

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

A Desire for Spatio-Cultural Roots in Haley's Roots

A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English  
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
Master of Arts in English

By

Shova Kanta Aryal

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

June 2007

**Tribhuvan University**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

This thesis entitled **A Desire for Spatio-Cultural Roots in Haley's *Roots*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Shova Kanta Aryal 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**

I am profoundly indebted to my thesis supervisor Mr. Pushpa Raj Acharya for his kind cooperation, guidance and supervision while preparing this research work.

Likewise, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head, Central Department of English for his encouragement and opportunity to carry out the present research.

Similarly, I am grateful to my respected teachers Mr. Shankar Subedi, Mr. Pam Bahadur Gurung, Mr. Govinda Bhattra, Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa and Mr. Rajendra Panthi for their help and encouragement. My veneration goes to my *Gurus* Prof. Dr. Abhi Subedi, Prof. Chandra Prakash Sharma, Prof. Bishnu Raj Pandey, Dr. Sanjeev Upreey, Dr. Beerendra Pandey, and Dr. Arun Gupto for their intellectual impetus. Furthermore, thanks are due to my respected teachers, Mr. Saroj Ghimire, Mr. Sadan Adhikari, Mr. Shuvaraj Ranabhat, Mr. Badri Acharya, and Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari for their constructive suggestions and instructions.

Finally, my sincere thanks are due to my parents especially my mother who supported me with all possible ways. I am also thankful to my brother Mr. Dol Raj Aryal, Mr. Shyam Lal Gyawali and other friends for their technical support and cooperation. CompType Training Centre, Nayabazar has equal share of my thanks for providing me continuous technical assistance.

## **Abstract**

The African characters in Alex Haley's *Roots*, while living an ignoble life in different parts of America, undergo an acute sense of alienation and the trauma of dislocation and exhibit a strong desire to grasp their long lost cultural roots that lie in their homeland. Living in the pool of suffering, pain and estrangement, they get nostalgic about their own past, culture, and land. At the same time, they, along with other exiled Africans, try to adapt the dominant white culture as well as language to achieve an appropriate position there. Despite their attempts to balance themselves between home and abroad, they fail to form a distinct identity in the multicultural milieu of Africa and America. The struggle they undertake for their identity and security of life turns out to be rather disturbing. These characters, living in cultural-in-betweenness, can neither adjust themselves in new culture nor relate themselves with their aboriginal culture except in imagination and reminiscence.

## Contents

Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
<b>Chapter I. Concept of Spatio-Cultural Roots</b>	1-6
<b>Chapter II. Cultural Perspective of Relocation</b>	7-29
Culture	7
Identity and Identity Crisis	10
Location, Dislocation and Displacement	16
Exile	20
Diaspora and Diasporic Discourse	23
<b>Chapter III. A Desire for Spatio-Cultural Roots in Haley's <i>Roots</i></b>	30-62
<b>Chapter IV. Conclusion</b>	63-64
Works Cited	

