

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Consciousness of Identity and Existence in William Styron's *Sophie's  
Choice* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
For the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

**Mr. Bishnu Prasad Shrestha** has completed his thesis entitled  
“Consciousness of Identity and Existence in William Styron's *Sophie's Choice* and  
Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*.” under my supervision. He carried out his  
research from November, 2008 to February, 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be  
submitted for viva voce.

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Tara Lal Shrestha

Supervisor

Date: 2066-11-06

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## **Abstract**

In the novels *Sophie's Choice* and *The Handmaid's Tale*, William Styron and Margaret Atwood depict female protagonists as the victimized sufferers of patriarchal subjugative ideology and their chronic sexual harassment which problematizes the identity and existence of females under the construction of phallogentric practice of patriarchy. Despite the female protagonists' continuous struggle for the emancipatory identity and existence along with the transgression in different localities because of their consciousness about their situation, Sophie's and Offred's traumatic experience in patriarchal autonomy with subversive pictorialization and sexual deterioration harsen the existence and identity of females.

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