

Tribhuvan University

Reversal of Conventional Gender Roles in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*

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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July 2019

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Letter of Recommendation

Kopila Bhandari has completed her thesis entitled "Reversal of Conventional Gender Roles in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* under my supervision. She carried out her work from February 2019 to July 2019. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for viva voice.

Badri Prasad Acharya

Supervisor

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Letter of Approval

The Thesis entitled “Reversal of Conventional Gender Roles in Markus Zusak’s *The Book Thief*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Kopila Bhandari has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal supervisor

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Badri Prasad Acharya, my honorable teacher, my dissertation supervisor and Ass. Professor of Central Department of English, T.U. Kirtipur, for his academic supervision and encouragements in order to bring my thesis to the final shape. His wide-ranging knowledge, scholarly guidance and invaluable suggestions helped me to carry out this research work without his kind cooperation and guidance; the work would have remained incomplete.

My special gratitude goes to Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Head of Central Department of English. Likewise I am grateful to the members of Research Committee. I would also like to thank all the faculty members and non-teaching staffs of the Central Department of English, T.U. Kirtipur.

I will always remain indebted to my parents, father Tara Prasad Bhandari, Mother Maya Bhandari, Husband Lilaraj Baskota and son Ojashwin Baskota for providing their continuous support to undertake this research journey. My special gratitude goes to my friends for providing their continuous feedback and motivation.

Kopila Bhandari

July 2019

Abstract

Most of the characters from The Book Thief by Markus Zusak behave different form of gender role practiced conventionally. In conventional gender roles, men are assigned the role of master, decision maker of the house and women as a caregiver, nurturer. But in the text, we can see the reversal of gender roles. The writer gives masculine characteristics to the female and feminine characteristics to the male. Because of the Second World War females have to look after the house. Women become the head of the family and come contact with the outer world. Male starts to perform feminine roles because he lacks power in the critical time. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak is seen from the perspective of gender studies of Judith Butler, Judith Halberstam, Cora Kaplan and David Glover tell us about the changes take place in gender roles.

Keywords: Gender, Holocaust, Masculinity, Femininity, Conventional Gender Roles