



**THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY**  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam



**BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Republic of the Philippines

**NONVIOLENCE GLEANED FROM SELECTED WORKS OF  
MAHATMA GANDHI AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

A Dissertation  
Presented to the  
Faculty of Graduate School  
Batangas State University  
Batangas City, Philippines

In Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy  
Major in English

By

**LE THI THU HUONG**  
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### APPROVAL SHEET

This dissertation entitled "**NONVIOLENCE GLEANED FROM SELECTED WORKS OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**" prepared and submitted by **LE THI THU HUONG** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy major in English has been examined and is recommended for Oral Examination.

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## ABSTRACT

Title: **NONVIOLENCE GLEANED FROM SELECTED WORKS OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Author: Le Thi Thu Huong

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### Summary

This study analyzed the philosophy of nonviolence as embodied in the selected literary pieces of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. pointing out the events and situations which show the teachings on nonviolence which may be drawn from the analysis that may benefit the Vietnamese students. Likewise, this paper tried to present the historical root of nonviolence in India and the United States; nonviolence as dealt within the selected works; the humanitarian issues given focus on each of the selections, and the rhetorical devices used by the writers in projecting the humanitarian issues particularly nonviolence.

This study employed the qualitative method of research in analyzing Gandhi's and King's concept of nonviolence in the representative literary works



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chosen. Likewise, this analysis used the historical, sociological and philosophical approaches as the bases for analysis. In particular, the sociological and historical approaches were supported by Teixeira's Theory of Nonviolence, while the philosophical approach was supported by Holmes' Theory of Nonviolence.

This paper also involved content analysis, which is a systematic technique in analyzing message content and message handling. The data analysis in this research centered on pattern seeking and the extraction of meaning from Gandhi's and King's selected literary narrative or image data. The essential features in the treatment of materials were considered in the conduct of this study. The general rules cited by Stott (2014) as regards the seven standards pieces of literature were considered in the selection of works under study.

The representative literary works analyzed were *Young India*, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, and *Harijan* by Mahatma Gandhi and *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, *Letter from Birmingham City Jail* and *I Have a Dream* by Martin Luther King, Jr. From these literatures, readers will be able to see in them the seeds of all these two writers' most important teachings. The said selections were chosen because of their correlation with



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the cited theme and subthemes.

Findings of the study revealed that nonviolence originated among a few of the forest sages of India about three thousand years ago, crossed the seas and came to America 2,000 years after and read by Henry David Thoreau, who was later inspired to write nonviolent protest against the war by the United States government against Mexico. Both Martin Luther King and Gandhi were nonviolent advocates who gained tremendous inspiration from their faith traditions and were able to perform tremendous feats of courage through the implementation of non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi viewed nonviolence as a philosophy of life while Martin Luther King, Jr. viewed nonviolence as a political strategy.

The representative literary works of Gandhi and King may be considered as a socio-philosophical document showing the humanitarian issues of their times in India and America. To give deeper meanings on the concept of nonviolence and a logical framework to their works through language as well as to motivate readers' imagination to visualize the characters and scenes more clearly, Gandhi and King employed various literary devices in the selected literary pieces. The Vietnamese students can glean teachings on nonviolence from the representative literary works of Gandhi and King and



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imbibe the letters' spirit and carry forward their legacy by practicing daily the non-violent principle. The new Vietnamese students are certainly at hand, with literature and thoughts intertwined through the identified literary nonviolent advocates.



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## **DEDICATION**

To my ever dearest son, Lam Hoang Minh.

**LE THI THU HUONG**



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