

Tribhuvan University

Projection of Private Self via Dream Symbols: A Psychoanalytical Reading of Lessing's *the summer before The Dark*

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in  
Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Rajib Ojha has completed his thesis entitled "Projection of Private Self via Dream Symbols: A Psychoanalytical Reading of Lessing's *The Summer Before The Dark* " under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2070/05/01 B.S. to 2070/11/20 B.S. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Supervisor

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**Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled "Projection of Private Self via Dream Symbols: A Psychoanalytical Reading of Lessing's *The Summer Before The Dark*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Rajib Ojha has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Rajib Ojha

## **Abstract**

This research on Doris Lessing's novel *The Summer Before the Dark* (1970) studies feminine issue of self and identity in oppressive patriarchy through the subconscious and unconscious activities of the protagonist, Kate Brown, a middle aged woman. Interpretation of her unconscious mind in the form of her dreams reflects her search for 'self' and identity. In order to interpret Kate's dream, the research uses Freudian concept of dream symbolism and Helene Cixous' idea of unconscious or dream as a source of achieving freedom elaborated. By writing about Kate's dreams, Doris Lessing represents the feminine self and identity as Cixous views that novelists are but the "allies of representationalism." As her dream of leading independent life is thwarted by oppressive, Kate's desires are repressed which ultimately inspire her to seek her 'self.' Kate frequently dwells upon her dream journey as she identifies her dying with a dying seal in her recurring dreams. She is constantly haunted by her own dream that resembles with her threatened ego and her projection of private self.

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