

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Du Bosian Double Consciousness in Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Ellison's *Invisible Man*

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The thesis entitled Du Bosian Double Consciousness in Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Ellison's *Invisible Man* submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Til Prasad Poudel has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## ABSTRACT

Double consciousness, defined by Du Bois as the African American's sense of always looking at himself through the eyes of White Americans, is examined in the present thesis, in the light of two African-American novels; Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. The locus of the research is that double consciousness is indeed a source of frustration for a large number of the fictional characters, but that it doesn't always result in frustration and alienation. This is due to the fact that some of the protagonists are not only capable of minimizing the anxieties that double consciousness sometimes produces, but of avoiding them altogether. Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* calls attention to the media and American standards of beauty as factors that create a sense of twoness among African-Americans who see themselves as a mark of ugliness and abnormality. In Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, the protagonist's quest to make American way, and his growing identification with his community, reveal double consciousness as a desire to transcend a state of liminality and achieve union in community.

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