Ellison is a writer of the highest magnitude- one of those original talents who has created a personal idiom to convey his personal vision. It is an idiom compounded of fantasy, distortion and burlesque, highly imaginative and generally surrealistic in effect. Although he is not a prolific writer, he is skilled, impressive and lyrical. He has greatly used folklore and music jointly in his literary work. His fame rests on the strength of a single novel *Invisible Man* which was published in 1952. The novel won number of awards and is never out of print even today. *Invisible Man* shares with older classic works as it is the novel that encompasses much of the American scene and character.

Besides his novel, Ellison has written various short stories which deal with search for self-identity and the characters in Ellison’s also feel alienated in the American soil. Ellison vividly pictures out the deep situated thought through his techniques. He has also written essay *Shadow and Act* (1964) and *Going to the Territory* (1982) where Ellison speaks on different subjects intellectually. He throws light on American culture, history, politics, music and jazz and racial issues between blacks and whites.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters. Chapter I is the study of the history of African Americans’ conditions and their experiences about slavery and the way they overcame the harsh realities of their trauma. This chapter deals the writings of the great African Americans writers of twentieth and twenty first century who expressed their and their ancestors’ life through literary writing.
Chapter II throws light on Ralph Ellison’s life and his works. Ralph Ellison is a multifarious personality, having knowledge of music, sculptor and photography. The chapter goes deep into finding how the person who had an ambition of becoming a symphony composer turned into a writer. The chapter studies the milieu which brought him name and fame in his literary career.

The third chapter includes the major critical theories which make a writer apply his work to make it effective for reading. The theories commence with literary criticism by I. A. Richards and structuralism, modernism, surrealism, realism and others are dealt in nutshell. They are the theories which facilitate the readers to understand the writer’s text.

Chapter IV is based on Ellison’s *Invisible Man*, a novel widely read and taught in various universities. The study is based on the techniques applied by Ellison. Ellison’s great use of folklore material of African American spirituals, symbolism, visual imagery, rhetoric and metaphor of invisibility are included in this chapter.

Chapter V is on Ellison’s short stories especially “Flying Home,” and “The King of the Bingo Game” and others. Ellison’s stories can be divided into two phases: Early Stories and Later Stories. Ellison’s early stories are based on his childhood reminiscences and experiences and deal with the racial issues through the characterization of two young boys, Buster and Riley. Ellison’s later stories deal with the identity and concern going deep into the protagonist’s feelings of alienation. The techniques such as symbolism, imagery, metaphor and others are studied in this chapter.

Chapter VI comprises of Ellison’s essays which are based on the vivid topics such as culture, history, politics of America and on the most popular jazz artists. Ellison’s essays are
often said to contain autobiographical elements. Ellison has written two collections of essays, 
*Shadow and Act* and *Going to the Territory*. The style of bringing out the truth and convincing 
the readers through his essays is a challenge which Ellison succeeds. The different techniques 
such as sharp insightful criticism and analysis are dealt within this chapter.

Chapter VII is the conclusion. The studies in former chapters are summed up. The 
chapter is an assessment of the techniques used in all the above works. The novel and some of 
the stories overlap with the same techniques. The author, in spite of all odds, believes in liberty, 
equality and democracy and he has proved it through his protagonists.