

Tribhuvan University

Representation of Harlem Renaissance Spirit in Jean Toomer's *Cane*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

Shanta Dhakal

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

March 2010

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled, "Representation of Harlem Renaissance Spirit in Jean Toomer's *Cane*" has been prepared by Shanta Dhakal under my supervision. I recommend this thesis to be submitted for the viva voce.

Mr. Hem Lal Pandey
Central Department of English
T.U. Kirtipur
Date:.....

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Representation of Harlem Renaissance Spirit in Jean Toomer’s *Cane*” is submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Shanta Dhakal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

Inspiration and guidance always play a vital role in every sphere of human life and the present thesis has come to the present shape out of the inspiration and guidance of the people mentioned below. I will always remain grateful to them.

First and foremost, I would like to enunciate my earnest gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Hem Lal Pandey, for his scholarly guidance, perennial support, and perpetual advices, which enabled me to complete the research.

I am profoundly grateful to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of Central Department of English, Kirtipur, granting me the opportunity to carry out this research work. I am truly grateful to my respected lecturers, Dr. Arun Gupto, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti, Dr. Shiva Rijal, Dr. Birendra Pandey, Mr. Saroj Ghimire, Mr. Shankar Subedi, Mr. Puspa Acharya, Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya, and Mr. Maheshwar Paudel of Central Department of English, who implicitly or explicitly guided me in my pursuit. Their instructions and suggestions for the research are highly praiseworthy.

I am much indebted to my husband Mr. Maheshwar Marahatta for his financial support, love, encouragement and environment he has created for my study. Also I couldn't forget my all respected parents, brothers and sisters.

Likewise my sincere thanks go to my friends Uma, Hemantika, Manju and Anita for their help, inspiration and affectionate words which created warm environment for me to complete the research successfully.

March 2010

Shanta Dhakal

Abstract

Jean Toomer's *Cane* stands as an outstanding novel which highlights the African American culture of the Harlem Renaissance period. Harlem Renaissance refers to the flowering of African American cultural and intellectual life during the 1920s.

Karintha, Carma, Dorris, Kabnis, Halsey, Hanby are the black characters in the novel who attempt to uplift the African American culture through music, dance, art, literature, language and so on. Kabnis, the main protagonist of the novel, goes to South in Georgia to teach in a school in the hope of discovering his root that marks the novelist's exploration of the root of African American people to preserve their identity and culture.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
I. Old Negro vs New Negro	1-10
Old Negro: More of Myth than a Man	1
New Negro: A Self Conscious and Self-Respected Man	3
Jean Toomer: A New Negro Writer	5
Critical review of Literature	7
II. Harlem Renaissance and African American Culture	11-25
Music	12
Dance	14
Art	15
Literature	16
Language	17
Hairstyle	18
Life Events	18
Cuisine	20
Race and Racism	21
Race Relations	22
The New Negro Renaissance and Its Spirit	24
III. Representation of African American Culture in <i>Cane</i>	26-46
IV. Conclusion	47-49
Works Cited	