

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Commodification of Human Subjectivity in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*

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

By

Ravi Lal Mijar

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Recommendation**

Ravi Lal Mijar has completed his thesis, entitled “Commodification of Human Subjectivity in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*”, under my supervision. He carried out his research from May 2013 to August 2013. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Saroj Sharma Ghimire

Supervisor

Date: -----

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of English**

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis, entitled “Commodification of Human Subjectivity in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*”, has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ravi Lal Mijar, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

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Internal Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_

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External Examiner

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\_\_\_\_\_

Head  
Central Department of English

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Ravi Lal Mijar

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## Abstract

This thesis, "Commodification of Human Subjectivity in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*" focuses on stories of Ha Jin to show the issue of commodification of human values. The researcher shades light upon the miserable existence of proletariates on the one hand and the extreme form of domination by the bourgeois on the other. Ha Jin commences with the ingredients of capitalist society in order to prove his writing as a evidence of brutal acts of bourgeois and its effect upon the society. The research explores the stories such as "The Richest Man" which commodifies Li Wan materializing everything, even the norms of Mao; "Emperor" shows the commodification of labour value; "New Arrival" reduces Ning, the woman's values as commodity; "Fortune" promotes the utilitarianism depicting the misery of Tang Hu and "In Broad Daylight" shows the obligatory situation of women by providing the picture of a prostitute serving her master all the day and night. Thus, the researcher argues that *Under the Red Flag* exposes the horrors and evils of capitalism which has commodified everything and takes Ha Jin's critique of such commodification as critique of capitalism on humanitarian ground.

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