



Racism in Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter*

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Abstract - Racism is a word of many definitions. From the beginning of South Africa, there were conflicts with the country, slavery of blacks, and going against the people. Racism was a fluctuated conflict in the nineteenth century and still exists today even though there are laws against it. The intellectuals and writers in this country could not keep silent against these racist practice and they discussed them in their works. One of these is Nadine Gordimer, the noble-winning writer in literature. She was a white activist who has been an eye witness of racist era. In this paper about racism in her novel *Burger's Daughter*.

Keywords: Racism, Apartheid, Racial Discrimination, Nadine Gordimer

1. INTRODUCTION

Burger's Daughter is about anti-apartheid in South Africa. They search to overthrow the South African government. Gordimer novels about South Africa struggle politics, and she knew many of the activist. *Burger's Daughter* was judged to be indecent and capable of endangering the state of the Republic of South Africa, on the grounds that its story depicted white characters considered as bad and black characters considered as good. In addition, Gordimer was accused of having written a clearly political novel whose theme of fostering black militancy posed a threat to the peaceful co-existence between the separated races of the country.

2. RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Racial discrimination is the act of treating someone differently than others because of the color of his or her skin. This generally happens because of a social construct, or the attachment to certain meanings to a person's race, used to justify the discrimination. Race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. Racial discrimination occurs when an individual is subjected to unequal treatment because of their actual or perceived race.

- People call them by various names instead of their actual name in order to insult them.
- Black people are made to sit differently away from others
- They are terminated or demoted from their job and not given any good reason to justify the decision.
- People around them humiliate their family and their nature of origin.

3. APARTHEID IN BURGER'S DAUGHTER

The system of Apartheid was dismantled and Nelson Mandela ascended from his tiny jail cell to become the leader of an integrated South Africa. Nadine Gordimer was got the Nobel Prize for Literature with *Burger's Daughter* specifically for her ability to fuse art and morality. The Guardian included the novel among the top 10 books ever produced in South Africa. Once against book banning was proven to be the most effective way to accomplish exactly the opposite of the intent of the ban and once again the lesson failed to be learned by those who would follow suit in the future.

Burger's Daughter is about a group of white anti-apartheid activists in South Africa seeking to overthrow the South African government. It is set in the mid-1917's, and follows the life of Rosa, the title character, as she comes to terms with her father Lionel Burger's legacy as an activist in the South Africa Communist party.

Burger's Daughter offers a fascinating take on the apartheid era, but the novel's interest goes far beyond its foregrounding historical merit. It also raises issues of universal concerns, issues of mind over matter, action over inertia, life over death. Rosa's personal struggle to come to terms with her father's legacy is one of them.

Following in the footsteps of a god-like father is a universal challenge for any dutiful child to perceiving the ultimate meaning of the actions of one's parents, the pertinence of their ideology and their real power to change fate and destiny. In our house, Rosa says, it was believed that changing the world, eliminating private conflicts set up by the competitive nature of capitalist society would give meanings to people's lives. But these political and humanitarian preoccupations neither acknowledged nor explained the mystery of life and death beyond the revolution

Many of Gordimer's works have explored the impact of apartheid on individuals in South Africa. Journalist and novelist George Packer writes that, as in several of her novels, a theme in *Burger's Daughter* is of racially divided societies in which well-meaning whites unexpectedly encounter a side of black life they did not know about. Literary critic Carolyn Turgeon says that while Lionel was able to work with black activists in the ANC, Rosa discovers that with the rise of the Black Consciousness Movement, many young blacks tend to view white liberals as irrelevant in their struggle for liberation. Rosa witnesses this first hand listening to the black university student in Soweto and, later, in London, her childhood friend "Baasie", who both dismiss her father as unimportant.

Author and academic Louise Yelin says that Gordimer's novels often feature white South Africans opposed to apartheid and racism who try to find their place in a multiracial society.

4. CONCLUSION

Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter* is about apartheid in South Africa. She became anti-apartheid novelist, her close observation made her to do this. Her novels are the representation of people who either are in distress for being separated from the racism of the society like whites or suffer from imposed deprivation like the blacks. She is the writer of commitment and in her novels, she testifies to the predicaments of her society marked by political issues during apartheid. Gordimer's literary output serves through which she expresses her protest against oppression and rights for people equality and liberation. She is also an observant witness. Her writings reflect the depths of her people's consciousness and lay bare their psycho-political development. In her authentic portraits of South Africa, Gordimer calls for a radical change, a transformation inevitable for the betterment of her fragmented society.

5. REFERENCES

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