Declaration

I, R. Brindadevi, hereby declare that the thesis titled Revelation of Inner Conflict in the Select Novels of Githa Hariharan submitted to Periyar University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English, is a record of original and independent research work done by me during the period (2011 – 2016) under the supervision and valuable guidance of Dr. A. Selvalakshmi, Assistant Professor, Sri Sarada College for Women (Autonomous), Salem and it has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree / Diploma / Associateship / Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate in any University.

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Place: Salem
Date: 30-03-16

Signature of the Candidate
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Note on Abbreviations
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The following novels of Githa Hariharan are referred to as follows in the present study:

- *The Thousand Faces of Night* - TFN
- *The Ghosts of Vasu Master* - GVM
- *When Dreams Travel* - WDT
- *In Times of Siege* - TOS
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Abstract

Identity crisis is the most important conflict faced by people today. Identity crisis is a period of uncertainty and disarray in which an individual’s sense of identity becomes insecure, normally because of a change in their expected aims or their role in the society. The formation of identity is a standout amongst the most essential parts of an individual’s life. In today’s rapidly evolving world, identity crisis is more common. Individual identity is a basic human need. These conflicts are certainly not only confined to the teenagers, but also people tend to encounter them throughout their life.

The present research entitled, “Revelation of Inner Conflict in the Select Novels of Githa Hariharan” analyses the following novels: *The Thousand Faces of Night, The Ghosts of Vasu Master, When Dreams Travel* and *In Times of Siege*. The study attempts to enumerate the serious problem faced by the people of the contemporary world and how in the long run they retaliate and retort at the injustice meted out to them and finally how they find their identity is analysed. The present study is divided into five chapters: 1. Introduction 2. Identity Crisis 3. Re-Vision 4. Transformation and 5. Summation.

The introductory chapter aims at bringing forth the development and value of Indian Novel in English, taking into consideration the substantial contribution made by the male as well as female writers to the development of Indian Novel in English. A brief survey of the key themes of Pre-Independence and Post-Independence era is undertaken and in particular the plight of women in the pre and post independent context is brought out. Moreover, the role played by both men and women writers of India and their versatility to focus on the varied issues, namely, the social and national
issues, besides gender injustice is highlighted. The chapter exhibits a brief analysis of the works of Githa Hariharan. The relevance, aims and objectives and the hypothesis formulated are stated in the chapter.

The second chapter "Identity Crisis" makes an in-depth analysis of the compatibility between Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory and identity crisis. Its thrust is upon the identity crisis of men as well as women as they are doubly marginalised in the contemporary world. Their enmeshed state under the chaffing presences of patriarchy laid bare by the author under study is dealt. It also deals with the inner conflict and the dilemma confronted by the people in the clash of life. The chapter also concentrates on the true issues confronted by the people and the author additionally focuses on more extensive subjects of social, political and cultural significance. The fears felt by individuals in different situations are described clearly in this chapter.

The next chapter "Re-Vision" enumerates the re-writing of the myths, history or fables, which is essentially a postmodern technique, (which is called 'revisionism'). This chapter analyses how the author uses the genre of fiction as a medium to transmit the culture to learners exhibiting the Indian myths in a detailed manner and also shows how myth making is used as a survival strategy for people who survive even in the odd situations of their life and examines the survival tactic of her characters.

The pen-ultimate chapter "Transformation" deals with the image of rebellious protagonists and their varied ways of protest against their oppression. The infliction they faced in terms of culture, religion, society and family and the way they embrace and encounter is unfurled. To assert their identity and to come out of exploitation and subjugation, how these protagonists turn rebellious is discussed. Also how the
protagonists revolt against the traditional norms and fight for equality and how they transform themselves is analysed.

The concluding chapter "Summation" summarizes the findings of the research undertaken and pinpoints the immense contribution of the author under consideration for the upliftment of the people of contemporary world by laying bare the perennial problems that suffocate them and the means to liberate them from the same. The true nationalist spirit of the author in solving the multifarious national and social issues through the insight and awareness offered is highlighted. It moreover hints at the further scope and areas for future research.

The final chapter briefs the argument and makes a list of findings deduced from the discussion of the subjugated, marginalized, rebellious, liberated and emancipated characters in Hariharan’s novels. She presents the vital reality and makes aware of the miseries of the characters and injustices done to them by their counterparts in the patriarchal society. The need for identity is the message in her novels.
Githa Hariharan – Commonwealth Writer’s Prize Awardee (1993)
(b. 1954)