

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

After analysing the narrative techniques in Light in August, the present writer notices that William Faulkner uses a variety of points of view by mostly using third person point of view. From the analysis, the narrative techniques greatly support the main idea of the story by using multiple narrators.

William Faulkner, however, uses a different approach. His method is more complicated because he uses a variety of points of view. Each of the characters sometimes views events, and gives opinions and judgement. The reader may get more complete perspective of the character's appearances or their inner feelings. As a result, the narrations are highly subjective. The reader has to understand each of the characters' personality before he or she makes any further judgement.

In this novel, point of view is developed in a different manner. William Faulkner uses third person limited point of view to put the reader inside Joe Christmas's mind, feeling his sensation and struggle to escape from his isolation because he has "Negro" blood and the society cannot accept him. The point of view carries the reader close to the story, as the narrator is restricted to Joe Christmas's mind, adding the sense of realism. Therefore, distance is reduced. However, the point of view does not completely eliminate the distance. The point of view keeps the reader detached enough so that they can view the incident

objectively. The use of third person point of view makes the reader differentiate himself from Joe Christmas, even though he can feel what Joe Christmas feels. The use of point of view can also add reliability to the narrator. From the point of view, the reader can get more information about each of the characters, especially about Joe Christmas. William Faulkner's application of narrative techniques is unique, because he shifts from one technique to another. First, this application makes the reader confused, but later the reader can understand the story better.

William Faulkner uses a different method by employing a great number of narrators, all in subjective first-person point of view. The reader is carried into the minds of the characters; therefore, there is almost no distance between the characters and the reader. The reader may realistically feel how it is to be one character, knowing his or her thought, feeling as he or she feels. After some time the reader has to adapt himself to another person's point of view. Each of the narrators is highly subjective and the reader has to judge by himself whose version is to be relied upon.

Time and tempo play a considerable role in Light in August. The story follows a chronological order with a few flashbacks. William Faulkner wants to make the complicated story less confusing for the reader. However, the flashback gives a clearer explanation of Joe Christmas's character so that it can give more information about Joe Christmas, especially about his personality.

William Faulkner's mastery of narrative techniques is proved in his extensive use of style of language. He can make a great distinction among the characters. Therefore, the reader can easily recognise who is narrating, not only from the obvious chapter title, which presents a name instead of the number of

chapter, but also from the style of language the narrator uses. The reader can feel how each of the characters acts and reacts and can understand his/her motive, so that the reader can feel empathy with Joe Christmas.

The present writer finds Light in August really interesting because Faulkner can combine his narrative technique so well that the story becomes complex and unique but the combination of this technique is so good that the reader can understand the story better.

The present writer finds analysing the novel interesting as it brings him to the realisation that a person cannot live alone and what happened in the past reflects the action in the future. Also, from the analysis of each of the characters through narrative techniques, mainly through point of view, he can learn how to understand others better and not to judge them from their appearances only.