

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Defiance of Patriarchal Norms in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men***

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

**By**

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**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Bhuwan Prasad Bhatta has completed his thesis entitled "Defiance of Patriarchal Norms in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from May, 2008 to May, 2009. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva-voce.

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Mr.Raj Kumar Baral

Supervisor

Date: May, 2009

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled "Defiance of Patriarchal Norms in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*", submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Anjaleep Prasad Shrestha has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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## **Abstract**

John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is a novella in which Curley and George represent the dominating force, whereas Curley's wife and Lennie are the suppressed ones. Firstly, Curley's wife's resistance to obey her husband's orders shows she is not a demure woman, rather she is against the male hegemony and is ready to fight against any antagonist forces. She is not the stereotypical woman who follows each and every order given by her husband rather she is the rebellious force, who is ready to demand equality in every sector which she deserves too. Mostly it is seen that women are termed just as objects to entertain men and are defined only as beauty and as the weak part of the society, in contrast Curley's wife is presented here with equal audacity to defy such norms and she even has the courage to argue with the male persons with the words of disgust. She presents her deserving argument to lead an equally free life like the men enjoy in the society. Throughout the novel she questions and demands for her freedom, which is not granted by her husband, who as a whole represents the male norms. In short, she is presented as a valiant character in the novel that had every substance to defy the patriarchal norms.

## Contents

	<b>Pages</b>
Letter of Recommendation	
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
<b>I. Introduction</b>	<b>1-9</b>
<b>II. Radical Feminism</b>	<b>10-24</b>
<b>III. Defiance of Patriarchal Restrictions Set by the Male-Society</b>	<b>25-38</b>
Inherent Domination of Lennie in the Novel	33
<b>IV. Conclusion</b>	<b>39-40</b>
<b>Works Cited</b>	

