

Tribhuvan University

Representation of Shikhs in J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mrs. Asmita Maharjan has completed her thesis entitled "Representation of Shikhs in J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*" under my supervision. She carried out her research from February 2016 to June 2017 A.D. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Supervisor

Date: June 2017

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled " Representation of Shikhs in J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*" submitted to the Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mrs. Asmita Maharjan has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

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Asmita Maharjan

Abstract

This research entitled "Representation of Shikhs in J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*" casts light on how the orientalism has relegated Shikhs in to degraded level even in the postcolonial period. The nonwestern characters in J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy* are subjected to various harrowing experiences. This novel presents Vikram family as a representative nonwestern people. The Sikh character in Sukhvinder, is referred to as "the Great Hermaphrodite" and a "hairy man-woman." Shikhs have own life style, culture, civilization and attitude to native people. Rowling portrays the troubled relation between the non-west and west. The entire regional culture and geography of India appears to be an exotic land caught in the turmoil and tension created by the conflicting interests of various power centers. The zone of India looms as the defeated, sterile, surreal, and static world. Most of the youths in this novel are found humiliated, defeated, and resigned to their lives due to systematic marginalization of west.

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