

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Quest for Female Identity in Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*

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

By

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Pushpa Chaudhary has been completed her thesis entitled “Quest for Female Identity in Margaret Atwood`s *Cat`s Eye*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from December 2010 to May 2011. I hereby recommended her thesis be submitted for viva voice.

Date:

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Quest for Female Identity in Margaret Atwood’s *Cat’s Eye*” submitted to the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University, Kiritipur, by Pushpa Chaudhary, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

This research explores a female's search for identity in Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*. The protagonist of the novel Elaine Risely has a strong desire to be a painter but her father and her husband Jon always restrict her creativity and stand as a barrier in her creativity. They are the representative of the patriarchy and patriarchal society creates the utmost obstacle for the female. Elaine is fed up and tied with society which does not let her make self decision and create own identity. But Elaine resists against the patriarchal rules for feminine freedom and to create her own identity as a successful painter. Elaine is victimized physically and mentally by male characters and through her consistent effort female identity and individuality is regained. She fights for the gender inequality and cross the limitations created by male in the society. At first she leaves her parents and lives alone, later after marriage she also leaves her husband who always oppressed her and lives with her daughter. Elaine represents the ideology of female and tries to redraw the boundary of patriarchy which existed in patriarchal society.

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