**Tribhuvan University**

# Quest for Liberation: An Existentialist study of Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*

**A thesis**

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Central Department of English In the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

**Prakash Rai**

**Central Department of English**

**Tribhuvan University**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**September 2011**

**Tribhuvan University**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

## Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Prakash Rai has completed his thesis entitled "Quest for Liberation: An Existentialist Study of Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*" under my supervision. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for the final viva voce.

Mr. Ramesh Thapa

Supervisor

Date: 2068/05/26

**Tribhuvan University**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Quest for Liberation: An Existentialist Study of Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Prakash Rai has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

**Members of Research Committee:**

_____ _____

Internal Examiner

_____

_____ _____

External Examiner

_____

_____

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

**Acknowledgements**

This research would not have come to this form without direct and indirect support and guidance of many benefactors. First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. Ramesh Thape, Lecture, Central Department of English, T.U. for patiently answering a million dumb questions that I raise. I am very grateful to him who corrected my innumerable mistakes and provided me scholarly guidance that made possible to develop the thesis in to this form.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Associate Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Central Department of English for giving me permission to write this thesis. I am incredibly grateful to all the lectures of my department who have leaded me to this place.

I am grateful to many fabulous people who have gone out of their way to help me complete this research. I am indebted to Mr. Jit Kumar Rai and Mani Lama for their valuable suggestion and inputs in the journey of research and writing this thesis. A million thanks to Mr. Aman Subba, Prakash Chandra Rai, Prakash Singak, Bikram Subba and all my friends.

Huge thanks to my parents for life time of love and support and for still holding my hand through the things that makes me nervous. And my brothers and sister they have supported me for turning the most unlikely dreams into reality.

Lastly, my gratitude goes to those authors Researchers whose works have been consulted in preparation of this thesis. And, thank to the staffs of the Central Department of English.

September, 2011 Prakash Rai

**Abstract**

This study attempts to explores the how Veronika quest her existence in her life in Paulo Coelho's novel *Veronika Decides to Die*. Veronika a young girl of twenty four found herself as absurd because she could not solve the problems which she has faced. Veronika works as a librarian by day and by night carries on like many single women dating men, occasionally sleeping with them, and returning to a single room she rents at a convent. It is a life, but not a very compelling one. So one day, Veronika decides to end it. She decided to die because of the influences of existential philosophy. She reads the problems of her life and country and analyzes the ongoing event from the perspective of existentialism and searches the meaning of existing uncertainty and fear. Living in uncertainty and fear without doing anything is meaningless and she thinks the way to come out from the situation and being an absurd because there is no way to come out of the problem except death.

**Content**

**Page No.**

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Existentialism and Paulo Coelho's Writing 1

II. Quest for Existence in Paulo Coelho *Veronika Decides to Die* 12

III. Veronika: An Existential Hero 42

Work Cited