

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Apartheid is “racial discrimination which caused segregation between white people and black people in many aspects of life. Black people are regarded as inferior and it makes black people treated unfairly in society” (“Apartheid”). Apartheid system happened in South Africa from 1948 to the early 1990s and is presented by Nadine Gordimer in her Burger’s Daughter.

Nadine Gordimer is one of South Africa's prominent writers, who was awarded Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991. She has also produced several collections of essays and short stories. I am interested in analyzing Nadine Gordimer’s Burger’s Daughter because I find that certain topics like politics, racism, and families in this novel, are creatively presented by the author. “Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter is a remarkable book. A strength of the book is that, in the workings-out of Lionel Burger's career, and his daughter's, we begin to understand exactly what life for the politically involved white is like in South Africa” (Grumbach).

In this thesis, I would like to analyze the protagonist's conflicts in Gordimer's Burger's Daughter. Conflict is one of the fundamental aspects in this novel. According to Harry Shaw in his Dictionary of Literary Terms, conflict is "... the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction" (Shaw 91-92).

There are three types of conflict, namely social conflict, physical conflict, and inner conflict. According to Shaw, social conflict is "a struggle between man and man" (Shaw 91). In other words, social conflict occurs because there are two or more people who have different ideas and opinions about something. Physical conflict is "a struggle between man and the physical world" (Shaw 91) while inner conflict is "a struggle between desires within a person" (Shaw 92).

In Gordimer's Burger's Daughter, most of the conflicts are inner conflicts and social conflicts; thus, I would like to focus on the analysis of those conflicts in my thesis.

Statement of the Problem

I would like to state the problems as follows:

1. What kind of conflicts can be found in the novel?
2. What are the causes of the conflicts?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

Purpose of the Study

In relevance to the statement of the problem above, the purpose of this final paper is:

1. To identify the conflicts which are found in Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter.
2. To find out the causes of the conflicts.
3. To show how the conflicts are resolved.

Method of Research

I would like to analyze Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter using formalism in order to help me more in understanding the novel.

The type of research used is library research. I begin by reading the primary text, Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter. Later, I read some books and search the Internet to find some information to help me in analyzing the novel and writing the thesis, and then finally I come to a conclusion.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide the thesis into three chapters that are preceded by Acknowledgements, Table of Contents and Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the analysis of the protagonist's conflicts in Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter. Chapter Three contains the Conclusion of the analysis. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter and the Biography of the Author.