

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**The Liminal Negotiation between Southern and Northern Chinese  
Cultural Difference in Pearl S. Buck's Novel, *The Good Earth***

**By**

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**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of English, the Faculty of Humanities  
and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the  
Requirements for Master's Degree of Arts in English**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**February, 2007**

## **Acknowledgements**

I owe my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Nirmal Prasad Adhikari, lecturer in the Central Department of English. His invaluable and constructive supervision became greater guideline for me while preparing the thesis. His scholarly guidance became my primary source of inspiration. My debt to him is deep and enduring.

I am also grateful to Prof. Chandra Prasad Sharma, head, Central Department of English, who provided me an opportunity to write the thesis. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my respected teachers, Prof. Dr. S. P. Lohani, Prof. Dr. Abhi Subedi, Dr. K. C. Sharma, Dr. Sanjeeb Upreti and Dr. Arun Gupta for their inspiring suggestions.

I would like to express my thanks to Darpan Bhattarai, Laxman Pandey, Yadav Neupane and Navaraj Khanal who supported me at the time of carrying out my research. I am also grateful to my best friend, Madhu Sudhan Sigdel, for his support to select the text. I express my thanks to Orchid Computer Center for their unforgettable support. I would like to express my deep gratitude to my parents and family for their constant and positive inspiration while preparing it.

Shalik Ram Prasad Aryal

Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

January, 2007.

## **Abstract**

The thesis entitled "The Liminal Negotiation between Southern and Northern Chinese Cultural Difference in Pearl S. Buck's Novel, *The Good Earth*" explores the process of cultural change. Pearl S. Buck, a realist writer, focuses on cultural difference, negotiation between and among different cultural traits and change of cultural identity. Wang Lung, the protagonist in *The Good Earth*, was a poor male figure representing northern Chinese culture. He gradually negotiated with female, western people and people of higher class in liminal space where the identity of both sides interact. So he was able to change both his status and mentality. Culture is totality of human life i.e., culture includes all the aspects of human life. Similarly, cultural difference indicates the dynamic movement of cultural identity. The movement i.e. the change, is possible due to the interaction between different cultural identities and the negotiation between them. The interaction between male and female, higher and lower classes and sophisticated and simple cultural traditions paves the way for cultural negotiation which leads to the cultural change. This interaction and negotiation takes place in a liminal space which is the precondition for cultural change.

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