

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Freedom and Sexuality in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*

**A dissertation submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U. in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

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July 2013

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Letter of Recommendation

Dip Sharan Budhathoki has completed his thesis entitled "**Freedom and Sexuality in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook***" under my supervision. He worked on this dissertation from April 2012 to July 2013. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted to viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This dissertation entitled "**Freedom and Sexuality in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook***" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Dip Sharan Budhathoki in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.A. in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Acknowledgement

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor, Mahesh Paudyal for his scholarly guidance, invaluable suggestions and constant encouragement. I express my sincere gratitude to him.

I am grateful to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English as well as Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Co-ordinator of M.Phil. Programme in English, Tribhuvan University for their cooperation and motivation.

I would like to express my gratitude to other respected professors and doctors of the Central Department of English, Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Dr. Rebati Neupane, Dr. Sanjeev Uprety, Dr. Shiva Ram Rijal, Saroj Sharma Ghimire and Pam Bahadur Gurung who helped me directly or indirectly during the research period.

I would like to thank my colleagues Binod Kumar Shrestha, Usha Chauhan (Budhathoki), Prayas Group and others for their constant encouragement. Similarly, I express my gratitude to my parents, wife, siblings and friends for their love and incessant support.

July 2013

Dip Sharan Budhathoki

Abstract

This dissertation analyses the patriarchal conventions in the light of Beauvoirian existential feminism approach to the presentation of freedom and sexuality in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*. Patriarchy, guided by useless and parochial concepts, delimits female identity realizing their potentiality that males are afraid of being substituted by them. Lessing as an existential feminist writer believes on assertion and self-reliance in female as much as male does have. Her protagonist Anna not only dismantles conventional role models but also strives for identity and autonomy. Moreover, until and unless society does allow and liberate woman especially in career and identity, the concerned people including the capable cannot enjoy and feel their intensity of liberty. Because of her attempt to subsume the female especially the single and separated, Lessing elicits an assertive character from the dominated female members, including the victims of patriarchy and as a result, intensifies the amount of great effort through her assertive fictional testimonies help her access to identical autonomy, acknowledge the 'suppressed', 'exploited' it with the sense of 'gender biased notions towards the women' and prepare the ground for 'identity', 'autonomy' and 'egalitarian sphere.'

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