DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that the thesis titled "Countering Trauma and Unspeakability in Narratives Based on the 1984 Anti- Sikh Riots" submitted by me to Tezpur University in part fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural Studies under the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is a result of my own study and research on the subject and that it has not been submitted to any other institution, including this University in any other form or published at any time before.

Place: Tezpur (Ranjitha Raj

Date: 19-12-2024 Registration No.TZ203961 of 2024

तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय/TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

(संसद के अधिनियम द्वारा स्थापित केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय) (A Central University established by an Act of Parliament)

Email: dpnath@tezu.ernet.in

Phone: +91 70028 49155

तेजपुर-784028 :: असम/ TEZPUR-784028 :: ASSAM

Debarshi Prasad Nath Professor Department of Cultural Studies School of Humanities and Social Sciences

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis titled "Countering Trauma and Unspeakability in Narratives Based on the 1984 Anti- Sikh Riots" submitted to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University in part fulfillment for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural Studies is a record of research work carried out by Ms. Ranjitha Raj under my supervision and guidance.

All help received by her from various sources have been duly acknowledged.

No part of this thesis has been submitted elsewhere for award of any other degree

Date: 19-12-2024 (Prof. Debarshi Prasad Nath)

Place: Tezpur Supervisor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the unwavering support and guidance I received from my supervisor Prof. Debarshi Prasad Nath during the entire course of my research. His consistent encouragement and patience have helped me to grow as a researcher over the years. His role as a mentor was noteworthy and distinctive which helped me to sustain my determination even through the most challenging periods.

I would like to thank other faculty members of the Department of Cultural Studies including Dr. Juri Gogoi Konwar, Dr. Parasmoni Dutta, Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Dr. Jayanta Vishnu Das, Dr. Hashik N. K, Dr. Mandakini Barua, and Dr. Moushumi Kandali for providing support and guidance during the tenure of my research. I express my deep gratitude to Dr. Hashik N. K for his constant encouragement. I thank the staff members of the department Ashish da, and Lohit da for their help and support.

I am grateful to Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur University, and Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain, former Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur University, for providing me with the opportunity to conduct research at this institution. Additionally, I would like to express my appreciation to all other members of the Tezpur University administration for their ongoing support throughout these years.

My years as a research scholar would have been harder without the support of my friends Moyuree, Priyanka, Barsha, Parikshit, and Siwani. I will always be grateful to Minnu, Krishna, Edlina, and Grinjo for being with me during the most challenging moments of my research life. I owe thanks to Vidya, Kavya, Aparna and family, Thara, Anjali, and Mubasheer for constantly encouraging and supporting me in all possible ways.

I thank my family for being there for me throughout. I am incredibly grateful for the love, encouragement, and sacrifices of my parents and sisters. I will always be grateful to Sabu for his unwavering support and companionship, which served as a constant source of encouragement for me to continue on my research journey.

Ranjitha Raj