

Tribhuvan University

Gender Trauma in Sharon E. McKay's *Thunder Over Kandahar*

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By

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Letter of Recommendation

Santosh Regmi has prepared this thesis entitled "Gender Trauma in Sharon E. McKay's *Thunder Over Kandahar*" under my supervision. I, therefore, recommend it to be submitted for viva voce.

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This thesis entitled "Gender Trauma in Sharon E. McKay's *Thunder Over Kandahar*" submitted to the central Department of English, by Santosh Regmi, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research work explores how female body becomes a site of gender violence, exploitation and torture in patriarchal Afghan society and causes gender trauma in Sharon E. McKay's *Thunder Over Kandahar*. The female characters in the novel go through continuous violence sometimes by male relatives and sometimes by religious fundamentalists in the name of Islamic rules. Yasmine and Tamanna are two central figures of the novel. Among them Yasmine and her mother have to face assault by fundamentalists in the name of violation of Islamic rules since they have come from England to their homeland. The continuous attacks make them traumatized. Likewise, Tamanna and her mother who are bread owners of entire family have to go through domestic violence of her uncle which makes these two women traumatized. In this sense, female characters in the novel have been exploited, tortured and controlled by the patriarchal norms and values. In Afghan society, patriarchal Islamic law applied by Islamic fundamentalism, as a means of maintaining patriarchal power, exploits and tortures the females; controls and subordinates them. It gives the women gender trauma. In this way, this research depicts that female body becomes the site of violence and masculine power exercise in patriarchal society that causes gender trauma of women.

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