

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

Oxford Advances Learner's Dictionary states that stereotype means an image, idea, character, etc that has become fixed or standardized in a conventional form without individuality (and is therefore perhaps false). Black people are one of the races that are believed to conform to a stereotype. They are often described as having bad characteristics and people still believe it. .

Nadine Gordimer and Ernest J. Gaines through their novels, A World of Strangers and A Gathering of Old Men show the good qualities of black people. Both of them show that not all the black people have bad characteristics. They want to make people realize that black people are judged very subjectively. They portray black people differently, showing their positive sides to elevate the existence of black people.

Both authors give their depiction of black people objectively by portraying the black people realistically. Gordimer in A World of Strangers and Gaines in A Gathering of Old Men show that black people are not as bad as people think them to be although they do not ignore that some of them conform to the stereotype.

Besides the similarities in both novels there are differences concerning the setting of place, point of view and the authors' background. Nadine Gordimer's A

World Of Strangers is set in Johannesburg, South Africa. In this novel, black people are in the majority. It is said that there is a social gap between the blacks and the whites. Black people live separately from whites in Johannesburg. Gordimer shows that the whites distance themselves from black people. However, the story in Ernest J. Gaines' A Gathering of Old Men, is set in Louisiana, America. In this novel, blacks are in the minority. Black and white people are said to live separately. In describing the relationship between blacks and whites, Gaines shows that there are whites who have a good relationship with blacks and there are whites who do not have a good relationship with blacks.

In her novel A World of Strangers, Gordimer depicts black people using a white main character's perspective. At the beginning of the story, she shows that somehow the whites think that black people still conform to the stereotype. Then, she shows that the main character gradually changes his mind after he knows more about the black people's culture and personality. Although Gordimer counteracts the stereotype of black people she does it by using a white man's perspective in portraying black people. I think Gordimer does this because she wants to change the whites' perspective. Whites feel themselves superior to black people so they may be persuaded to change their opinion more easily if it is done by a white person.

In A Gathering of Old Men; however Gaines depicts the blacks using not only the blacks' perspective but also the whites' perspective. He shows that white people have different points of view about black people. He shows that there are white men who underestimate black people and also there are white men who respect black people.

Gaines shows the stereotype of the black people using the whites' perspective. He shows there are still white people who treat black people as slaves. He also wants to prove that not all the whites underestimate the existence of black people. However, Gaines uses the blacks' perspective to show their sufferings, which he thinks people do not realize. Sometimes he shows that in a certain condition they seem to conform to the stereotype, but Gaines shows that there is a reason for their attitude. By using the blacks' perspective, he shows the real condition that is not recognized by other people.

Both authors describe the condition of black people objectively. In A World of Strangers, Gordimer only shows that there are some black people who conform to the stereotype. She does not explain why the black people have that kind of attitude. On the other hand, Gaines shows that some of the black people seem to conform to the stereotype, but then he gives a good reason for their attitude. By showing the reason, he shows that the stereotype of black people cannot be generally applied. The stereotype is often formed by people who do not know much about black people. Unfortunately, it is taken for granted and it is generally believed. By giving the reason for what black people do, he makes people see that the blacks are not as bad as they are thought to be.

Although both authors give an objective portrayal of black people, I think the portrayal of black people in Gaines' novel is more convincing than in Gordimer's novel. Both Gordimer and Gaines use different ways in countering the stereotype of black people. It happens because the two authors have different backgrounds. Gordimer is a white writer whereas Gaines is a black writer. Although Gordimer was born in South Africa and has seen the unfair treatment of

black people, I think Gaines knows more about the black people's condition and characteristics, since he himself is a black man and has a close relationship with his people. In his novel, Gaines shows that some of the black people are seem to conform to the stereotype on the other hand he shows that not all the black people are seem to conform to the stereotype. He has to do so because he wants to give an objective portrayal of the black people and he also wants to be realistic. When he shows that some of the black people are conform to the stereotype, he shows that it is not the black people culture. They seem to conform to the stereotype because the situation forced them to act stereotypically. But then, he gives the reason which explain about the black people attitude.

Other reason is the use of point of view in portraying the black people. Gaines' novel is more convincing because he uses two perspectives in portraying the black people. Gaines knows much more about black people than Gordimer does and in his portrayal of black people he uses both the whites' and the blacks' perspectives so that the portrayal is balanced. This enables him to give a better non stereotypical portrayal of black people than Gordimer.

Gaines uses both black and white perspective and it enables him to give an objective portrayal of black people whereas Gordimer only uses one perspective in portraying the black people which is white perspective. Although Gordimer wants to counter the stereotype of black people but she uses white perspective in portraying the black people and it makes her description of black people is subjective.

