

Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis titled “Realisation of Self through Resilience to Social Change: A Study of the select novels of Mo Yan”, submitted to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in English** is a record of original research work done by Ms. R. Reeni during the period 2016-2020 of her research in the Department of English at PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, under my supervision and guidance and that the thesis has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree /Diploma /Associateship /Fellowship or other similar title of any candidate of any University.

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Declaration

I, **R. Reeni**, hereby declare that the thesis, titled “**Realisation of Self through Resilience to Social Change: A Study of the select novels of Mo Yan**”, submitted to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature** is a record of original and independent research work done by me during the period 2016-2020 under the supervision and guidance of **Dr. (Mrs). Sushil Mary Mathews, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.**, Head and Associate Professor, Department of English, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women and it has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree/Diploma/Associateship/Fellowship or other similar title of any candidate of any University.



Signature of the Candidate

Certificate of Genuineness of the Publication

This is to certify that Ph.D. candidate **R. Reeni** working under my supervision has published two research articles in the following standard UGC approved; peer reviewed, indexed, and, refereed journals

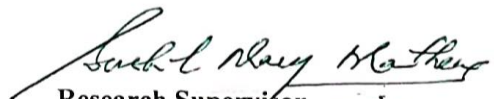
1. Published paper titled "Sense of Alienation in Taslima Nasrin's *Lajja*" in **International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts** with impact factor 5.97, ISSN 2320-2882, Vol. 6 Issue 1, Page Nos. 1250-1252 and year of publication February 2018, published by **IJCRT**.
2. Published paper entitled "A Woman's Psyche and Metamorphosis of the soul in *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang" in **Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research** with impact factor 5.87, ISSN – 2349-5162, Vol 5, Issue 11, Page Nos. 687-689 and year of publication November 2018, published by **JETIR**.

The contents of the publications incorporate part of the ideas, and results presented in her thesis.

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Abstract

Chinese Literature dates back to the philosophical learning of Confucius (551-479 BC) and Lao Tzu (4th BC). Developed in the cradle of its oldest civilization, from the ancient folktales to avant-garde style of writing the literature has come a long way. China's geographical vastness is reflected in its literature which has shown diversity in every era and genre. The native writers have brought in the involvement of culture, tradition and its people through the texts which changed alongside China's political phenomenon giving rise to a world-class literature.

Mo Yan, one of the most prolific authors and a world class writer whose oxymoronic name - *Guan Moye* which means 'do not speak' was born in 1955, in a peasant family of Gaomi Township, Shandong, China. Serving the Army in his early twenties, he started writing while he was still a soldier. Mo Yan wrote, his first novella, *A Transparent Radish* in 1984, after which he launched his career with the release of *Red Sorghum* (1987) which made him a recognized national writer.

Guan Moye chose to write under the pen name of Mo Yan, in accordance with the revolutionary situations in China, where any individual who verbalized his/her ideas and thoughts was muted. Mo Yan was influenced by the literary figures of Western world like- William Faulkner and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. His entire oeuvre includes thirty novels, several novellas, short story collections translated into many languages, speeches and essays in Chinese. Some notable works are- *The Garlic Ballads* (1988), *The Republic of Wine* (1992), *Shifu: You'll do Anything for a Laugh* (2000), *The Wall Can Sing* (60

essays, 1981-2011). Several of his works have been translated into English by Howard Goldblatt, a Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

Mo Yan's first popular novel *Red Sorghum* (1987), which rose to fame is a non-chronological history of the Shandong dynasty spanning three generations. The author's style works at bringing up China's much talked history in a non provoking manner. He focuses on historical events like the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), war against Japanese Aggression (1937-1945) and Communist Revolution (1948-1952), blending hallucinatory realism with black humor. Mo Yan received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2012 for "hallucinatory realism merging with folk tales, history and the contemporary".

This thesis entitled- " Realisation of Self through Resilience to Social Change : A Study of the Select Novels of Mo Yan " presents an analysis of a society dealing with conflicts of 20th Century China, bringing into the light the paradigms of human resilience and social change through the novels. It also deals with China's Milieu - People, Culture, History, and Politics.

The Introductory chapter gives a brief insight into the plethora of Chinese Literature from folklore, dynastic literature, the ancient native writers, philosophers to author's contemporaries of Chinese propagandists' literature and Root Seeking Literature. This chapter also discusses the uniqueness and credibility of style in Modern Chinese Literature, putting Mo Yan's literariness onto the stands of World Literature. The author's translated works relating to socio-political milieu of China are discussed. A

brief overview of the selected novels is given along with the framework of following chapters.

The Theme of social politics is imbibed in the plot of Mo Yan's narratives; the journey from identification of individual's role to societal change is dealt with in the research. Chapter II entitled "Identifying Self in Society" uses the theory of Symbolic Interactionism in identifying the appropriate characters from the novels, which brings out the importance of the individual's role in Society. Factors of the Interactionist theory help the characters find the conflicting factors in the society.

The leadership quality and Role Taking of Commander Yu Zhan'ao and Douguan from (*Red Sorghum*), and Mother from (*Big Breasts and Wide Hips*) help the villagers to fight against the odds. The author talks about the characters from a ground zero level to that of the higher ups in the society. A difference in people or society's behavior, role, and identifying their worth leads to a temporary change, leading to conflict in either person or the entire society

Social structures exist in conflict and either resolve or enhance the problems. Chapter III titled "Human Resilience in a Conflicting Society" studies the disturbing events from the novels to show the level of the influence of conflict in the society. Social Resilience is used to analyze the transformation that characters undergo during the conflict which leads to change. Individual Resilience of Gao Yang (*The Garlic Ballads*) and Mother (*Big Breasts and Wide Hips*) helps them to overcome the destitute situation in the novels. The solution comes through the process of coping with, adapting, and

transforming of the self along with the structures of society. The social inequalities and conflict sometimes bring out individual's potential which helps in transforming society.

A state of prominent shift in its structure is what Social Change is all about.

Chapter IV - titled "Societal Change" deals with the characters' ability to change themselves according to the situation, leading to the change for their betterment and also for the society's development. The chapter is about equilibrium in society along with transformation in man and society. Mo Yan's novels also show variety in their plots, mainly dealing with China's Post Mao Era and its social background.

Chapter V titled "Stylistics" explains the key aspects of Mo Yan receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature (2012). This chapter provides a wide outlook - towards Mo Yan's versatility in style and technique which is used satirically to attack the political hypocrisy in China, focusing on his use of Chinese Folktales blending with hallucinatory realism and contemporary black humor technique. Contributions of Howard Goldblatt to the English translations are also viewed along with instances from the novel to cite the resourcefulness of the author, translator pair.

Chapter VI is the "Summation" that helps to culminate all the ideas discussed in previous chapters. Findings of the study are detailed through characters from the novels and their outcome. There are references to the real life case study of a personality (social activist) from China who had their realisation of social self through human resilience leading to social change; people who transformed their life and thereby became an example for society. The thesis is an attempt at understanding an author's work and its

outreach to a common society is to perceive the ways in understanding an individual's resilience to conflict resulting in Social Change.