# TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

The Construction of Blackness: Reading Langston Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois
A Thesis Submits to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirement for the Degree of Maser of Arts in English
$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$
Bhagawat Prasad Regmi
Central Department of English Kirtipur, Kathmandu
December 2007

### **Tribhuvan University**

## **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

The thesis entitled The Construction of Blackness: Reading Langston Hughes and
W.E.B. Du Bois submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan
University, by Mr. Bhagawat Prasad Regmi 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:

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research titled "The Construction of Blackness: Reading Langston

Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois" has been prepared in partial fulfillment of the
requirement for the Master's Degree in English. I am heartily thankful to Tribhuvan

University, Central Department of English for providing the golden opportunity to
write this thesis.

I am deeply indebted to my respected teachers and supervisor Mr. Bal.

Bahadur Thapa of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University for his guidance that enabled me to bring the thesis to it present forms. I express my sincerest gratitude to him.

Likewise, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, Dr. Beerendra Pandey, Dr. Sanjeev Uprety, Mr. Puspa Acharya respected teachers, and Members of the thesis committee for allowing mean opportunity to do the present research.

The love and inspiration of my family Members equally plays vital role in giving it a new life. I wish to than all my friends specially Nandu and for their invaluable suggestion and co-operation. At the ends, I world like to thank Wowids Computer System Kirtipur for neat printing.

Bhagawat Prasad Regmi
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

#### **ABSTRACT**

Langston Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois in their texts reveal that there is black awareness black utopia in their literature. They also show no place where an African American can escape the equalities of racism. But both of them favour the blackness without hesitation and any shame and resist to white supremacy. However, they create blackness in their culture, literature and even day to day life. Langston Hughes's *The Negro Artists and Racial Mountain* and *Harlem* suggest the resistance of white, supremacy and proclaims the end of racism but culture focusing African American have not yet found a model for thinking and speaking outside the frame of racist ideology. So, Hughes voice wishes the equality, a vision of racial difference. Du Bois in *The Souls of Black Folk* gives expression to his privileging of African American blackness, the problems black's social degradation—Negro social consciousness. He also looks the double - consciousness or one black feels his twoness—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts two warring ideals in one black body and Southern African American problems.

## **CONTENTS**

	Page No.
APPROVAL LETTER	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
ABSTRACT	
Chapter-One: Introduction	1
Chapter-Two: Introduction and Development of Racism	14
History of Racism	16
Racism and America	21
Black culture and Black Tradition	26
Resistance to Inequality, Slavery and Inhumanity	32
Ambivalent: Double Consciousness	38
Chapter-Three: Textual Analysis	44
The Negro Artist and Racial Mountain	44
Harlem	51
Beale Street Lover	54
The Souls of Black folk	56
Conclusion	77
Works cited	81