

**Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English**

**Intensification of Inter-gender Domination by Intra-gender Exploitation in
Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale***

**A Thesis Submitted to
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
Master of Philosophy in English**

**By
Yuba Raj Gaire
January 2014**

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
University Campus, Kirtipur

Letter of Recommendation

Yuba Raj Gaire has completed his dissertation entitled "Intensification of Inter-gender Domination by Intra-gender Exploitation in Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from March 2013 to January 2014 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend his dissertation be submitted for the final *Viva Voce* in Central Department of English.

.....
Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma
Supervisor

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This dissertation entitled “Intensification of Inter-gender Domination by Intra-gender Exploitation in Margaret Atwood’s novel *The Handmaid’s Tale*” to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Yuba Raj Gaire, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

.....
Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma
Internal Examiner

.....
Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Upreti
External Examiner

.....
Co-Coordinator of M. Phil. Program.
Associate Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa

.....
Prof. Dr. Ammaraj Joshi
Head
Central Department of English

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the research committee of the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University for approving my proposal to conduct a research on the how women are used as a social agent of patriarchy.

Sincerest gratitude goes to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma who has supervised this research with a generous response. I am extremely thankful for his proper guidance and constructive suggestions.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Ammaraj Joshi the head of the department, Associate Professor Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Associate Professor Birendra Pandey and Dr Shiva Risal for their valuable suggestions and support. I cannot express my gratitude in words for the unlimited support from my helpful friend Arjun Khanal, Ruma Kanta Kafley and my spouse Sabi as well as my parents and other family members for their continuous support and encouragement in my academic career.

Lastly, I express my thanks to my friend Mahendra Bhushal and Hem Lal Pandey and Shiva Neupane for their co-operation.

Yuba Raj Gaire

January 2014

Abstract

This thesis studies Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale* in order to find out the real causes behind the discrimination of women in patriarchal society especially in Gilead. For this, the researcher makes study on how the intra-gender domination intensifies the inter-gender domination by applying the feminism as a research methodology. The patriarchy confines women to socially institutionalized motherhood as childbearing machines. The women's deprivation of female sexuality is because of the experience of sexual objectification within the institution of heterosexuality in a male dominated society. In Gilead, women, as the Handmaids, are forced by the Aunts to take the maternal roles to reproduce babies. The patriarchy assumes that inter-gender domination persists as long as there is intra-gender domination. Thus, the females living in patriarchy should try to minimize the intra-gender domination in order to wipe out the inter-gender domination.

Content

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
Chapter I: Introduction	1 - 13
Chapter II: Objectification of Women's Body:	
The Politics of Heterosexuality	14 - 26
Chapter III: Motherhood and Oppression	27 -55
Chapter IV: Disharmony of Women	56 – 62
Chapter V: Conclusion	63 - 65
Works Cited	66 - 69