

4

① 2018-19



MAH/MUL/03051/2012
ISSN-2319 9318

Special Issue Oct-2018

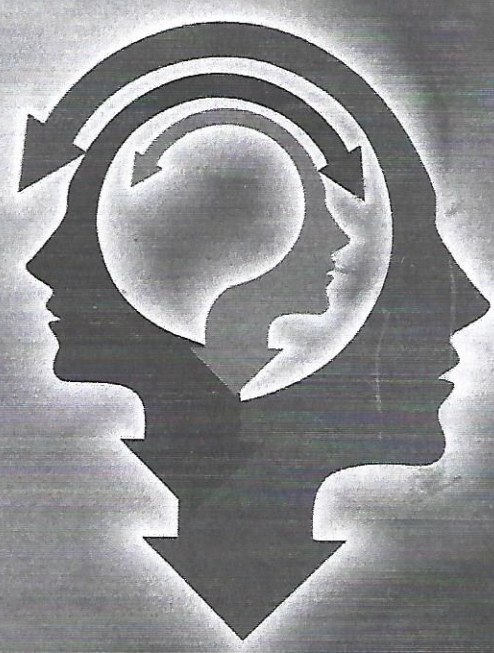
Vidyawarta[®]

International Multilingual Refereed Research Journal

2nd International Conference
on

**Dialoguing Borders : Vital Issues in
Humanities, Commerce, IT and Management**

6th - 7th October 2018



❖ Chief Editors ❖

Dr.D.N.Ganjewar

Dr.S.K.Sarje



Principal
Jawahar Arts, Science & Commerce College,
Andur Tal. Tuljapur Dist, Osmanabad

56) Roots and Routes: Representation of Partition in Indian Hindi Cinema Mr. Atkare Kailash Ankushrao & Dr. Farhana Khan	207
57) SUBJUGATION OF WOMAN IN VIJAY TENDULKAR'S SILENCE! THE COURT IS IN SESSION Mr. Ingle Ajabrao	212
58) ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN NATION BUILDING IN PERSPECTIVE WORK OF ... Makrand Ramrao Wakde	214
59) A Study of Women's Identity in Namita Gokhale's Fiction Shelke Geetanjali Anantrao & Dr. Sarje S. K.	217
60) "WOMEN, EDUCATION AND THE INDIAN SCENARIO: A STUDY OF MANJU KAPUR'S NOVELS" SIDDHAARTH G GHAGARE	219
61) An Objective feminist reading of the novel atlas shrugged by ayn Rand Mr. D. R. Chavan	225
62) Racism in the July's People by Nadine Gordimer Dr. Anita Mudkanna & Mr. Gopal Maruti Jadhav	229
63) Gender Conflict and its consciences in Anita Nair's 'Mistress' Kadam K. R. & Moghekar N. M.	232
64) Gender and Feminine consciousness in The Dark Holds No Terrors by... Dr. Devanand Sadanand Puri	234
65) भारतातील शिक्षणविषयक हक्काची अंमलबजावणी व परिणाम प्रा. धर्मराज केशवराव कटके,	236
66) अण्णा भाऊ साठे : व्यक्ती आणि वाङ्मय डॉ. आरती शिंदे	241
67) "कथा लेखिकांच्या कथातून आलेल्या स्त्री जाणवा" प्रा.डॉ. जगतवाड शिवाजी पिराजी,	245
68) पंचायतराज व्यवस्थेमधील महिला नेतृत्वाचे सक्षमीकरण एक राजकिय दृष्टीक्षेप. डॉ. कदम एच. पी.,	248
69) महिला सक्षमीकरण एक : दृष्टीक्षेप प्रा. डॉ. कदम डी. एम.,	250


Principal

Racism in the July's People by Nadine Gordimer

Dr. Anita Mudkanna

Assistant Professor, Department of English,
Tal – Tulajpur Dist- Osmanabad

Mr. Gopal Maruti Jadhav

Research Student, Department of English,
Jawahar Art Science and Commerce College
Andur, Dr.B.A.M.University Aurangabad

Abstract

July's People is set in a future of South Africa in which the blacks have society that cradled Apartheid has been destroyed, as the black militias battle the white army for control. In the novel, there are two sets of relationship. In this, the first set consists of Maureen and Bam, and the Smales with their Black servant, July. The novel centers around the Smales, a liberal white Johannesburg family and their flight from their war-torn home to their black servant July's tribal village in the nation's interior wilderness. This turning of the tables of dependency in the family and the servant's relationship like Hegelian dialectical materialism metaphorically foreshadows the re-making of history or decolonization in South Africa. By putting the text into the colonial and racial context. This papers aim at exploring how power circulates and corrupts; and how all such inversions or reversals of power-play affect the familial relationship of the Smales and these alien's racial relationship with the natives.

Keywords: Racism, Caste, Gender, Power, colonization, Culture, apartheid, master-slave relationship, Color, Identity

Introduction

Racism is the worldwide issue. It is a dangerous thing for human being. Due to racial discrimination no one is secure. The life of people in affected area where racism is existed. There is no peaceful atmosphere. Racism is one of the most dangerous problems of the human society. It sustained on the prejudices of the whites. Racial hierarchy has come to be maintained with the rise of the modern world system. Race is a concept that signifies and symbolizes socio-political conflicts and interests in reference to different types of human bodies. Racism is a man-made concept. They are facing several problems. Particularly racism is found in a large scale in South Africa. South Africa is known for racial discrimination. Many writers and activists were work for racism. They expressed, portray the actual situation of Black-white people in South Africa. As well as many social groups, an organization works against racism. Plenty of reasons are accountable to the racism. People won't progress there in situation of racial discrimination. Thus, racism is an obstacle in human life of South Africa. July's People, like any other novel of Nadine Gordimer, is centered on the relation between the races illustrated by the relation between Maureen, the protagonist, and other characters especially her servant July. Also, the novel expresses a shift of the balance of power.

July's People:

July's People is one of Nadine Gordimer famous novels. It was written in 1981 before the collapse of the Apartheid regime as her own interpretation of how it would end. It was banned after its publication in Gordimer's own country home South Africa. The novel is set in fictional space where South Africa goes through a civil war between blacks and whites. Whites lose their power and dominance over blacks. The author situates the Smales at an unconscious period between black and white where the whites could not realize what was happening and the blacks were not sure of what is

happening. The Smales is a white family living in a black village with their previous black servant as a refugee from the war in Johannesburg. The novel is a good sample of Nadine Gordimer's works which discusses and illustrates the actions of whites toward blacks and how these last respond. It represents the author's vision and her search for "her own African perspective in a country with deepening divisions between blacks and whites..." (Greenstein 228). Also, the novel represents the writer protest against the government decision to use Afrikaans instead of English as the language of study in some African schools. This act by the government was in order to reduce the blacks' access to the wider world, and to force them to accept their situation as inferiors by learning the native language of Apartheid.

July's People and Racism:

July's People, like any other novel of Nadine Gordimer, is centered on the relation between the races illustrated by the relation between Maureen, the protagonist, and other characters especially her servant July. Also, the novel expresses a shift of the balance of power. "White people gradually deprived of power and at the mercy of increasingly empowered black men" (Leitão Vieira 25). This shift could explain the situation that whites were taking before upon the blacks, and it is clear since in this paper that the black is considered always as a servant to the whites rather than anything even he is their saviour. On their first morning in the native village, living in the mother-in-law's hut, the odd situation Maureen, the protagonist, observes "July, their servant, their host," (Gordimer 23).

In July's People, Gordimer speaks of a segregated society, which is presented and embodied in her fictional characters. In this work, when referring to the act of racism, it is not strictly limited to the physical separation, but it is more mental racism. This is because physical and mental racism generally go together; the racist acts of a person are likely

done without thinking. In other words, they are done carelessly without taking into consideration the results of the person's behavior. When it comes to the physical separation, we notice two parts that whites and blacks are described as separated in the novel. The first one is their separation before the war which we can perceive through the description of their past house in Johannesburg. The second case is when the Smales are in July's village where they are living in July's mother-in-law's hut. This physical segregation is accompanied by a mental racism and segregation. The mental racism is embodied by the bad behaviour of Maureen toward July. Maureen is July's boss for fifteen years, and she still behaves like that. Although she acknowledges in her speech his act of saving them like what she expresses in the novel by "frog prince, saviour, July" (11), she does believe that it was his duty as a servant to do so. Gordimer saw Maureen as "the last colonial woman" (Topping 582) because she is directed and took care by men who are related to her from father to husband, even July, the black servant, took care of her and tried to keep her out of problems and at ease. These acts are "a typically colonial attitude-that the white woman has a man who looks after her" (581). Maureen identifies Bam's shameful behavior and inability to save them from the situation, as a betrayal. Just as July's refusal to hunt down the gun an ultimate protector of white power is a betrayal of their long-time relationship that she arrogantly assumed was based on their mutual regard. female white mistresses, especially educated, liberal ones that Maureen represents, were as guilty as the masters of unconscious patriotism during the apartheid era. For Maureen prestigious and racial value, the change she went through is so fast. The changing of the sequence of her past life leads her to "another time, place, consciousness" (Gordimer, July's People 29). She feels very soon after their arrival in the village that she has been transformed

utterly: "She was already not what she was. No fiction could compete with what she was finding she did not know, could not have imagined or discovered through imagination" (29). This would explain the transformation of their life and power from whites, who thought themselves as superior, to blacks, the former servants. Also, her dignity as a former boss is totally destroyed when she realizes that she is more dependent on July rather than she thought he is, is due to her view to him as inferior without any complexity in his life like she does as a civilized and a member of the upper-class (white). Also, she could not even understand him because of his servant's awkward not perfect English because of the influence of his native language and accent. Besides all these acts toward July, Maureen, and even her husband Bam, behave rudely with him, especially when he refuses to do something. For example, when July refuses to look after the lost gun, Maureen accuses July of stealing small items from her in Johannesburg. This accusation is due to herself view to herself as the master who has everything that her servant would want to steal. In addition to Maureen, her husband Bam treats July as inferior. This action is mainly because his loss of his possessions and position. He loses his power and status once his "cheque-book" and prestigious career as architect are worthless in the village economy. Bam, as he is seen after the precious gun is discovered stolen, is emasculated by losing his possessions.

Conclusion:

July's People is a novel written by Nadine Gordimer. The author was influenced by her environment, and her writing was just a reaction toward what she was living. The novel presents the life of South Africa during a fictional space where the black rebelled against the Apartheid regime. A white family, Smales, fled from the war in Johannesburg to their black servant village. Through the novel we notice a lot of signs of racism. Racism is shown through the,

acts of Maureen and her husband toward their servant July and his people. In addition, we notice the reaction of July and his people toward those actions which was through their behaving as they are and do not imitate the white way of living.

Reference;

- Gordimer, Nadine. July's People. New York: 1982, print
- Adam, H. Modernizing Racial Domination : the Dynamics of South African Politics. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971.
- Adhikari, Mohammad. Not White Enough, Not Black Enough: Racial Identity in the South African Coloured Community. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2004.
- Ashforth, Adam. The Politics of Official Discourse in Twentieth-Century South Africa. Oxford: Clarendon, 1990.

