

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Conflict between African Cultural Legacy and Modernity in August
Wilson's *The Piano Lesson***

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

By

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Abstract

August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* highlights, through the slave narrative, the conflict between the African cultural legacy and modern liberal tradition, which the sister, Berniece, and the brother, Willie Boy represent respectively. The fulcrum of the conflict in the play is the piano. Boy Willie wants to create his new identity separate from his past slavery through the possession of land which is a sign of modernity in the post slavery era, whereas Berniece's denial to part with the piano reflects her adherence to her ancestors' culture. It brings a serious conflict between the brother and sister.

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