

## MARGINALISATION AND (UN)BELONGING IN JOHN NKEMNGONG NKENGASONG'S *ACROSS THE MONGOLO*

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### ABSTRACT

This paper explores the concept of the Anglophone and its marginal space which affects the principle of (un)belonging) in John Nkemngong Nkengasong's *Across the Mongolo*, a novel set in the Kamangola postcolonial territory, using the postcolonial theory. The narrative is structured in a way that necessitates the feeling to belong and not to belong so that the narrative voices explore a union whose "oneness and indivisibility" is hampered by the fact of difference in language and culture. How the different cultural and linguistic constructs negotiate space in Nkengasong's *Across the Mongolo* is the main focus of this paper which defends the position that Nkengasong's narrative is built on colonially constructed oppositional binaries. These binaries are inherent in the territorial, cultural and linguistic spaces in Nkengasong's text. Considering the fact that home is a place where one feels at ease, belongs and is comfortable, the Anglophone Kamangolan who represents the Anglophone Cameroonian in the novel does not have a home in his supposed country. His permanent feeling of exile at home is indicative of a bad socio-cultural and political setup and evidently, there can be no peace in such a context where unity is preached but disunity is practiced.

**Keywords:** marginalization, unbelonging, otherness, solidarity.