

Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**A Neo-Marxist Study of the Select Retellings of Mahabharata**” submitted to Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, for the award of **Doctor of Philosophy in English** by **Miss. Kushma Kumari T.V. (18PHENF005)**, during the period of July 2018 to March 2024 in the Department of English, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, under my guidance and supervision, and this work has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree/Diploma/Associateship/Fellowship or other similar titles in any other University or similar Institution of Higher learning.

A. Vijayaraman 13/03/2024
Signature of the Head of the Department

A. Vijayaraman 13/03/2024
Signature of the Supervisor

[Signature] 13.03.2024
Signature of the Dean

Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **“A Neo-Marxist Study of the Select Retellings of Mahabharata”** submitted by me for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is the record of work carried out by me during the period from July 2018 to March 2024 under the guidance of **Dr. A. Vijayarani**, Associate Professor, Department of English, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, and it has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree/Diploma/Associateship/Fellowship or other similar titles in any other University or other similar Institution of Higher learning.

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List of Short Forms

The following short forms have been used in the body of the thesis:

Original Name	Short Forms
Jaya: an Illustrated Retelling of Mahabharata	Jaya
Ajaya: Roll of the Dice	Ajaya
Karna's Wife: an Outcast's Queen	Karna's Wife
Shakuni: Master of the Game	Shakuni

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Fig.1 – Abduction of Kashi Princesses

Fig.2 – Ekalavya's Guru Dakshin

Fig.3 – Disrobing Draupadi

Fig.4 – Karna's Kavach

Fig.5 – Blood Bath at War

Fig.6 – Gandhari's Curse

List of Sanskrit Words

- ❖ Acharya – Guru, Teacher.
- ❖ Adharma – Evil, injustice.
- ❖ Agni – Hindu Fire God.
- ❖ Atharva Veda - The fourth veda, which speaks of magic, spells, etc.
- ❖ Antyaja – Out caste.
- ❖ Anuloma – Hypergamous union of Higher caste man and Lower Caste women.
- ❖ Arthashastra – Study of Statecraft.
- ❖ Aryavarta – Land of noble India, Bharatavarsha.
- ❖ Apsara – Nymph.
- ❖ Asura – Demon.
- ❖ Ashrama – Hermitage.
- ❖ Ayurveda – Ancient Indian system of medicine.
- ❖ Bharatavarsha – Land of King Bharata.
- ❖ Bhasyas – Language.
- ❖ Brahmacharya – Celibacy.
- ❖ Brahma Hatya – Murder of a Brahman.
- ❖ Brahmins – Priestly Caste (highest caste in Indian varna system).
- ❖ Chaturvarna – Four Varna system in ancient India
- ❖ Deva – A Celestial being, A God.
- ❖ Dhanurveda – Science of arm and weapon making.
- ❖ Dharma - Justice, Truth
- ❖ Dharmashastra – Sanskrit texts on law and conduct

- ❖ Dwapara Yuga – Third age of cycle in Hinduism
- ❖ Gandharva – Heavenly warrior
- ❖ Gandharva Veda – Study of all art forms (Music, dance, theatre art and poetry)
- ❖ Garhasthya – Second stage in Brahmanic ashram, duties and responsibility of household.
- ❖ Guru – Master
- ❖ Guru Dakshin - A formal fees or gift given to master by the pupils by the end of their tutelage is complete
- ❖ Gurukulam – A type of ancient education system.
- ❖ Jyotish Shastra – Study of Hindu astrology
- ❖ Kali Yuga – The fourth age of cycle Hinduism
- ❖ Kshatriyas – The warrior caste; often kings and ruler (second highest caste in Indian Varna system)
- ❖ Kula Dharma – Acting according to the rules and regulation of ones' own caste.
- ❖ Melcha – Barbaric / uncivilised people.
- ❖ Nagas – An ancient tribe, literally means 'serpent'
- ❖ Nishadas – A hunter tribe.
- ❖ Bharatavarsha - Country named after King Bharata.
- ❖ Pisachas – Flesh eating demon in Hindu mythology, one among the eight types of Hindu marriage in Vedic literature.
- ❖ Prajapati – The great creator deity of Vedic period of ancient India, One among the eight types of Hindu marriage in Vedic literature.
- ❖ Pratiloma – Hypogamous union of higher caste women and lower caste men.

- ❖ Rakshasa – Mythological evil being.
- ❖ Rakshasi – Female mythological evil being.
- ❖ Rig Veda – The first Veda.
- ❖ Rishi – A Hindu sage or saint.
- ❖ Saba – Court or assembly
- ❖ Sama Veda - One among the four Veda in Hinduism.
- ❖ Sannyasa – Life of renunciation, one among four stages of life in Hinduism.
- ❖ Shastras – Rules, codes, traditions, science, specialised knowledge
- ❖ Sati – Ancient practice of widows sacrificing her life upon deceased husband's funeral pyre.
- ❖ Shudras – Lowest of Four varnas.
- ❖ Shruthi – Sacred recitation text
- ❖ Sthapatyaveda – Study of Architecture.
- ❖ Suta putra – Son of a Charioteer.
- ❖ Sutras – Charioteer caste.
- ❖ Swarga – One of the seven higher lokas in Hindu mythology.
- ❖ Swayamvara – Ancient Indian customs wherein a girl chose her groom from a gathering of suitors, sometimes through a competition.
- ❖ Vaishiya – Merchant Caste
- ❖ Vanaprastha – Third among the four stages of life in Hinduism, lives admits forests.
- ❖ Varna –Literally means 'colour', also means social group.
- ❖ Varanavata – House of lac given to Panadavas.

- ❖ Vastu Shastra - Study of Architecture
- ❖ Veda – The four holy books of Hindus (*Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharvana*) considered possessing all wisdom of the world.
- ❖ Upanishads – Collection of holy books, along with commentaries, which forms the basis of Indian philosophical thought
- ❖ Upavedas – Study of medicine, architecture, art forms and making of weapons.
- ❖ Yajur Veda – one among the four Vedas consists of prose mantras worship rituals.
- ❖ Yagnas – Sacrifice.