This thesis focuses on the women protagonists in J. California Cooper's Family (1991), In Search of Satisfaction (1994) and Some people some other place (2004). The thesis chronicles the struggle of these particular women within the culture context of the American society, where all the major characters suffer from lack of identity and go through several stages of development before they attain their empowerment and self-fulfillment. Many innovative technical devices are employed by Cooper, such as the renewing and empowering capacity of story telling. The power of narration is fundamental in finding one's own voice and sense of self. It is a step towards emancipation and independence.

Different kinds of narration are used in these three novels. For instance Cooper made use of --Neo-slave narrative|-- in Family. This thesis will investigate the use of slave narrative conventions. Feminist criticism will be applied to the study of the different stages of the protagonists' development.