

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
KHIN MYO CHIT'S AND CATHERINE LIM'S
LITERARY STYLES**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with a comparative socio-literary-linguistic study of the roles of women as portrayed by Khin Myo Chit and Catherine Lim. Their portrayal of the roles of women is studied through seven stages which can be defined by the respective specific role of women at each stage. Women are categorised as girl-children, daughters, wives, daughters-in-law, mothers, mothers-in-law and grandmothers. Role study is made on eight short stories of Khin Myo Chit and seven of Catherine Lim, totalling fifteen. Role study is made from three sociological perspectives: functional, conflict and interpretive perspectives. This study is accompanied by the study of literary and linguistic features which support the portrayal of women characters. Then stylistic analysis is made at the semantic level, syntactic level, and graphological level. Then the message of each author that conveys about 'the real world' is investigated through the discourse level. Finally, effectiveness of portrayal is evaluated through the effective use of appropriate language. For evaluation of effective role portrayal, appropriate stylistic analysis is carried out. Then credibility of character-creation is examined by the degree of their reflectivity to the society. Thus the study has found out the credibility and reflectivity of characters to reality found in Myanmar society and Singaporean Chinese society.