

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analysed Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange, I conclude that Burgess has successfully presented the theme of the novel. Through Alex, the protagonist of the novel, Burgess vividly describes the unruly and rebellious teenager who likes committing crimes just for enjoyment. Furthermore, Burgess gives a clear picture of Alex's unending suffering. Alex's speech and actions are mostly used to support the theme of the novel.

I find that the novel has a very clear theme: "Committing violence and behaving destructively will only lead one to suffer in his life". The main problem presented in the novel is Alex's enjoyment of committing crimes. He finds amusement in behaving destructively. What's more, Alex does not realize that he will have to suffer the consequences of his acts of violence. Later, however, Alex is punished for his criminal acts and the punishments fit his crimes for he really suffers in his life.

In analysing the theme of the novel, I see that Alex, who represents the teenagers of his age, tends to choose to do illegal activities. He does not obey the law and he shows no respect for the people around him. He finds committing violence and behaving destructively true enjoyment; in addition, by committing crimes he wants to

be regarded as a hero among his friends. Moreover, he enjoys vandalism. Alex likes to find amusement at night. Together with his gang members and without any special reasons, Alex commits violence. Alex even rapes a writer's wife, which causes her to lose her life. Alex is finally caught by the police after he breaks into an old lady's house and murders her. He is sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Then Alex has to pay for his wickedness. He gets his punishments from the government and the society. In prison Alex suffers a lot because he often gets the constant beatings from the prison guards and his inmates. Alex cannot stand being in prison; therefore, Alex decides to take an experimental rehabilitation program which is called Ludovico's Technique. It turns out that Alex has to undergo more suffering. He is forced to watch movies showing the cruelty of the Nazi and the Japanese torture. Through this program Alex is forced to be unable to commit violence for every time he thinks about it, he will feel sick and nausea. This program really makes him suffer. After he is released from prison, he is also punished by the society. He faces a lot of problems with his parents and the society. They cannot accept him back and this causes him to suffer hardship. Unable to endure more suffering, he thinks of suicide. His acts of violence finally lead him to suffer physically and mentally.

Through the novel, it is clear that Burgess wants to tell the readers that one must be responsible for his actions. If he acts badly, he has to suffer the consequences of his actions. The readers can see that after getting the punishments, Alex can appreciate his life better. Alex finally realizes that as a teenager, he must obey the law. It is not right to harm people or break the law. Alex learns that his destructive behaviour and illegal acts lead him to suffer in his life. What's more, the people

around him cannot accept him and they hate him. Most of them try to revenge on him. These are the punishments he gets for his crime.

Burgess is successful in revealing his message through this novel so that the readers can get the moral lessons from the story. I can learn that most teenagers have unruly and rebellious characteristics; however, they have to be able to control their emotion, behaviour and desire to commit crimes. They live in a society and they have to respect other people's rights. In addition, teenagers should adhere to the law and the regulations. What's more, it is important for them to believe in God and fear Him so that they can understand the difference between 'good' or 'evil'. Through this novel, I also find that it is difficult for a person to change from 'bad' to 'good' because the society cannot accept a bad person even though he has already repented of what he has done. They expect to punish him in their own way. Therefore, it is true that committing crime and behaving destructively will only lead one to suffer in his life.

Anthony Burgess writes A Clockwork Orange in the first person point of view and Alex is the narrator of the story. The readers know all the events through his perspective. That is why Alex's speech is mostly used to reveal the theme of the novel. Burgess is very skilful in creating the story in the novel. When starting reading the novel, the readers will feel unsympathetic towards Alex because he is portrayed as a wicked, unruly and cruel teenager. As the story goes on, however, Alex vividly describes his feelings and tells the readers about his suffering. This makes the readers sympathize with him. The readers will finally understand and feel pity on him through his unending suffering. Burgess has created such an interesting story that it is worthwhile reading and analysing the novel.