

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

Having analysed Nadine Gordimer's novel, July's People, the present writer concludes that the author is very effective in presenting the theme. The present writer comes to the opinion that the theme of the novel is 'it is difficult for one to change one's mindset that has been rooted for so long'. The theme is revealed through the portrayal and actions of the major characters in the novel.

Nadine Gordimer creates some major characters like July and July's family as a black community. They have more or less similar characteristics. As a servant, July is so dutiful and loyal to his master in serving the Smales so that he knows the habit of the Smales. July is very brave for taking his master to his village, because actually he is risking his life and he serves everything for the Smales. Although he is in his village, he still acts as a servant to the Smales.

Other characters are July's mother and Martha. They are black women who feel threatened by the coming of the white people. They always think that white

people are more superior so they can do anything towards the blacks. This way of thinking makes them act in an unfriendly way towards the Smales and makes them feel inferior to the whites.

The last character is Maureen; Nadine Gordimer portrays her as a white woman who is brought to the black community by July. Her life in the village becomes full of despair because she feels that she is very limited to do her daily life and she feels inconvenient for being unaccepted by July's family, which at the end of the novel makes her finally run away from the village.

The present writer comes to the conclusion that Nadine Gordimer has skilfully created contrasting characters in this novel. Gordimer describes July and July's family as ordinary people in a society under the Apartheid system. They have a mindset that what happened in the past cannot easily be altered; whereas Maureen is created to prove how difficult it is for July to become a free man and for July's family to accept white people. The portrayal and actions of the characters play an important role in revealing the theme of the novel, that it is difficult for one to change one's mindset that has been rooted for so long.

The present writer thinks that the theme of this novel is universal. It can happen to anyone any time and at any place. The theme is still relevant to the present condition since there are a lot of people who cannot change their mindset that has been rooted for so long. The present writer notices that this theme may happen to the life of people in any country.

The present writer thinks that this novel is worth reading. It is effectively used to show the negative impacts of the Apartheid system on the blacks. They are

actually their own master in their own country. Nevertheless, their behaviour is rooted in the Apartheid system, in which they are to think that they are inferior to the whites. The present writer is of the opinion that this kind of attitude will hinder the effort to free the blacks in order to become independent people.

The present writer agrees with Nadine Gordimer, an anti-Apartheid white writer who strictly refuses the system, that the Apartheid system gives benefit only to the white minority in order to control the black majority. The blacks become the victims who are set to always think that they are inferior to and very much dependent on the whites. Fortunately, the system was ended in 1991. The blacks' future is in their own hands.