Afro-American Writing with a history of little over a century and half has come to be regarded as a distinct segment of literature governed by a unique set of themes, conventions, techniques invisible to the white American. Its most significant achievement is in fiction, which is marked by a sensibility and sensitivity hardly encountered before. Among the Afro-American writers who have done commendable work are Richard Wright, Dorothy West, James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison, to mention but a few, in all of whose works there is the strain of identity crisis. These black writers sought to champion the identity and visibility of the negro through the potent weapon of fiction. Today negro novel or Afro-American novel doesn't have the same number of readers as it had a century ago. It has increased readership owing to its great masters in the art of fiction.

The dissertation has five chapters. The opening chapter outlines as much the history of the negro emancipation movement as the career of the negro novelists.

Chapter-2 discusses the negro novelist, his sensibility and sensitivity, his strengths and
weaknesses and his ascent to the pedastal of high art.

In Chapter-3 the contribution of Richard Wright is assessed with reference to his Native Son. Ralph Ellison scales the peak with The Invisible Man and his work is the theme of Chapter-4.

Finally in the Chapter called Conclusion, an evaluation of Afro-American Novel, especially of Ralph Ellison is made.

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