

**Exploration of Political Anti-Apartheid System in South Africa with
Reference to Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter***

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Abstract

Nadine Gordimer's novel *Burger's Daughter* speaks about the political anti-apartheid system to throw the Government of South Africa. The novel predicts the Black being conscious of the White in apartheid South Africa. The Blacks were conscious about the situation in the city and brought a change in the attitude of the Black towards White, which characterizes the scene in *Burger's Daughter*. The novel *Burger's Daughter* was Nadine Gordimer's first portrayal concerning the revolution against the White race. In the twentieth-century, South Africa was under the war between the two groups of the White rulers. The rulers of South Africa in the eighteenth and nineteenth century were Europeans and the Boers, later renamed as Afrikaners. The two groups wanted to preserve their land in the states. The British wanted to save their land, which was obtained by fighting. The British built schools that relied on the Dutch and English language. The British immigrant Afrikaans improved their condition. British and Afrikaans would solve the differences and became as one. The Afrikaners developed fear about that the British dominance was strong, and they would dominate them. The Afrikaans, when led to World War I, Botha and Smuts were considered as the traits of the British Government. The Government won the alliance and English speaking. In 1931, the Afrikaans was freed from British control. Due to poverty, the Afrikaans were allowed to stay along with the non-White. The Afrikaans got work in gold mines and in other places. Therefore, this paper picturizes their economic situations, and how Afrikaners felt inferior to the British which led them into the competition with the Black people.

Keywords: Anti-apartheid, Dominance, Black Consciousness, Revolution, Poverty, Economic Crisis and Rivalry.

Burger's Daughter novel speaks about the political anti-apartheid to throw the Government of South Africa. The novel predicts the Black being conscious of the White in apartheid South Africa. The Blacks were conscious about the situation in the city and brought

a change in the attitude of the Black towards White, which characterizes the scene in Burger's Daughter. The novel Burger's Daughter was Nadine Gordimer's first portrayal concerning the revolution against the White race. In the year 1976, the Black school children in Soweto made a revolt against White people. The protest by the black turned into riots, and hundreds of Whites were killed. The Government deconstructed many such acts. Rosa's supporter of the revolt was convicted and prisoned, but she always followed her parents' footsteps. The novel Burger's Daughter speaks about the female protagonist, Rosa, the daughter of the middle-class Burger. Afrikaners protest against the apartheid system in the country in which the communist leader Bram Fischer also joins. Nadine Gordimer says that writing Burger's Daughter is a question of what it means to be a daughter of the great warrior Burger (Gordimer 28). The female character Rosa in this novel experiences social, and political aspects because she is the daughter of the protagonist, Burger, a great Communist political leader. The exploration is that she is naturally implicated in her father's position (Gordimer 88).

Normally, the story explores the difficulties of being burger's daughter and also her father's struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The daughter not only explores the conflict in the story but the burden, expectations, and failure undergone by her father in the revolution. Rosa's father mainly concentrates on the communist, revolution, and social responsibility. Besides, the novel investigates about protagonist's rival claim by living a personnel life or the political life. The novel Burger's Daughter discovers the female subject who is a protagonist to fight against the apartheid in South Africa. The revolt that took place in 1970 was about the Black consciousness, when the youths were brought together to fight against the apartheid in Soweto, South Africa.

The story of Burger's Daughter predicts the protest of the protagonists Rosa and Burger. The story explores Lionel's and Rosa's political, principal, parental, and private living. The political principle of apartheid in South Africa is challenging. The female activist is the most structured feature of the apartheid in society. Gordimer wrote this novel in the most crucial period of the South African principle to force along with the other principles of the Black consciousness to eradicate the apartheid. For Nadine Gordimer, Burger's Daughter is a critical mission that confronts the entire traditional period in South Africa.

In Burger's Daughter, the protagonist speaks about the political issues going on in the Black consciousness of the youth protest against the apartheid. In addition, it explores the reality in the place of political issues, which is the cause of this real issue. Gordimer examines the protestor in the Burger's Daughter is questioning and spatial; it is a dialectic approach of various spaces. Rosa explores herself to be self-competitive and moves to various spaces to identify herself. She does not move only to South Africa and but also to Europe, France, Paris, and Soweto. The struggle she undergoes while moving from one place to another to find her identity is self-explanatory. Through Rosa's exploration, Gordimer depicts South Africa as a different country from the rest of the world.

Besides, Burger's Daughter not only speaks about the change in spaces and possibilities of change in knowledge but it also predicts the periodical changes in the spaces. Rosa's journey in Burger's Daughter describes her separation from family that leads her to the religious and cultural decoding in the novel. The theme of the novel is a question of emotions, political, and social life. Burger's Daughter has no unique privilege given to the protagonist, instead, all conflicting principles are brought by the question and the situation from all prospects. Gordimer's novels are politically conscious, and she holds a testimony of encountering South Africa. The human perspectives are discussed in her novel. Further, she explains the human life and how it gets affected due to political issues in society. In Burger's Daughter, Gordimer explains Rosa's character as a political inclined one. In an interview, Nadine Gordimer states that, "a historian can tell you the events and can trace how events came about through the power shifts in the world, but the novelist is concerned with the history of individuals who make up history" (Cooper 7)

In reality, the apartheid in South Africa is based on racism and colonization. The only revolution against apartheid can be brought out through the institution and processes. The vagueness of realizing the future in the novel, Gordimer stated it as a political novel based on fiction and novelist. In short, Burger's Daughter is a political novel. Nadine describes that the political and the apartheid system made her create such a novel that came into existence as Burger's Daughter. It is a complete exploration of the racial discrimination in society and the political dominancy of the South African government. The novel explores the political scenario of South Africa and also the novel deals with the theme of searching a political identity in the society as a political activist.

The novel states that the protagonist, Rosa is a prisoner in South Africa as protested against the apartheid system in South Africa. Her father is also a protagonist who fights against anti-apartheid and dies in jail. Being a prisoner, Rosa is denied certain privileges in her country like passport and degree. Life is difficult for her in South Africa with such bonds in her career. Communalism is seen as a universal solution to set free the Black from the colonization mindset. The day till he dies, he is thinking only of the liberalization of the Black along with some revolutionaries.

The novels depict the White burger family that is most involved in politics and call them as a political family. The Burger is a liberal White who maintains some personal relationship with the Whites. The principle that is found by the Lionel Burger in the anti-apartheid system becomes a hurdle for her. The novel is an enlightening journey of searching for oneself. The girl wishes to get out of all her restriction of her father's ideology, and she longs to live her own life. The novel portrays Burger as a physician by profession, a well-known communist leader in South Africa. He is arrested by the South African Government and imprisoned for being an anti-apartheid activist. That is why, Lionel specifies "My covenant is with the victims of apartheid"(BD 79). The novel insists that burger has a firm agreement with the victims of apartheid to set them free from the suffering. In 1962, in the conference with the South African Communal Party, Lionel burger gets an achievement,

“achieved the final perspective, the ideological disruption of family life and for his associates, imprisonment because they failed to testify against him” (Gordimer 66)

The above quote from the novel describes how the political activist suffers in his political life. The achievement of the final point is that the principle disturbance in family life and imprisonment. Finally, all have been achieved because the Government fails to prove against him. The White activists are under the surveillance of the police, and the activist filled their house. The communist party in South Africa becomes a failure and so Lionel Burger has a great job to prove as a good unionist for the liberalization of the Black. To prove himself as a right union activist, he conducts several strikes, which make him imprisoned. Burger's daughter is the main convict of her father as a communist. The tension and stress of Rosa are felt in the story. Though she is White, she has no privilege in her own country. She is in a dilemma because of her position to stay in South Africa. The White girl decides to move herself from society and to protest from outside.

Initially, she frees herself from the restriction to live outside South Africa and joins hands with her father's first wife, Kayat in France (Clingman 55). Stephen Clingman says that the communist's daughter frees herself from the revolutionary surrounding and she leaves the revolutionary place to live her personal life. In the third part of the scene, she returns again from personal life to the political and remains as unionist, which is historically significant for a person to carry out her father's ideology.

In the novel Burger's Daughter, Bassie says that after the fight from Europe, there are no White heroes for the Black. He irreverently comments, "I know plenty of Blacks like Burger It's nothing ... it is not going to show on English television" (BD 320). In the above quote, the Blacks are considered as ideals, and there are several Whites he knows who say they fight but in vain, nobody to telecast those incidents in the television. The novel has a perspective on the activist and how she mingles with public and private during the worst situation. In South Africa, they all come in contact with each other to find a way for political commitment. “The reality happening in South Africa is convincing to the women protagonist that everything is considered as a political character in South Africa, so she should not stay outside for the protest” (Gordimer 7).

In the novel, it is stated that she stays in a place where the revolution takes place and her main aim is to relieve the Black from their sufferings. She takes a resolution, though, as a private to act accordingly in bringing freedom. The political encounter is depicted as a psychological effect in Rosa. And then, Conrad offers a private fantasy to Rosa when she is in Europe; Conrad is an outsider in South Africa. Rosa accepts the political commitment towards her father's work when she returns from Europe. Actually, during her childhood, she had neglected politics, which makes her think whether to take up her father's ideology or not in this orphaned country. “The sense of White skin has been forgotten in the case of Rosa, and she has a dilemma in herself, whereas, she was put in a corner from her class due to her father's community challenges” (Gordimer 55). The parents of Rosa enquire whether they knew that their daughter is in the class or not to that extent; she is cornered because her father is a communist and fights against the government.

It is seen in the novel that the child growth of Rosa is affected by the generation defect due to her father's ideology toward the Black liberation as her father is against the apartheid system. She was even cornered in her class of being an unknown child in the class without friends (Fanon 87). The girl has a remarkable maturity towards the happenings around her what make her keen to face the happenings against her. In the novel, the other associates of the Burger also experience the same toil as his daughter experiences. Actually, Clare Terbelanche is the perfect revolutionist just before burger died; she completed her refusal of two years testifying him.

It is clear that the bond between two families is alive and they share all the political circumstances. However, Clive does not have that much of political resistance as Rosa has in the country. Therefore, Clive is considered to be a person behind ideology as believed by her parents. The political encounter in South Africa is commissioned between the public lies in the private and this predicts the actual in the novel. In her novel, Gordimer uses a particular character as a protester, activist, and sufferer in a historical background. The novel is also a mix up of imaginary, real, and explanative in all aspects. The story is well explained in the Burger's Daughter (Gordimer 88).

The theme of detection is the story in Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter. The Burger's daughter's personal and fundamental activist result in the self-discovery of oneself. Here, Rosa acts between two ideologies in the novel, one as an outsider and the other based on her parent's ideology (Harsch 55). When Rosa refuses the proposal of her father's ideology, it becomes a dilemma to choose the life of politics or the personnel. The novel depicts the psychological stress undergone by Rosa. The political dilemma is an attempt to handle whether into society or personnel fantasy. Rosa is considered to be an intelligent woman in the novel, and even trapped in a polarized society. She can make the right decision to follow her ideology to the destiny of the Black liberal.

In this story, the character Rosa plays a leading role as a personal context. The France people accept Rosa because of the adoption of the body creed. Her father's first wife is a dancer; Rosa is alienated by spirituality, and politically from the cause. Her main destiny was to leave the burger family to detach from the society that is under revolt. She wants to live in her way and in no other world. The novel predicts revolution based political future in South Africa. The revolution is based on strikes to fight against the difference in the creed.

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