Conley's novel *Mountain Windsong* attempts to recreate the forgotten history of American natives through the narrative technique of storytelling. The novel is a story told by Grandfather to Grandson which includes legends, historical documents, anecdotes, song etc. that foreground the oral tradition of natives as their cultural identity to resist Anglo-Americans. Conley shelters on natural phenomena and storytelling tradition as alternative space. He confirms his affinity to the marginalized natives. The novel presents Oconeechee and Waguli as lovers, whose separation due to Trail of Tears resembles the plight of Cherokees as a whole. Conley narrates the unheard voice of natives adopting varieties of fragmentation and thus, deconstructing the grand narratives. With this novel, he gives a voice to those voices, which were unheard in official history of U.S. and gives the shape of text to recreate Cherokee cultural identity by resisting the Anglo-Americans.

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