

Tribhuvan University

Resistance for Self-formation in Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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April 2019

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Letter of Recommendation

Ms. Maina Saru has completed her thesis entitled “Resistances for Self-formation in Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from January 2019 to April 2019. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Resistance for Self-formation in Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Maina Saru has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

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Acknowledgements

I am heartily grateful to my thesis supervisor Mr. Raj Kumar Baral, Lecturer at Central Department of English for his valuable guidance and inspiration to write on the topic of “Resistance for Self-formation in Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*”. He has suggested and instructed me to complete this thesis with encouragement.

I am grateful to Hem Lal Pandey, Lecturer of the Central Department of English for suggesting me in this interesting topic. I am also extremely thankful to Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Head of the Central Department of English and all the respected teachers for their kind co-operation for this research project.

I am happy now that I have fulfilled dream and wishes of my parents. I am grateful to my father Khem Bahadur Saru and mother Mina Kumari Saru who had supported me since the beginning of my study to this research paper. I am also thankful to my colleagues for their encouragement in doing this research work. Finally, my sincere gratitude and acknowledgement go to all those who implicitly and explicitly provide appropriate advice during my research work.

April 2019

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Abstract

Taking the idea from Bildungsroman genre, this research work analyzes Angelou's coming of age and her self-consciousness from innocence to adolescence. In I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Angelou details her journey into adulthood and struggles to develop her personality and dignity in African American society. Her past experiences are the sources of education which teach her about morality and also learns to adjust in the new community. Threat given by Mr. Freeman to kill Bailey indicates that she has done something wrong and the experiences in the junkyard shows her intellectual growth, sense of confidence and independence. By looking childhood experiences, Maya also tries to raise the voice of marginalized people in the white dominated racist and sexist America society. Despite lots of difficulties, she is able to establish herself as a streetcar conductor in San Francisco. At the beginning of the text she is innocent and immature child but at the end she is able to construct herself as independence and self-dignified woman. So, every scene of the novel illustrates blossoming awareness of Angelou with significant self-formation.

Key words: bildungsroman, discrimination, morality, maturation, identity