

Tribhuvan University

A Recovered Self in Olaudah Equiano's *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* and Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

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

By

Gita Maya Bhattarai

Roll No: 151

Symbol No: 526

T.U. Regd. No: 9-2-289-72-2009

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

December 2017

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Gita Maya Bhattarai has completed the thesis entitled “A Recovered Self in Olaudah Equiano’s *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* and Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*” under my supervision. She carried out this research from Aug 4, 2017 to December 11, 2017. I hereby recommended her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

_____ Hem Lal

Pandey

Supervisor

Date: _____

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “A Recovered Self in Olaudah Equiano’s *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* and Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Gita Maya Bhattarai, 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: _____

Acknowledgement

It is my great pleasure to express my profound gratitude to my respected supervisor Hem Lal Pandey, lecturer at the Central Department of English, for his scholarly guidance, genuine suggestions, valuable instructions, worthy time and inspiration from the very beginning to the completion of this thesis. Without his constant supervision and intellectual guidance, this research work would never have been into the present form.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, head of the Central Department of English, for approval of this thesis in this present shape. I genuinely convey my sincere gratefulness to all the teachers of the Central Department of English for providing the constructive guidelines, valuable suggestions and encouragements during the completion of this research project.

I am heavily indebted to my parents whose blessing and continuous inspirations made me achieve this success in my life. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues and all my well wishers who directly and indirectly helped me to complete my research work.

December 2017

Abstract

The present thesis entitled “A Recovered Self in Equiano’s The Interesting Narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano and Jacobs’s Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” explores the process of changing the mental and physical sufferings of the slave narrators, Equiano and Jacobs. They transform their miseries into strength through autobiographies and contribute to the slavery abolition movement respectively; in Europe and America. Both of the narrators were slaves and sold to different white masters in their early age. They continuously struggle against the system and extricate themselves which reveal the atrocities of slavery system to the world in these two texts. They become the representatives of all those who were bound by the slavery system. Their autobiographies help them to construct a new identity as a writer and as an abolitionist. Here, the researcher believes that they have been able to transform their weaknesses into strength with the help of writing. Their ways of being transformed will be exposed in this paper. To support this claim, the researcher uses ideas and perspectives related to autobiography, slave narrative, scriptotherapy and anti-slavery movement. Thus, in these autobiographies, Equiano and Jacobs explore their miserable condition of slave life and their escape from it. Both of them take the help of writing to recall the past memories and show the miserable conditions of black slaves.