

Tribhuvan University

Identity Formation through Subversion of Gender Roles in Nair's *Ladies Coupe*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central
Department of English, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

Dipa G.C

Roll No.281811

Reg. No.6-2-411-2-2008

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

April 2018

Identity Formation through Subversion of Gender Roles in Nair's *Ladies Coupe*

Dipa G.C

2018

Letter of Recommendation

Dipa G.C has completed her thesis entitled "Identity Formation through Subversion of Gender Roles in Nair's *Ladies Coupe*" under my supervision. She carried out her research from February 2016 to April 2018 A.D. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Mr. Keshab Sigdel

April 2018

Tribhuvan University

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Formation of Identity through Subversion of Gender Roles in Nair’s *Ladies Coupe*” submitted to the Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Dipa G.C has been approved by the undersigned member 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 profound gratitude to Lecturer Mr. Keshab Sigdel, for making constant supervision and guiding me with regular inspiration, encouragement, and insightful suggestion throughout the study, thus a larger share of gratitude sincerely goes to him. His valuable efforts made me present this research work in this form. I would be ungrateful if I ignore Professor Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, for providing constant supervision and provision of many reference sources.

I would like to extend sincere acknowledgement to the entire group of Professors, Readers, Lecturers, and the Teaching Assistants of the Department. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues and all my well-wishers who directly and indirectly helped me to complete this work.

Deepa G.C

April 2018

Abstract

This research work explores Anita Nair's Novel Ladies Coupe (2001), as an empowerment of women to form new identity, who are constrained by traditional gender roles of a patriarchal society. The female characters in Nair's novel struggle for their independence by violating the century long patriarchal norms and values. However, this thesis examines the female protagonist's subversion of traditional gender roles to discover their real identity. The protagonist of the novel, Akhila's radical movement of getting one way ticket and the reaction of other six female co-passengers is the evidence of resistance or subversion. This study depicts an attempt to show, how in life, suppression and oppression always paves the way to formulate the rebel attitude in the victims, which do not always come in recognizable forms, but often under the disguise of love, protection and the assurance of security. The study further shows female subversion or resistance against the male dominated society and move forward in their own way of freedom.

Key Words: Subversion, Resistance, Radical, Suppression, Patriarchal