

Tribhuvan University

**Abuse of Women's Human Right in Iran: Questioning the Justification of
Liberation Narrative in Azar Nafisi's Memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement for the Degree of M. Phil. in English**

by

Prakash Paudel

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
T. U. Kirtipur

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Prakash Paudel has completed his thesis entitled "Abuse of Women's Human Right in Iran: Questioning the Justification of Liberation Narrative in Azar Nafisi's Memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from July 2012 to July 2013. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted the final *viva voce*.

Dr. Ram Chandra Poudel
(Supervisor)

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
T. U. Kirtipur

Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled "Abuse of Women's Human Right in Iran: Questioning the Justification of Liberation Narrative in Azar Nafisi's Memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Prakash Paudel has been approved and undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:

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Abstract

In the aftermath of the 9/11, increased U.S. focus on Iran as a part of the military action dubbed as axis of evil has been justified by some humanitarian acts of defending women's human rights and liberating them who are living oppressed under Islamic or authoritarian regime. In this context, Nafisi teaches Western literature to let her seven students know about the universality of human rights in general and women's right in particular. Nafisi's claim of advocating for women's right by giving voice to her students is not valid since she has misrepresented them as the most victims in the Islamic regime in Iran who need teaching of Western literature to talk about democracy, freedom and women's right. So, Nafisi like a typical feminist orientalist that purports to defend freedom, democracy and women's right but she reaffirms that such values are originated from and accessed through western cultural sources thus is steeped in classic Orientalist stereotypes bolstering the rationale of Western intervention to rescue Muslim women from the repression of Islamic regime.

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