

This dissertation is dedicated

To all those who made it possible for me to reach this point in life,

To those who held my hand and saw me through my doubts,

To those who believed in me when I did not in myself,

To those who laughed and cried and waited with me,

And last (but certainly not the least)

To those who cared enough to plod through these pages right to the end!!!!

This document may bear only my name but I know in my heart that it is the result of all your efforts.... Thank you all.

Transforming Identity in Postcolonial Narrative: An Approach to the Novels of Jessica Hagedorn. E. San Juan, Jr. IT SEEMS ALMOST AN UNAVOIDABLE if somewhat comic necessity now, at least in the academic world, for someone who appears to be from a minority enclave to be labelled a postcolonial scholar or expert.Â Postcolonial criticism today seeks to compensate for the subalternity of people of color by eulogizing their hybrid, in-between, decentered situation. In other words, we need not grieve over the predicament of exploitation, underdevelopment, and marginality. We need to celebrate our Otherness, our difference. Read the full-text online edition of *Negotiating an Anglophone Identity: A Study of the Politics of Recognition and Representation in Cameroon* (2003).Â It captures, with fascinating detail and insight, the current widespread disaffection with the sterile rhetoric of nation-building that has characterised much of postcolonial African politics. Until the liberation struggles of the 1990s, dictatorship only paid lip service to democracy with impunity, often by silencing those perceived to threaten national unity. Since then, individuals and groups have reactivated claims to rights and entitlements and nowhere more so than in Cameroon.