

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Silence and Secrets as Response to Injustice: A Subaltern Study in Khaled

Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Prakash Wagle

Roll No.: 101/2064

Exam Symbol No.: 480142

Regd. No.: 6-1-288-112-96

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

September 2013

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Prakash Wagle with Class Roll No. 101/064, Exam Roll No. 480142 and T.U. Reg. No. 6-1-288-112-96, has prepared this thesis entitled “Silence and Secrets as Response to Injustice: A Subaltern Study in Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner*” under my supervision, following the format as specified by the Research Committee, Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. Therefore, I forward it to the Research Committee for final evaluation.

Dr. Saroj Koirala

Reader

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus,

Pokhara

September 2013

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of English

Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled “Silence and Secrets as Response to Injustice: A Subaltern Study in Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner*”
submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus,
by Mr. Prakash Wagle
has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Advisor

External Examiner

Head

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus,

Pokhara

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

The writing of this thesis has been one of the most significant academic challenges I have ever had to face. Without the support, patience and guidance of my well wishers, this study would not have been completed. I owe my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Saroj Koirala, who offered an ear to my ramblings, who showed confidence in my research throughout, who provided support, and who nudged me when I wandered off track. Thank you for your guidance and supervision.

I also offer my earnest reverence to the Head of the Department Mr. Rajendra Tiwari for ethical support and to staff and students at English Department, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara for recommending readings and providing support, and for their constructive questions and criticisms since the early stages of this thesis, specially my *Gurus* Hom Nath Paudel, Dr. Dhruba Karki and Dr. Min Pun.

I am equally indebted to all my friends and my students at Bal Mandir Higher Secondary School for their moral support and encouragement during my study. Thanks for the friendship, and memories.

I kneel for the profound salutations to my beloved parents; Tank Prasad Wagle, Radha Devi Wagle and to my brother and sister for their endless love, prayers and encouragement. I also want to offer my cordial appreciation to Krishna Prasad Acharya and Saradha Acharya for their eternal affection to me.

Lastly, I don't know how to thank my lovely wife without whom this effort would have been worth nothing. Your love, support and constant patience have taught me so much about sacrifice, discipline and compromise. For your kindness, grace and understanding, I will always love you, Muna.

Prakash Wagle

September 2013

Abstract

Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* set in Afghanistan and the United States from the 1970s to 2002, presents a story of intertwined personal conflicts and tragedies against a historical background of national and cultural trauma. The novel accounts for the culture of Kabul everything from the melon sellers in the bazaar to the cosmopolitan social and intellectual lives of Kabul elite society during the monarchy, to the traditional pastimes of Afghan children. The novel pursues the complicated story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman and Hassan, a loathed minority, the son of Amir's father's Hazara servant Ali. Though, Amir and Hassan are close friends, they live drastically different lives by virtue of their status. Hassan, like as his father Ali, is loyal and devoted servant who is always ready to die for his master. Ali and Hassan represent pathetic Hazaras who are the subject of social discrimination. Their resistance of social domination points how nationalism and mainstream history has gauged the voice of lower strata working class peasants in Afghanistan. *The Kite Runner* is also a story about the collapse of civil society and the violation of fundamental human rights that commonly takes place in the background of ethnic and racial discrimination, religious intolerance, the oppression of women and children, war crimes, the plight of refugees, etc. This research reveals the structural contingencies in Afghan society from a subaltern perspective.

Contents

	Page No.
Letter of Recommendation	ii
Approval Sheet	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Abstract	v
Contents	vi
Chapter One: Background and Conceptual Framework	1-10
General Overview	1
Khaled Hosseini: A Writer's Life	3
A Glance into Previous Observations	5
Chapter Two: Subaltern Studies: An Outline	11-23
Chapter Three: Discrimination and Passive Response	24-51
Portrayal of Afghan History	24
Projection of Social Discrimination	32
Emergence of Silence and Secrets	42
Chapter Four: Ali and Hassan as Subaltern Representative	52-55
Works Cited	56-58