

Tribhuvan University

**Female's Body as a Site of Domination and Resistance in Adichie's
*Purple Hibiscus***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English,
Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

Bhaskar Datt Joshi

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

November, 2011

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Bhaskar Datt Joshi has completed his thesis entitled "Female's Body as a Site of Domination and Resistance in Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from September, 2010 to November, 2011. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for Viva Voce.

Badri Acharya

Supervisor

Date : _____

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Female's Body as a Site of Domination and Resistance in Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*" by Bhaskar Datt Joshi has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Badri Acharya for his constant support and guidelines without whose valuable suggestions, my thesis would not have been in its present form.

I would like to thank Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, the Head of Department of English for providing me an opportunity to write this thesis. I am thankful to Dr. Birendra Pandey for approving my proposal. I am equally thankful to all the teachers at the Central Department of English who helped me to enhance my knowledge through their intellectual suggestions during my academic years. I can not forget the contribution of Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Dr. Arun Gupto, Harihar Jnawali, Shankar Subedi, Pusp Acharya, Dr. Tara Lal Shrestha, Mahesh Poudel, Pom Gurung, Tika Lamsal, H.L. Pandey and all the teachers who taught me at English Department.

In materializing my dream of writing a thesis, my family's constant support and encouragements are incredible. I am highly indebted to my friends Sudarshan Kunwar, Megh Raj Bhattarai, Gajendra Shahi, Omkar Poudel, Binod Singh and Jivan Thapa. I may be mistaken if I do not mention my lovely Srijana Shrestha whose co-operation and encouragements are invaluable and incredible. I am equally indebted to my elder brother Mr. Keshav Raj Joshi, who supported me financially throughout my academic years. Ultimately my heartfelt thanks and lots of love to all the friends of Central Department of English who are the best friends I have ever met.

November, 2011

Bhaskar Datt Joshi

Abstract

In *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie presents the general predicament of postcolonial Nigerian females under colonial patriarchy. Postcolonial females in *Purple Hibiscus* suffer double victimization-colonial and gender victimization. The patriarchal social norms as well as colonial values undermine women's freedom. Unless these dominating and gender-biased norms of traditional societies are changed, women will not get equal position and opportunities in their own societies. Likewise, the imperial culture that dominates both men and women of colonized nations and disregards their rights for freedom is subverted by means of solidarity of local men and women. For this solidarity to take place, local men should respect women's freedom, rights and provide equal opportunities to them, welcoming all sorts of positive changes in the dominating, conservative and traditional patriarchal norms. Adichie implies that women can easily resist to colonial patriarchy through their 'unity' and empowerment and before that, women should realize their potential and empower themselves to resist the dominations that marginalize them.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I: Introduction to Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* as a Postcolonial Feminist Fiction 1

II: Female's Body as a Site of Domination and Resistance in Adichie's

Purple Hibiscus 12

III: Conclusion: Female Empowerment in Domination 57

Works Cited