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Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis titled "**Acquiescence and Resistance: A Study of Select Dalit Women's Autobiographies in English Translation**" is the result of the research work of Ripunjoy Bezbaruah, carried out under my supervision and is being submitted to Bodoland University for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English, under Faculty of Languages. This thesis has not been previously submitted in part or wholly to any other institution for award of any other degree or diploma.

This thesis conforms to the standards of Ph.D. Thesis under Bodoland University including the standard related to plagiarism and has a similarity index not more than 10% excluding Bibliography.

This may be placed before the examiners for evaluation for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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Declaration

I, Sri Ripunjoy Bezbaruah, do hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Acquiescence and Resistance: A Study of Select Dalit Women’s Autobiographies in English Translation**”, submitted to the Dept. of English, Faculty of Languages, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar in partial fulfilment for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English is my own investigation and original research work done under the supervision of Dr. Manab Medhi. I also assure that neither this thesis nor any part of it has been submitted to any university or institution for degree or diploma.

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PREFACE

My motivation for writing this thesis is deeply personal and intricately connected with my longstanding academic interest in Dalit literature, gender studies, and social justice. Born and raised in India, I witnessed firsthand the harsh realities and stark disparities of the caste system. Over the years, these observations transformed into an insatiable quest for understanding and advocating for equality and justice.

As I delved deeper into the literature and narratives that arose from the margins of our society, I was profoundly moved by the autobiographies of Dalit women. They were powerful testimonies of resilience and resistance, etching a stark portrait of the intersecting oppressions of caste and gender. Yet, these narratives were not just about pain and suffering; they also captured the authors' unwavering spirit, their ceaseless struggle for dignity, and their relentless pursuit of self-emancipation.

However, these narratives remained under-explored and under-appreciated despite their richness and significance. I felt a compelling need to bridge this gap, to bring these voices from the periphery to the mainstream, to shine a light on the secret lives and the silent struggles of Dalit women. It was this driving force that led to the conception of this work.

Through this thesis, I intend to present a thorough analysis of these influential autobiographies, providing a comparative perspective of Dalit women's lives in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. I hope that the thesis will catalyse dialogue and discussion, promoting a deeper understanding of the caste system, gender discrimination, and the transformative power of self-expression and resistance.