

Tribhuvan University

Search for Maria's Struggle for Existence in Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes*

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Tribhuvan Multiple Campus, Tribhuvan
University in partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By
Shanti Chohan
Symbol No.490028

Department of English
Tribhuvan Multiple Campus

Tansen, Palpa

Jan, 2020

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my great sense of gratitude to my respected research supervisor Lecturer Mr. Utpal Kumar Bajracharya, Head of Department of Compulsory English for his invaluable supervision, constructive comments and suggestions, which helped me to give the final shape of this thesis. This dissertation would never have appeared in its present form without his kind and valuable guidance.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Campus Chief, Mr. Tanka Bhattarai, Assistant Campus Chief of Humanities Faculty Mr. Krishna Bahadur Karki, Head of Department of Optional English Mr. Sudip Bagchi for providing me this golden opportunity and administrative support to complete my thesis. I would also like to thank my respected Lecturers of Tribhuvan Multiple Campus, Tansen, Palpa, Jeevan Bahadur Thapa, Mr. Devesh Kumar Upadhyaya, Mr Neelam Nepal, and Mr Mukta Bhadur Nepali for their support and guidance. Once again I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Utpal Bajracharya for investing his valuable time for correction of this thesis. In the same way I would like to extend my profound gratitude to librarians for granting me permission to study and do analysis of previous thesis for this research.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my familial support. I am deeply thankful to Mr. Yusuph Tamang, my life partner for his full encouragement, emotional support, and co-operation in the completion of this thesis. In the same way I would like to convey my special thanks to my friends who helped me to prepare this research.

Shanti Chohan

Abstract

This study aims to discuss the issue of Maria's struggle for existence in Paulo Coelho's Eleven Minutes (2003) by using an existentialist perspective. Existentialism stands as a branch of philosophy that studies the path of man's effort to exist in the world. A person is best when struggling against their individual nature and fighting for life and human nature is chosen through life choices. The objectives of this study are to identify the indicators of seeking a meaningful life, to describe the depiction of seeking a meaningful life, and to analyze the reason why Paulo Coelho addressed the issue of seeking a meaningful life in the novel. Eleven Minutes raises the issue of Maria's struggle for existence in foreign land who visits Switzerland to fulfill her dream, improve her family condition, find true love and make better existence in society. For better life she becomes a samba dancer but betrayed by agent. She tried modeling but failed. Eventually she chose prostitution and saved enough money for her dream. She also found her true love. Her constant passion, hard work and strong willpower helped her to get success in the struggle for her existence. This study belongs to a descriptive qualitative research. The primary data source is Paulo Coelho's Eleven Minutes novel published in 2003 and the secondary data sources such as books, articles, journals, internet to complete the data analysis. The findings can be found in the study are as following. First, there are five indicators of seeking a meaningful life which are meeting living needs, increasing living standard, improving the quality of life, choosing the right friends, and willingness to change. Second, seeking a meaningful life is depicted in the novel through the characters, style and plot/events. The last is the reason why the author addressed the issue of seeking a meaningful life in his novel such as to reveal the life journey in seeking a meaningful life and also to give motivation to the readers about its quality.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
Cover Page	i
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Search for Maria's Struggle for Existence in Paulo Coelho's <i>Eleven Minutes</i>	
Works Cited	