

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

The Life of Choice and Freedom: The Protagonist's Existential living

In Toni Morrison's *Sula*

A Thesis

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By

Agni Prasad Timilsina

Class Roll No: 38/070

Exam Symbol No: 480196

T.U. Reg. No: 6-2-291-1-2010

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of English

Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Agni Prasad Timilsina has prepared this thesis entitled "The Life of Choice and Freedom: The Protagonist's Existential Living in Toni Morrison's *Sula*" under my supervision, following the format as specified by the Research Committee, Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I, therefore, forward it to the Research committee for final evaluation.

.....

Bhanu Bhakta Sharma Kandel

Lecturer

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara

Date: 26 March, 2018

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Approval Sheet

The thesis entitled “The Life of Choice and Freedom: The Protagonist’s Existential Living in Toni Morrison’s *Sula*” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Agni Prasad Timilsina has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Supervisor

Expert

Head

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus,

Pokhara

Date: _____

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Table of Contents

	Page
Supervisor's Recommendation	ii
Approval Sheet	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
Abstract	vi
Chapter 1: Toni Morrison: The Context for the Study	1-16
The Argument	1
Review of the Literature	7
Outline of the Study	14
Chapter 2: Existentialism and the Study of Literature	17-36
The Concept	17
Different Modes of Existentialism	21
Chapter 3. Sula's Existential Being	37-56
Sula, the Character	37
The Kickstart of Sula's Existential Being	38
Major Aspects of Sula's Existential Being	42
The Concept of Good vs Evil in <i>Sula</i> .	54
Chapter 4: The World and the Legacy of Sula	55-59
Works Cited	60-62

Abstract

Sula is a novel by Toni Morrison which portrays the effort of a young black female, Sula, to live the life of existential freedom with the choices and freedom of her own. The story of *Sula* focuses on how Sula, the central character, fights for her existential freedom, despite the hopelessness, suffering, alienation, social humiliation and hindrances she comes across as she grows up. This study has tried to explore the protagonist's view towards life, love, society, family, good and evil and many other things in the light of existential perspectives. In the initial chapter, this study has presented the introduction to the title, life of the writer Toni Morrison and the identification of existentialism in the novel using the reviews of literature. In the second chapter, this study has emphasized on the historical background of existentialism, its main contributors and theory itself. Similarly, in the third chapter, the study has analyzed the novel critically and analytically. In the final chapter, it has presented the legacy created by Sula on the basis of its textual analysis and presents the final view on it. It has also concluded the needs of existential freedom in life to live holistically.