

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Hybridity and Identity Crisis: A Study of Place in V.S. Naipaul's *Half a Life*

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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of Master of Arts in English

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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**Supervisor's Recommendation**

This is to certify that Ms. Babita Adhikari with T.U. Reg. No. 6-2-324-454-2011 has prepared his/her master's thesis entitled "Hybridity and Identity Crisis: A Study of Place in V.S. Naipaul's *Half a Life*" under my supervision, following the format as specified by Research Committee, Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I, therefore, forward it to Research Committee for final evaluation.

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Date: February 2020

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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**Approval Sheet**

The thesis entitled “Hybridity and Identity Crisis: A Study of Place in V.S. Naipaul's *Half a Life*” submitted to Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Ms. Babita Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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## **Abstract**

The aim of this study is to explore hybridity and identity crisis in V.S. Naipaul's *Half a Life*. The focus of the study is on the protagonist Willie's who struggles to make his self-identity in a restrictive society where identity is constructed on the basis of culture, ethnicity, caste, nation, religion and sexual premises. He develops various identities in his life such as a respected writer, a husband of Ana, Ana's London man, a secret boyfriend of different women, etc. He has no single identity but has multiple identities built according to his travels and stays in different places and situations. Naipaul's novel revolves around Willie's migration and change of his identities according to his encounter with different places, cultures and circumstances. Therefore, this study tries to find out how places, cultures and circumstances play a key role to form and change a person's identity that ultimately leads him or her to dislocation, rootlessness and self exile. The concept of hybridity developed by Homi K. Bhabha and others has been adopted as an approach to analyse the the Naipaul's novel.