

Tribhuvan University

Subjugation of Muslim Women and Their Resistance to Patriarchal Structure in  
Malala Yousafzai's *I am Malala: A Girl Stood for Education and  
Shot by Taliban*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of

Masters of Arts in English

By

Jamuna Bist

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of English

**Letter of Recommendation**

Ms. Jamuna Bist has completed her thesis entitled “Subjugation of Muslim Women and Their Resistance to Patriarchal Structure in Malala Yousafzai’s *I am Malala: A Girl Stood for Education and Shot by Taliban*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from May 2014 to February 2015. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Mr. Raj Kumar Baral

Supervisor

Central Department of English

T.U., Kirtipur

Date:

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “Subjugation of Muslim Women and Their Resistance to Patriarchal Structure in Malala Yousafzai’s *I am Malala: A Girl Stood for Education and Shot by Taliban*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Ms. Jamuna Bist, has been approved by undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Internal Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head  
Central Department of English

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Abstract**

This thesis tries to explore how women are dominated and exploited in Muslim societies especially in Pakistan by studying Malala Youfazai's book *I am Malala: A Girl Stood for Education and Shot by Taliban*. It depicts domination and exploitation of women in a society where patriarchal norms and values are dominant in the name of religion. Women are punished if they are found violating the Muslim patriarchal norms and values. In the name of culture and tradition women are treated as inferior beings and exploited. Taliban banned the girls from going to school because they think education for girls is against their religion. Women are forced to wear veil in Muslim society. There is an extreme domination of women in Muslim society. The stories of Khalida and Sahida who are sold by their fathers to old man show the exploitation of women in Muslim societies. Similarly, the story of a thirteen years old girl who is married in her early age and the story of another girl who is raped and sent into prison shows the extreme domination over girls in Pakistan. Similarly, the stories of Seema and Sabana show how tragically women are punished if they are found violating the Muslim norms and values of society. Malala is shot by Taliban because she, challenging the Muslim norms and values of the society, advocates for the woman's rights. This thesis also explores the resistance of Muslim women to Muslim patriarchal norms and values of the society which is proved through the story of Malala. Her act of not wearing veil and challenging the Muslim norms and values by speaking for the rights of women to get education proves her resistance to Muslim patriarchal society.

## Contents

	<b>Page No.</b>
Acknowledgments	
Abstract	
I. Malala Yousafzai's <i>I am Malala: A Girl Stood for Education and Shot by Taliban</i> as an Islamic Feminist Text	1-10
II. Issues of Exploitation of Women and Their Resistance in Malala's Yousafzai's <i>I am Malala: A Girl Stood for Education and Shot by Taliban</i>	11-35
III. Predicaments of Muslim Women	36-39
Works Cited	