

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In Lolita Nabokov tells about Humbert's obsession with a barely pubescent girl, Lolita. In Humbert's writing, Nabokov writes in details Humbert's journey with Lolita only from Humbert's point of view. From the beginning of the story, Nabokov tries to construct the readers' mind with his style of writing. Humbert is capable of manipulating and abusing a barely pubescent girl, but he speaks about Lolita as the great love of his life. Nabokov wants to make the readers feel empathic about Humbert's deep suffering and sees his memoir as a love story. The present writer thinks that it is an irony. Nabokov describes Humbert as a miserable victim, while the fact is that he is clearly a monster and capable of doing horror things. Nabokov manipulates the readers not to see Humbert as a villain but as a victim, although he is the man who destroys the life of the little girl. His torments have justified what he has done. In this way, Nabokov succeeds in making the readers pity him. It can be seen from how this novel is known as one of the twentieth century's novel of record not to the controversy its material aroused but to its author's use of that material to tell a love story almost shocking in its beauty and tenderness.

The present writer also sees that Nabokov is portraying a pedophile from the pedophile's point of view so that the readers can understand what he is thinking of and how his condition is. However, this technique of writing is very subjective. In this way, he is capable of manipulating the readers to see Humbert as a victim.

The use of beautiful and poetic language also shows Nabokov's art in trying to describe his controversial character. When reading the novel, one might be able to see and understand the reasons behind Humbert's act towards Lolita.

However, after reading Lolita more carefully and closely, the present writer feels that no matter how Nabokov describes Humbert's misery and explains the cause why he performs such a thing, it cannot validate his sin. Actually the victim in this story is Lolita. Humbert has tried to turn her into his fantasy, into his unfinished love, and he has destroyed her. He has taken over Lolita's life. The present writer senses that from the beginning, Humbert has portrayed Lolita to the readers as his creature. He does it first, by naming her, then by taking away Lolita's own real history and replacing it with his own, turning Lolita into a reincarnation of his lost, unfulfilled young love, Annabel. The readers know Lolita not directly, but through Humbert, and not through her own past but through the narrator's past. In this way, she becomes a double victim, not only her life but also her life story is taken away from her.

At first it seems that Humbert is immoral, but with the help of Nabokov's poetic language, he has succeeded in persuading the readers. But ironically, his ability as a poet exposes him as what he actually is. The credibility of Humbert's assertions is exposed by the hidden truth implied by his description. The truth is Humbert is so egoistic. He does not care about Lolita at all, and all he cares about is just his misery that is caused by his obsession.

The present writer thinks that actually there is Humbert in every person. In reality we often see part of Humbert in each person. It is common that if someone has made a mistake, he or she will deny it, or even if the person confesses the fault he or she will

explain the reasons behind the mistake in order to gain sympathy or justification. It is very natural and common, because no one wants to look bad in front of other people. They want to have a good image and to be respected by society, no matter how terrible their personalities are. This is the same as Humbert. Although he is well aware of his sin, still he finds excuses to get sympathy and validation for his sin.

When the book was published in the mid fifties, it was soon banned because of its controversial character. At that time a pedophile issue is considered to break the taboos. The present writer thinks that it seems that some critics have treated the book in the same way as Humbert has treated Lolita. He only sees himself and what he wants to see. He does not consider his pedophilic act a sin. In his opinion, this kind of sexual intercourse is not an uncommon thing because of all the justifications he gives. Moreover, he tells about Lolita's life from his point of view. He has taken over Lolita's life. The readers know Lolita only from Humbert's story. He has created Lolita in his own image that is as Annabel's reincarnation. The critics do the same thing. They cut up books and re-create them in their own image. They consider Lolita improper to be published because it is against the moral standard at that time. They use their own moral standard in taking the decision. The present writer thinks that this act is exactly the same as what Humbert has done towards Lolita. Humbert creates Lolita based on his own image, and do not forget that this is his private journal. The description about Lolita's personality might be not accurate since it is written by Nabokov's through Humbert's point of view. Similar with the critics, they cut up book into a proper book to be published based on their perspective.