

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After taking into account the story of the novel, I am of the opinion that Valerie Martin is able to engage the reader's imagination into a vivid depiction of the portrayal of the protagonist in detail which reflects the Western social condition in America's Deep South in 1830s. The story also goes to Martin's deep observation which shows her success to create a work that dares to expose the relationship between the ownership and the subordinate.

I assume that the protagonist is portrayed incredibly. Manon, the protagonist of the novel, at first is portrayed as a good housewife and a good daughter, compassionate, obedient and tough. She is trapped in a marriage to a boorish and cruel man who owns a sugar plantation. She tells of her life isolated on the plantation with only the slaves and her boorish husband whom she despises. Manon herself comes from a middle class; in order to get a better life, she takes a risk by marrying a rich man that she thought was nice and gentle. However, she gets unhappiness during her marriage, especially after her mother

dies; she finds no hope to live anymore. When a death in her family presents Manon with the promise of financial independence, she realizes it will only come with the death of her husband because the government regulates that the money or property that a woman bring to a marriage becomes her husband's upon their marriage. She hates this government's laws. The consequences of her suffering make the progressing characteristics of Manon to be insolent, greedy and wicked, especially after her husband dies. Manon, who are depressed and dominated all her life, tastes her freedom for the first time and she uses it to revenge for her suffering. Sarah, her slave and her husband's mistress, then becomes the target of her revenge

I am of the opinion that the author's purpose in writing this novel is to show that the every essence of how total power over others poisons those that hold the power. (<http://www.book-club.co.nz/books03/6property.htm>). I observe that the character of the protagonist is effective to convey the author's purpose. As the protagonist, Manon does the same mistakes as her husband has done which is pressing other people inferior to her after having the authority. In this case, Sarah becomes the scapegoat of her suffering. By showing the portrayal of the protagonist, it shows clearly that when the protagonist is put under pressure or authority of her husband, she tends to yield to the pressure because she cannot do anything. But once she gets her turn to hold the authority, she does the same thing to her subordinate.

Through the novel, I discover that Valerie Martine portrays the characters convincingly to the readers and I have to congratulate her on the creation of

Property's characters. I really like every details of the story and enjoy it because it makes me curious and unable to read it until finish. Martin commands the language of the day and dares to talk about things considered as taboo. She builds a credible cast of characters, and delivers the story with her strong writing skills. Moreover, through her skill, Martine reveals Manon's thoughts and mind to bring the readers closer to the reader to the revelation of the protagonist's characteristics. In particular, I do not like the alteration of the characteristic of the protagonist but I can feel the pain of her husband's betrayal and the limitations society has placed on her. As a woman, I directly can imagine what Manon feels. It must be hard for a woman to endure such a tragic life. I do feel some sympathy for Manon but I can never escape the fact that she is a product of her times. From this novel I can get moral value that if one possess power or authority, one should not use it to make other people feel repressed because it will endanger oneself.