

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Nathanael West's The Day of the Locust, I would like to draw some conclusions. The major characters in Nathanael West's The Day of the Locust are Tod Hackett, Homer Simpson, and Faye Greener. According to the story, the major characters have their own purpose for living in Hollywood. Each and every one of them also has different characteristics.

Tod Hackett comes to Hollywood because he has been recruited as a set designer in National Films. Before he moves to Hollywood, he is portrayed as a pessimistic person. After he moves to Hollywood, he often stares at people who live in Hollywood, and observes their lives. It inspires him to become an optimistic and talented person. Unfortunately, he has a destructive quality. He realizes that living in Hollywood is like living in a fake world. He finds that people who live in Hollywood cannot be honest about themselves. He becomes immersed in his imagination and his imagination becomes violent. I notice that he has become a destructive person because he destroys himself by growing his violent fantasies about the people around him who have come to California to die.

Those things make him start losing his mind.

Another major character is Homer Simpson. Homer Simpson comes to California when his doctor gives him a suggestion to live in a warmer place because he has pneumonia. At first, he is portrayed as an introverted person. Throughout the story, Homer is very attracted to Faye, a woman whose life represents the Hollywood lifestyle, which is very glamorous both in appearance and lifestyle. Then she forces Homer to take up her way of living and Homer becomes a sociable person. He forces himself to be a party-goer and a drinker because according to Faye, someone who is sociable usually drinks. Later on in the story, Homer becomes pessimistic, which leads to his depression. At first, he is afraid of his sickness. Every time he tries to sleep, he feels afraid that he would never get up again. Then, he has an excessive sadness about everything he wants to get but he cannot. He also has a deep sadness about Faye. He loves her so much, and he tries to be a sociable person as she wishes him to be, even though he feels uncomfortable. Unfortunately, Faye does not love him and she leaves him. His depression leads to an outburst and he becomes a brutal, aggressive man with a temper.

The other major character in the story is Faye Greener. Faye Greener is a young woman who comes from an ordinary family. She has a dream to be a famous movie star in Hollywood. She lives only with her father who works as a clown, and that means that they are not rich. However, she is described as a beautiful woman and she thinks that her beauty provides her with an opportunity to be a famous movie star in Hollywood. She becomes a very ambitious person who uses all ways possible to advance her career. In order to achieve her ambition,

Faye develops another characteristic. She realizes that to be a movie star in Hollywood, she needs the attention from the people around her. Therefore, to be noticed by people, she becomes coquettish and she focuses on her glamorous appearance. However, all her efforts are useless. She still cannot be a famous movie star and that makes her desperate at the end of the story. In her despair, she laughs at herself. She also blames herself for her father's death because before her father dies, she threatens her father that she will leave if he does not give her a new evening gown, and her father does not answer her.

Through this novel, Nathanael West wants to show to the readers that the Hollywood lifestyle influences the people who live there. Bitterness, disappointment, anger, and violence are part of the life in Hollywood. The people also live in pretense, which makes their life become fake or not honest. There is also sadness in Hollywood because dishonesty is very common there. In addition, people who cannot adapt themselves to the situation in Hollywood cannot survive.

From this novel I find about the relation between the lifestyle of a certain society and its people's characteristics. The lifestyle in a society can influence its people's characteristics. Good lifestyle instills positive characteristics and bad lifestyle instills negative characteristics into people. The lifestyle in the society itself is not the only factor that determines a person's characteristics. Economic situation also determines people's characteristics. Unfortunately, in this novel, I find that the lifestyle in Hollywood instills into the major characters some negative characteristics. Behind the glamorous surface of the Hollywood lifestyle lies the ugly truth.

Through the major characters, I can learn that life is not always as beautiful as we wish. What is admirable in one's eyes is not always so. There is often bitterness inside it. If we cannot adapt ourselves to the lifestyle and situation in a society, we cannot survive.