

Abstract

Essentially, the complexity of problems confronted by modern men is un-separated with the rapid development of science and technology. Rationality, reason, liberalism and individualism as well as another attributes brought modernity has made the earth seems to be unfit to be settled. Modern men consider it necessary to find a new place to live on to build a new - ideal civilization; a civilization in which humankind will still step on his humanity. It is not an impossible thing to do, as science and technology make it possible. At least , the landing of Neil Armstrong and friends on the moon can be the first guarantee.

Saul Bellow, in one of his major works *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, tries to examine every corners of life in modern men, which, in his views, pay no more attention on the sacredness of life. Through the character of Artur Sammler, Bellow views the urgency of building a new civilization on the moon and any other planets on which human may be destined, in its relations with the destruction brought and built by the modernity. Phenomena in such kinds that Sammler finds in the life of New York society, including also his 'weird' past experienced, encourage Sammler to think and contemplate deeply about the possible way out of the problems. Is it time to blow this plane or be blown off it?

In analyzing the novel, the writer applies theory of character, as he wants to gain a wider and deeper perspective on the character. Michel Foucault's theory on power and resistance is widely applied in order to observe how the character of

Artur Sammler tries to set himself out of such situation. Besides, Edmund Husserl's phenomenological and Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism are taken as the approaches, for the writer sees that they are inevitable. Finally, the writer wishes that this writing can accommodate the need of understanding on contemporary society problems through literary discussion. The writer also realizes that this writing is far from perfect. Therefore, any comments or suggestions will be highly respected.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION