

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Resistance to Heterosexual Normativity in Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*

A Thesis

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By

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of English

Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Surendra Adhikari, a student of academic year 2068 with Exam Roll No. 480177, Campus Roll No. 35/068 and TU Registration No. 6-1-48-4155-2006 has completed the thesis entitled “Resistance to Heterosexual Normativity in Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*” under my supervision within the given period in accordance with rules and regulations specified by the Department of English and I hereby forward it to the Research committee of the Department for final evaluation.

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Approval Sheet

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Resistance to Heterosexual Normativity in Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*” submitted to the Department of English by Mr. Surendra Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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Abstract

Patrica Highsmith's novel *The Price of Salt* is a lesbian narrative with two major characters Carol and Therese. This novel is about the homosexual relationship between the two female characters with the different age bar. Nineteen years old Therese and Carol, an already married woman met in the departmental store during the Christmas season. They both involve in physical relationship by challenging the contemporary society and the court too. This thesis has been accomplished by drawing theoretical support from Lesbianism. This research intends to interrogate the critique of rationale and relevance of heterosexual normativity. The lesbian novels advocate for the alternative way to understand sex. The title also represents the symbolic meaning that evokes the meaning of sacrifice of Carol and Therese for their identity and freedom. They strongly fight against western patriarchal society presenting sexual relation and phenomena to claim that homosexuality should be a part of the society. Carol and Therese sacrifice love, marriage, family and children for the shake of their personal discovery and identity. Thus, this thesis explores that not only heterosexual but also all other relations such as homosexual are equally important for the betterment of the society.