

## **Abstract**

*Song of Solomon* is a novel focusing on the journey to self-discovery of an African-American man written from the perspective of an African-American female author. Treated from the Black female point of view, African-American identity is reinterpreted through the negotiation and dynamic relationship between the mainstream and suppressed ideologies in diverse aspects of race, class, and gender. The reinterpretation of African-American identity leads to the reinscription of the national ideology --- American identity --- as the author's exploration evokes the readers to see American history in a new light, based on African or African-American history.

This thesis aims to explore African-American formation of identity through the lens of space in the novel, since it helps crystallize the dominant ideologies that have tremendous influence on identity construction. Spaces embodying different dominant ideologies can affect the formation of various kinds of identity. Especially, this paper also introduces "heterogeneous space" as the important kind of space enabling a Black individual to combine various ideologies with one's own experience and forming what is called "heterogeneous identity". Through the study of space, it hopes to shed light on identity construction as it is an ongoing process and identity is not fixed or completely predetermined by biology and history.