

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Subversion of Traditional Indian Caste Hierarchy and Ideals in

Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*

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

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February 2018

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Supervisor's Recommendation

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Date: February 2018

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
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Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled “Subversion of Traditional Indian Caste Hierarchy and Ideals in Aravind Adiga’s *The White Tiger*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Sangita Shrestha has been approved by the undersigned members of the evaluation committee.

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Acknowledgements

I am indebted to those people who deserve my sincere thanks. This thesis would not have been written without their support. I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my deepest sense of gratitude to my honorable thesis supervisor, Rajendra Prasad Tiwari, Professor of the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, for providing me with the required materials, valuable scholarly co-operation, insightful guidelines and regular encouragement.

Similarly, I would like to thank Dr. Min Pun, Dr. Saroj Koirala and Homnath Sharma of the department for encouraging me with their insightful and inspiring suggestions. I would also like to express my gratitude to all my respected teachers at the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus for their valuable suggestions. I would also like to extend my thanks to my friends, who generously assisted me throughout my study.

I am also very thankful to all those teachers who have encouraged me in my poor condition. Their suggestion gave me a new direction to walk on. I am thankful to my all teachers of Mahendra Higher Secondary School and Prithvi Narayan Campus.

Whole-heartedly I am grateful to my parents and husband for their support. It was very difficult without their support and co-operation. And I feel proud to have a family like this. Lastly, I am grateful to all writers, critics, intellectuals, and editors of the source materials whom I have cited.

February 2018

Sangita Shrestha

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Abstract

This study attempts to spotlight traditional Indian hierarchy and ideals and their disruption as shown in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*. It explores the extremely poor condition of the subaltern people in India, mostly in rural area as represented by the protagonist, his family and the people in his village Laxmangarh. It shows the hierarchy in the society formed because of political and financial power on the one hand, and the suffering of people due to the lack of it on the other hand. The traditional hierarchy of the caste system has been replaced by the big bellies and the small bellies. Likewise, corruption, violence and immoral behavior have disrupted the traditional Indian ideals. The study finds that Balram's high ambition and strong instinct to change his life grabs him into corruption and crime, leading to kill his own master Ashok for money and thereby achieve his goal of an entrepreneur. It reveals that there is subversion of traditional Indian norms and ideals to break the hierarchy, along with the breach of the caste system. It has given rise to immorality, crime and corruption with the rise of people's ambition. It points to the message of the novel that there is want of equity and morality in India.