

Tribhuvan University

Subversion of Conventional Gender Roles in Naomi Alderman's *The Power*

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

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mrs. Chetana Mahat has completed her thesis entitled "Subversion of Conventional Gender Roles in Naomi Alderman's *The Power*" under my supervision. She carried out her research work from November 2018 to April 2019. I hereby recommended this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This Thesis entitled " Subversion of Conventional Gender Roles in Naomi Alderman's *The Power*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Chetana Mahat has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee:

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## Abstract

*This research examines the issue of subversion of conventional gender roles through main characters like Roxy, Allie, Margot and Tunde in Naomi Alderman's The Power (2017). Women appear as mothers, winners, owners, protectors, and recipients. Men are portrayed as sons, slaves, victims, loser, and sacrifice. In a sense, Alderman reverses the traditional concept of power politics, culture, sexual role, history, and literature in the identity of women. Both men and women in power always try to create their own social discourse, knowledge, identity, history, literature and nation. It relates to human nature and human psychology. In the matriarchal world, men are not permitted to vote, to drive a car, to move own business and to gather together. It depicts the reversal of sexual roles, matriarchal design of power politics, Goddess in the West, women in war, women as protectors and patrons. So, the researcher applies the theoretical approach of Gender Studies with the ideas of theorists like Judith Butler, Judith Halberstam, David Glover and Cora Kaplan to analyze the novel. It shows the discontinuities of gender roles and human desires for identity in society. Human constructs social, political, cultural and economic power to get own supremacy.*

**Key Words:** Matriarchal World, Electrostatic Power, Glitters, Mother Eve, War