

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Race and Gender in Black Life: Highlighting Conflict and
Resistance in *Mules and Men***

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

Sanjeev Kumar Yadav

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

October, 2010

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Sanjeev Kumar Yadav has completed this thesis entitled "Race and Gender in Black Life: Highlighting Conflict and Resistance in *Mules and Men*" under my supervision. He carried out this research from April 2010 to October 2010. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for viva-voce.

Jiva Nath Lamsal
Supervisor

Date: August 2010

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "**Race and Gender in Black Life: highlighting conflict and resistance in *Mules and Men***" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Yadav has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External examiner

Head

Central Department Of English

Date:

Acknowledgements

This dissertation has been possible with the scholarly guidance of my thesis supervisor Mr. Jiva Nath Lamsal of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, I express my convivial gratitude to him.

I am thankful to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, head of Central Department of English, TU, Kirtipur for his impetus and motivation.

Similarly, I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to all my teachers who helped me in many ways.

I am particularly thankful to my brothers Mr. Gopal Yadav and Mr. Rabindra Chaudhary for their all kinds of supports and guidance up to this time. I would remiss if I do not mention my father, Mr. Ram Narayan Yadav and mother, Mrs. Ram Sunair Yadav for their encouragement.

Last, but not the least, I would like to thank Mr. Ram Chandra Bhatta of Violent Computer Center for his excellent computer work.

October, 2010

Sanjeev Kumar Yadav

Abstract

The present research is an attempt to explore the conflict and resistance between black and white men and women through the folktales with reference to Hurston's *Mules and Men*. It also highlights the theme of slavery and freedom, gender in a attempt to dramatize resistance on the parts of African-American through folktales. In this process, I have tried to define racism, gender, their historical development and how they affect lives of both black and white in the course of social dealing. It has also tried to explore how continuing role folktales play in black people's struggles with economic and racial oppression. The research also explores how folklore functions in conflict between men and women, showing both how men use folktales to reinforce and legitimate oppression of women and how women use them to fight against a subservient role and asset their power.

Content

	Page
Approval Letter	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
Chapter I Introduction to Zora Neale Hurston and Her Work	1-8
Chapter - II Racism: A Methodological Overview	9-21
Chapter III Race: Conflict and Resistance in <i>Mules and Men</i>	22-37
Chapter IV Conclusion	38-40
Works Cited	