

Tribhuvan University

Subjugation of Women in Buck's *The Good Earth*

A Thesis Submitted to  
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Rewati Acharya

Symbol. No9692/ 2056

T.U. Regd. 16551-90

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr Rewati Acharya has completed this thesis entitled “Subjugation of Women in Buck's *The Good Earth*” under my supervision. He carried out his study for this purpose from November 2020 to March 2021. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Raj Kumar Bral

(Supervisor)

## Letter of Approval

Thesis entitled “Subjugation of Women in Buck's *The Good Earth*” submitted to the Central Department of English by Mr. Rewati Acharya in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee :

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Raj Kumar Baral

Internal Examiner

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Dr. Mani Bhadra Gautam

External Examiner

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Prof. Jiblal Sapkota, PhD,

Head

Central Department of English

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

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Rewati Acharya

## **Abstract**

The research analyzes Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* and finds that the status of the women in the then Chinese society is miserable. The main objective of this study is show how is O-lan, the main character of the novel, subjugated in her life. The study is based on the close reading of the text and analyzes the situation of O-lan by using references of novel and highlights her subjugated life. Basic concept of feminism and patriarchy mentioned by Thomas Keith, is used as theoretical tool for this study, however, the ideas of Plato and Aristotle have been also used as reference to show how patriarchal socio-economic system plays role to subjugate a woman in a particular construct.

Conclusion of the study is based on the hypothesis that is proved through textual analysis. On the basis of textual analysis, it is found that O-lan has been compelled to believe certain concept about gender roles like that women are for the pleasure and assistance of men; their role is complementary part of men and they should fulfill their natural feminine functions. Due to these reasons, for a long time she is compelled to accept the patriarchal norms practiced by Wang Lung in the novel but that could not go ahead and she resists such so called social norms. As time passes, she searches for her identity in life and realizes herself as the worthy members of the family as well as society. Finally, she resists Wang Lung and value of Chinese society and liberates her from subjugated past life as well as domination of Wang Lung as well as patriarchal domination of male dominated Chinese culture

(Keywords: subordination, slave, subjugation , Patriarchy, infanticide, concubinage)

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