

Tribhuvan University

Cultural Ambivalence in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *The Thing Around Your Neck*

**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

Kiran Gautam

Class Roll No. 565

Exam Roll No. 281882

T. U. Reg. No. 9-2-381-11-2008

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

April 2019

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Cultural Ambivalence in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *The Thing Around Your Neck*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mrs. Kiran Gautam, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee:

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisor Dr. Tara Lal Shrestha, Lecturer of Central Department of English, T.U. Kirtipur for his continuous support to my research work. I do appreciate him for his supports and motivations to proceed with research and writing.

This work would remain an incomplete project without his constant support and proper guidance. It has become a pleasure working under his supervision right from the conception of ideas to the completion of the work. I am grateful to Ms. Hema Laxmi Panta for her constant support to me with her ideas and insights.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to my parents, brother Bijaya Gautam and daughter Krisha Gyawali for their emotional support. I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to my husband, Mr. Shiva Hari Gyawali, whose unconditional love, patience and endless support of my academic endeavors enabled me to complete this thesis.

April 2019

Kiran Gautam

Abstract

In the story collection *Things Around Your Neck* Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie basically raises the issue of Nigerian diaspora in American landscape. Adichie is an African diasporic writer; she mainly raises the issue of immigrants in American landscape through stories. Issues, evidences, story and characters that are deployed in these stories are suffering from diasporic evidences. Identity crisis, inferiority complex and cultural hegemony are the common themes deployed in these stories. How their mindset is colonized mentally as well as physically is the issue incorporated these three stories. Adichie presents these stories as the document of fluctuation, dilemma, cultural destruction, inferiority, cultural hegemony of the marginalized groups of people through the life of the characters Chinaza Okafor, Ofodile Udenwa, Akunna and Nkem. "The Thing Around your Neck", "The Arrangers of Marriage" and "Imitation". A Critique of Cultural Ambivalence" is the conclusion of the whole study which asserts that westernization of Nigerian culture has created some sort of anarchy and frustration upon Nigerian people.

Keywords: Ambivalence, culture, diaspora, harmony, identity