

Empowering the Other! The Image of the Self and the Other in
Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter* and *July's People*

By
Mohammad Ghalib Al-Abead

Supervisor
Professor Ibrahim Abu Shihab

Co-supervisor
Professor Sura Khrais

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Abstract

This thesis examines the representation of the Self and the Other from a postcolonial perspective in Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter* (1979) and *July's People* (1981). On the one hand, this study explores the new image of the Other that gains authority over the Self. It also shows the extent to which Gordimer, the white South African writer, has succeeded in presenting a co-existence relationship across the colour line, where the blacks and the whites have equal opportunities even on the political scene. On the other hand, this thesis surveys Gordimer's efforts to empower the Other and the degree to which these attempts are promising since there are several embedded stereotypical images and myths in her portrayal of the Other. This thesis concludes that Gordimer's contradictory position stems from her inability to neutralize her discourse since she is still mostly influenced by the preconceived fallacies of her white race. Consequently, the dream of a tolerant world that joins two conflicting races has not yet been fulfilled.

Keywords: The Self and the Other, Anti-apartheid, Empowerment, Postcolonialism.