

Tribhuvan University

Female Bonding in Lisa See's *Shanghai Girls*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Madhu Sharma

Symbol no.280868

Roll no:916/06

T.U.Regd. No.6-2-40-1892-2006

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

July 2022

Tribhuvan University
Central Department Of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Madhu Sharma has completed his thesis entitled "Female Bondingin Lisa
See's *ShanghaiGirls*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from January
2022 to June 2022. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

.....

Mr. Laxman Bhatta

Supervisor

Date:

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Female Bonding in Lisa See's *Shanghai Girls*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Madhu Sharma has been approved by the under designed members of the Research Committee:

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head, Central Department of English

Date:

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I credit the successful completion of this research to my respected Supervisor Mr. Laxman Bhatta for his unconditional and untiring efforts in uplifting my spirit along with the academic materials that make up the perfect body of the research.

I would also like to thank Prof. Dr. Jiblal Sapkota, Head of Central Department of English, for accepting my thesis proposal and academic comments to conduct this work. Similarly, I would like to extend my words of thankfulness to respected faculty members of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University for helping me to explore the potential subject for the thesis as well as their consistent effort to shape my conceptual clarification on the subject of inquiry.

I am always indebted to my parents, brother and sisters for their love, care and motivation. I am also thankful to my colleagues for their direct and indirect contribution in making the thesis a reality.

June 2022

Madhu Sharma

Abstract

This research paper examines Lisa See's *Shanghai Girls* to highlight the bonding between two sisters Pearl and May and their struggle for selfhood and self-definition in a man's world. In this process, this study scrutinizes their search for strength in their woman-to-woman relationships, their common victimization and their shared identities. By taking insights about female solidarity as proposed by Simone De Beauvoir, Kate Millet and Nancy Chodorow, this research reflects on victimization the female protagonists go through and the bonding they develop to overcome the hardships. The research illustrates the strong relationship between women based on giving and receiving emotional, psychological and moral sharing and caring and nurturing each other.

Keywords: silence, female bonding, freedom, patriarchal domination, self identity

Table of Contents

Letter of Recommendation

Letter of Approval

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I: Lisa See's <i>Shanghai Girls</i> and the Issue of Female Bonding	1-19
II: Female Bonding in <i>Shanghai Girls</i> : A Means to Resist Patriarchy	20-31
III: Female Bonding as a Way of Survival	32-33