

Tribhuvan University

Dramatization of Women's Identity: A Feminist Reading of Selected Maithili Dramas

**A Dissertation Presented to the Central Department of English, TU
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Philosophy in English**

By

Sapana Sanjeevani

Roll No.: 1519

T.U. Regd. No.: 6-2-14-618-2007

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University

March 2022

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

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Sapana Sanjeevani has completed this thesis entitled *Dramatization of Women's Identity: A Feminist Reading of dramas Tatal Taagak Ekta Ore [Broken End of a Thread], Birju Biltu aa Babu [Birju Biltu and Father] by Mahendra Malangia and Domkachh and Sakhi by Ramesh Ranjan Jha* under my supervision. She has prepared this thesis for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Philosophy in English from Tribhuvan University. I recommend being submitted for viva voce.

Dr. Shiva Rijal
Lecturer
Central Department of English
Tribhuvan University
Kathmandu, Nepal

Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled *Dramatization of Women's Identity: A Feminist Reading of dramas Tatal Taagak Ekta Ore [Broken End of a Thread], Birju Biltu aa Babu [Birju Biltu and Father] by Mahendra Malangia and Domkachh and Sakhi by Ramesh Ranjan Jha* submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sapana Sanjeevani in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of M. Phil. in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

Dr. Shiva Rijal, Lecturer

External Examiner

Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa

Head of the Department

Central Department of English, TU

Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Shiva Rijal for his continued encouragement and valuable suggestions. He remained influential from the development of this topic to the accomplishment of this dissertation. It is immense pleasure to acknowledge theatre practitioners and writers Mahendra Malangia, Ramesh Ranjan Jha, Roshan Janakpuri, and Ghimire Yuvaraj for having benefited from their expertise. Similarly, I am indebted to Professor Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota, Head of the Department, for allowing me to undertake this project.

I am pleased to acknowledge former Head of Department- Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi and Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, as well as Prof. Abhi Subedi, Prof. Dr. Beerendra Pandey, and all the faculty members whose academic performance during the sessions of M. Phil. degree encouraged me for this research. I would like to express my gratitude to all the theatre practitioners, experts and critics who offered insights on the subject matter.

On a personal note, I must acknowledge my friends who helped me variously. Finally, special love to my mother, father and brother for their love, patience, and constant concern over my academic performance.

March 2022

Sapana Sanjeevani

Abstract

This dissertation explores the portrayal of women characters in the selected Maithili dramas written by Mahendra Malangia's [*Broken End of a Thread*] (1973 A.D.) and [*Birju Biltu and Father*] (1979 A.D.) and Ramesh Ranjan Jha's *Domkachh* (2014 A.D.) and *Sakhi* (2018 A.D.). Malangia's dramas depict Maithil society during the 1970s whereas Jha's drama was written in the post-1990s and presents the women of traditional Maithil society, who are mostly guided by patriarchal ideology and are supposed to be subservient to the male characters of their families. However, Jha as a contemporary Maithil dramatist offers certain agency to the women characters who are aware and conscious of the domination that they are facing in contemporary Maithil society. Both the dramatists illustrate the transition of women from submissive to assertive in Maithil society during the different political, social, and cultural shifts in Nepal.

Judith Butler's idea of gender identity is used as a primary tool of analysis where she defines that gender identity keeps on shifting as there befalls a transition in the indicators of identities established by the patriarchal society. The fixed gender stereotypes established by the patriarchal tendencies need to be deconstructed as identity is not something fluid and that is the only way a change can occur in the society. The dissertation uses ideas from Raymond Williams's concept of human identity as a secondary tool of analysis. He asserts that the identity of an individual cannot be analyzed as a separate entity from the cultural, political, social, and economic changes happening around that individual. The identity of individual changes as per the shift in culture, politics, economy, art, and society.

Contents

	Page No.
Letter of Recommendation	i
Letter of Approval	ii
Acknowledgments	iii
Abstract	iv
Contents	v
I. Women in Maithili Dramas: <i>Total Taagak Ekta Ore [Broken End of a Thread], Birju Biltu aa Babu [Birju Biltu and Father], Domkachh, and Sakhi</i>	1
II. Politics, Dramatists and Characters in <i>Total Taagak Ekta Ore [Broken End of a Thread], Birju Biltu aa Babu [Birju Biltu and Father], Domkachh, and Sakhi</i>	14
III. Change is the Reality <i>Total Taagak Ekta Ore [Broken End of a Thread], Birju Biltu aa Babu [Birju Biltu and Father], Domkachh, and Sakhi</i>	57
Works Cited	59