

Tribhuvan University

Representation of the Male Body in Doris Lessing's *The Grass Is Singing*

**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

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Prabin Kumar Lo has completed his thesis entitled “Representation of the Male Body in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass Is Singing*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2066/05/01 B.S. to 2067/04/31 B.S. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voice.

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Representation of the Male Body in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass Is Singing*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Prabin Kumar Lo has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research on Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing* (1950) examines how masculinity renders females powerless. In the novel, Lessing's protagonist, Mary Turner's desire for sex is met with disgust when she discovers that her husband, Dick lacks virility, by implication he possesses weaker body than herself. So, she gets attracted to her black servant Moses. Her attraction to Moses embodies the power of a virile masculinity, which has made women powerless. So, this thesis argues that Lessing's *The Grass is Singing* privileges the identification of power with heterosexual masculinity, which is manifested through the male body because the dynamics of the triangular relationship involving Mary, Dick and Moses is one that prioritizes gendered relations of power – a relationship in which Mary is rendered powerless.

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