

**National Taiwan University**  
**Graduate Institute of Foreign Languages and Literatures**  
**2017 PhD Program Admissions Examination**  
**Subject: American Literature (40%)**

Instructions: Write an English essay on the following topic. Support your argument with copious references to pertinent literary texts.

Harriet Beecher Stowe tells us that the “greatest moral effects are like those of music,” achieved not by the “sharpsided grammar of intellect,” but through these words being given “a mysterious fullness of meaning, made living by sweet voices, which seem to be the out-throbbings of angelic hearts.” Words are “melted in by a divine fusion” and the result is this wordless but powerfully affective communication of sound. “Words” not carrying the meaning from where the heart dwells and treasures its passion become pale and thus lose its power of expression to the sound that embodies the affect. While seeking to replicate life experience so as to express the inexpressible, language hence confronts the sound that carries the experience of passion whose powerful and empowering vitality demands a transformative power of dying and rebirth.