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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Keziah Priyanka F (Registration Number: 2070514), PhD scholar at the School of Arts and Humanities, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 14 February 2025 at 2.30 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis	:	Light Beyond the Border: Undeterred Resilience of North Korean Women in Select Memoirs
Discipline	:	English Studies
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Shivaji Sargar Professor Department of English University of Mumbai Kalina Campus, Vidyanagari Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400098 Maharashtra
External Examiner - II	:	Dr A Sheeba Princess Associate Professor Department of English Bishop Heber College Trichy - 620017 Tamil Nadu
Supervisor	:	Dr Sharon J Assistant Professor Department of English and Cultural Studies School of Arts and Humanities CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru – 560029 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03 February 2025



Registrar

ABSTRACT

The oppression and marginalization of women represent an issue within the secretive confines of North Korea, one of the worlds most closed off governments. This research delves into the facets of gender-based discrimination, in North Korea drawing insights from memoirs penned by Korean women to gain a deeper understanding of their lived experiences. Feminist scholarship has extensively examined the dynamics of gender oppression and the diverse approaches women employ to navigate, resist and overcome these challenges. This study focuses on themes such as subjugation, resistance and resilience among women with an emphasis on their struggles and triumphs. Through the lens of memoirs written by women we gain valuable insights into the arduous realities faced in everyday life under totalitarian rule. The selected memoirs for analysis include Yeonmi Park's *In Order to Live; A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom*, Lucia Jang's *Stars Between Sun and Moon; One Woman's Life in North Korea and Escape to Freedom*, Eunsun Kim's *A Thousand Miles to Freedom; My Escape from North Korea* and Jihyun Parks *The Hard Road Out; One Woman's Escape from North Korea*.

This study scrutinizes the mechanisms through which women experience oppression examining the web of structures that perpetuate their marginalization and exploitation. The study also delves into the process of moving from being oppressed to resisting particularly examining how women strategically wield power as a form of rebellion. They employ methods to undermine and challenge the existing structures that seek to control them. It also delves into the idea of resilience showcasing how women persevere and recover from the challenges brought about by systems showcasing their ability to thrive despite obstacles. This study aims to offer a contribution, to the feminist discourse by thoroughly exploring these core issues. It strives to present perspectives on the mechanisms of oppression and the remarkable ways in which women resist and triumph over their circumstances. The challenging journey of escaping from North Korea and China marked by peril and uncertainty illustrates their resilience and unyielding quest for freedom ingrained in human nature. The examination of these account's sheds light on the collective struggles of North Korean women serving as a tribute, to their enduring strength and bravery.

Keywords: North Korea, Women, Memoirs, Oppression, Resistance, Resilience

Publications:

1. **Keziah Priyanka F, Sharon J** - Defiance in the Shadows: Flames of Resilience in the Selected North Korean Memoirs. *World Journal of English Language*, vol. 14, no. 3, Feb. 2024, p. 188.
<https://doi.org/10.5430/wjel.v14n3p188>
2. **Keziah Priyanka F, Sharon J** - Narrating Trauma as Victims of Human Trafficking in China: A Study on Select North Korean Memoirs (Accepted in *World Journal of English Language*, vol.15, no. 1, January 2025)