

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Articulation of African American Identity in Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for degree of the  
Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**Approval Letter**

The thesis entitled **Articulation of African American Identity in Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Kiran Thapa has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr Kiran Thapa has completed his thesis entitled **Articulation of African American Identity in Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth*** under my supervision. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Dr. Tara Lal Shrestha  
(Supervisor)

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This research study entitled “Articulation of African American Identity in Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth*” is basically descriptive and analytical. It is hoped that this study will add one brick on the wall and will be beneficial to other researchers and students.

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Kiran Thapa

## **Abstract**

Only culture can be a surest weapon to amend the distorted image of one's own identity. This research focuses on how Ellison rejects the trend of presenting African American culture as that of suppressed community that minimizes the people to be true to stereotypical image. Ellison brings African American culture at the centre of his novel, *Juneteenth*. This novel has really drawn the African American culture into a positive discussion among the wider audience. The black characters in this novel speak out Ellison's vision of liberation and redemption as a complex phenomenon which can never be complete without cooperation, understanding and we-feeling. Likewise, this research has ventured into the process of identity formation. White American like Bliss is not ready to realize his identity as connected with blacks so he tries to evade his identity and as a result meets a tragic destiny. By reflecting the notion of connectedness, Ellison strives to reserve a dignified space for Black culture thereby asserting the fact that black culture is an important stakeholder of American identity without which America remains identity less.

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