

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

The story of *Native Son* is divided into three books in which each is labelled with different subtitle. Those three parts obviously constitute the step of plot construction in which, each represents Bigger Thomas's psychological development.

The first book under the heading of *FEAR* centers on Bigger Thomas's psychological state before the murder of Mary Dalton. In this step, the novel describes the inner feeling of Bigger Thomas who consumes the powerful effect of white environmental pressure. He is filled with the feeling of shame and hatred as well towards the white world. He is ashamed because of his inferiority. And he also feels hatred towards the white because they never let him become a part of society. White's law with the policy of Jim Crow's color-line keeps Bigger Thomas and his race as the outsiders. The unfair social treatment has created the double standard of law that induces him into the loss of freedom and the legacy of despair. Being a black, Bigger

Thomas is not permitted to express his free-will freely as a white . His rights and free-will are bound and arrested. Being a black and minority, he loses pride and dignity that beckon his manhood. White segregation and discrimination which play important role in the society has kept Bigger's race out of public, social as well as economic life. Black race are not given any chance to play a responsible role in the vital processes of the nation's life. Bigger Thomas realizes that black minority is relegated to second class citizenship. And his strongest feeling is his fear of the overpowering white's law which is always ready to 'kill' him without any reason due to his black complexion. The double standard of white's law takes no attention to a white man who kills a black. Conversely, a black who strikes at a white man will receive the severest punishment.

The second book under the subtitle of *FLIGHT* conveys the psychological state of Bigger Thomas after the murder of Mary Dalton. Initiated with the murder of Mary Dalton who is accidentally killed, Bigger Thomas undergoes the enormous change in his personality. Actually the killing of Mary Dalton is merely to prevent her from screaming that will direct Mrs. Dalton's suspicion on his presence in

Mary Dalton's room. This murder is actually done without real motive except he is in a panic. But Mary's murder has brought a sense of wholeness to him. He is more alive than before. He accepts the fact of his committing murder on Mary Dalton because it will identify his manhood.

The next significant event is the murder of Bessie. She knows a lot about his crime and killing her is to keep her from talking. He previously rapes her before striking her head with a brick and throws her body out the window. It is done in full conscious state. It is his life against hers and he is completely aware why he has to kill her. He kills her to save his life. Yet, this act of murder is more a reflection of his free-will. These two murders prove one thing that is, Bigger can be 'a man' for himself. These two murders are the most meaningful things that have ever happened to him. If he is previously challenged by the feeling of inferior, entering Book Two he feels a wholeness and completeness as a living being. If he becomes no man in the first book, he is an existential man at last. By murdering a white heiress and Bessie, he performs his own world, separated from both black and white worlds at once. He becomes an alien from his own world. He has translated his anger into a kind of social protest by brutal actions;

but all the brutal actions integrate with his self-defense. Also these express of anger has protected him from the enemy. At the end of this book, he is arrested and put into jail.

Book Three entitled *FATE* exposes the consequence of his killing Mary Dalton. Bigger Thomas has lost his feelings of fear and hatred since those things are meaningless to him. He accepts the responsibility and the moral guilt for murdering human beings because those make him feel free for the first time in his life. He is pleased of having killed Mary Dalton, a deed done as a symbol of breaking white norm but his pleasure is undercut by the fact that the murder will lead him directly to his death in the electric chair.

In jail, Bigger Thomas finds his own self. He first cares none about death because he thinks and believes that it will become the genesis of his sufferings. It forms the basis of new hope that functions as pride and dignity. He rejects the presence of Reverend Harmond since his preach will make him feel remorseful. He fears and hates the preacher because his voice will bound his impulse of being strong. He is also paralled with shame to find his mother asking for Mrs. Dalton's forgiveness and mercy for his

safe. These will redeem his selfhood.

In jail, his having killed Mary Dalton is paralled with the many more unsolved crimes of whites' rapings. Dealing with the case of Mary Dalton, he faces the charge of raping her. White's law always determines that every case of a white woman and a black man should be connected with rape. His anger is quickly challenged when the police presents Bessie's lifeless body to accuse him for raping and killing Mary Dalton. Whites display Bessie's dead-body to stir public's hatred towards him. Bessie's body is used as a weapon to accuse him for killing Mary Dalton. White public strongly condemn and judge his guilty before the court. Even though he has killed a black girl and a white girl, he surely knows that he will be punished only for the death of Mary Dalton, the white heiress. He also realizes that his crime on Bessie is a mere evidence to hint his killing on Mary Dalton. He knows that police does not care about Bessie's being killed. He once hears that the whites will be pleased to find out a black who kills other blacks. By giving a severe punishment to him is intended to show the overpowering white's law -law shown by Buckley's campaign poster. Closing to his death, he becomes helpless. He does not want to die because he is curious to know the

meaning of his rebel. But he thinks that it is too late now. He will die soon and he is still an outsider of the world. At the end, he should take a consequence of his crime in the electric chair. Bigger Thomas has created a new hope for himself but he has to die for it.

Native Son is a novel of Bigger Thomas's psychological conflict to obtain the level of autonomy and equality as a living being.

SETTING

The Setting in the fiction is the place where the events occur and the time or age of the action. But more than that, the setting establishes the atmosphere which helps to create the mood (Sequel, 1980:68).

Native Son's setting centers on the slum area of Chicago at the time when racialism is in flame. The events of the story does not settle in a certain place but move from one place to the others.

Throughout the whole story, *Native Son's* setting build up the image of white discrimination and segregation. A dump, narrow and closet-like apartment refers to the white entrapment towards Bigger Thomas's life.

While the use of atmosphere is closely related with

the condition of Bigger Thomas. The use of atmosphere signifies a warning for his existence -things that come and endanger his life soon.

Like he first comes to the Daltons, the dangerous omen closely follows him

All day long it had been springlike; but now dark clouds were slowly swallowed the sun. All at once the street lamps came on and the sky was black and close to the house-tops.

(NS, p. 44)

From those quoted lines above, I can see that Bigger Thomas's life is paralled with the sky slowly swallowed by the dark clouds. Entering the Daltons, his life is shadowed by dangerous omen.

PLOT

Plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. It may include what a character says or thinks, as well as what he does. But it leaves out description and analysis and concentrates ordinarily on major happening (Lawrence Perrin, 1970:43)

Native Son is complex in its length. Description of turbulent events that greatly influence to Bigger Thomas are crowded.

To ease the readers to grasp the understanding of the plot structure, the writer list the story actions chronologically. Besides, it will avoid the readers to get bored.

The table of story's action

Book	Setting	Action	Conflict
I <i>FEAR</i>	Bigger Thomas's apartment at 3721 Indiana Avenue	Bigger Thomas kills a huge rat	Bigger Thomas vs. the nature
	Public street	Bigger Thomas sees a flying plane	Bigger Thomas vs. white's law
..	Poolroom	Bigger Thomas hits Gus	Bigger Thomas vs. Gus
..	At the movie	Bigger sees white's discrimination well-	Bigger Thomas vs.

	shown by movies` picture	white`s law
.. the poolroom	Bigger nearly kills Gus	Bigger Thomas vs. Gus
.. the Daltons house 4605 Drexel Boulevard	Mary Dalton asks Bigger Thomas whether he belongs to Union or not	Bigger Thomas vs. Mary Dalton
Ernie`s Kitchen Shack	Mary and Jan asks Bigger to sit and eat with them in the same table	Bigger Thomas vs. Jan & Mary
Mary`s bed- room	Bigger Thomas kills Mary	Bigger Thomas vs. Mary Dalton
II the Daltons` <i>FLIGHT</i> house	the murder of Mary Dalton is	Bigger Thomas vs.

	4605 Drexel Boulevard	disclosed	the Dalton & white's law
..	the empty apartment	Bigger Thomas kills Bessie	Bigger Thomas vs. Bessie
..	the empty apartment	Bigger sees a crowd of black men and wo- men singing and clap- ping hands in the church	Bigger Thomas vs. himself
III FATE	Police Sta- tion	Mrs. Thomas asks for the Daltons' mercy for his life	Bigger Thomas vs. Mrs. Thomas
	Police Sta- tion	Buckley forces him to confess other crimes he never commits	Bigger Thomas vs. Buckley
..	In the court	State offers Bessie's dead-body to prove his	Bigger Thomas vs.

Graham Little adds in his *Approach to Literature* that conflict is the essence of all stories. The exposition should set up a situation in which there is conflict and from which suspense arises. the conflict may be one of man against nature, man against man, or, in the mind of the chief character, man against himself (1966:83)

The first scene is repeated to produce the more complex conflict in the central character. He sees the white deterministic environment which always offers the unfair treatment to him. As he wanders aimlessly around the streets of ghetto, he realizes on the limited chances and choices he possesses to make up his life. White's law has controlled his life, body and soul. Everywhere he goes he is reminded of his blackness living in a white world that denies his free-will and he is maddened. And if he rebels, he will end up in jail or worse as Buckley's campaign poster warns -IF YOU BREAK THE LAW, YOU CAN'T WIN! And living in a such kind of desperate circumstances, he endures the legacy of despair and the loss of freedom. Bigger Thomas sees himself trapped and he is encircled with emotions he can't neither understand nor control. He lessens his emotions by handling some brutal actions.

In the first book, Bigger kills a huge rat that

threatens his family. The presence of huge black rat living by eating the garbage and anything else it can get signifies the real picture of Bigger Thomas's own condition under the harsh society. It runs along 'the narrow circle' to escape from being killed by Bigger Thomas. Its path then is blocked within the abstract walls of the apartment. This description is regarded as a mirror of the limited chances and opportunities -narrow circle Bigger Thomas has in carrying out his life. Like the rat, Bigger Thomas is trapped and cornered within the abstract wall created by the whites, the wall that has hindered him to develop the personality. Bigger Thomas and the rat are presented as cornered animals that must lash out with instinctive acts of violence in an attempt to protect themselves. Bigger Thomas kills the rat brutally by pounding and crushing the rat's head. This brutal action is merely to protect as well as to lessen his tension of anger. And the rat has served to lessen his intense of anger. Like the rat which he kills, Bigger Thomas is also a vindictive; he enjoys brutalizing others especially those of his own race, like he does to Vera-his sister and Gus who are too weak to strike back at him. The way he scares his sister with the dead-rat is just the action to hide and discharge his own

fear.

When he says that he could fly a plane if he has a chance, it evokes laughter from Gus. But Gus agrees that Bigger can do if he were not a black, if he has money, if the whites let him join in the aviation school or if God will give him wings then he can fly a plane. Only white can surely fly the plane. Thinking of it, he feels a hot-hate toward white. As he tells Gus

I swear to God. I can't. I know I oughtn't think about it, but I can't help it. Every time I think about it I feel like somebody's poking a red-hot iron down my throat. Goddammit, look! We live here and they live there. We black and they white. They got things and we ain't. They do things and we can't. It's just like living in jail. Half the time I feel like I'm on the outside of the world peeping in through a knot-hole in the fence...." (NS, p.23)

"Yoy know where the white folks live?"

"Yeah," Gus said, pointing eastward." Over across the `line` over there on Cottage grove Avenue."

"Naw; they don't," Bigger said.

"What you mean?" Gus asked, puzzled. "Then, where do they live?"

Bigger doubled his fist and struck his solar plexus.

"Right down here in my stomach," he said.

Gus looked at Bigger searchingly, then away as though ashamed.

"Yeah; I know what you mean," he whispered.

"Every time I think of `em, I feel `em," Bigger said.

"Yeah; and in your chest and throat, too," Gus said.

"It's like fire."

"And sometimes you can't hardly breathe...."

(NS, p. 24)

The next significant event is his near killing of Gus. Bigger Thomas entertains to rob Blum's store -white owner. His plan brings him to dream something he will never do, but he is too scared to carry it out. He is scared because he realizes the whites will provide severe consequence for it. He knows that the white policemen will turn their heads to the black neighborhood only when a black man strikes out at a white man. Even though Bigger Thomas has asked Gus to be with him in the robbery, the fear that Gus will really go makes the muscles of Bigger's stomach tighten. His intense of robbing a white-owned grocery store and his equally intense fear of revealing his anxieties to his black result in striking out with an compensatory violence against Gus. He attempts to transmit his own fear by torturing Gus with a knife. As Gus said, "You say I'm scared. It's you who scared. You scared I'm going to say yes and you'll have to go through with the job..."(NS, p.29). Gus is right. It is Bigger Thomas who is soared. But he perceives an urgent need to hide his growing and deepening feeling of soared. He is calling at Gus scared and coward so nobody'll see how scared he is. When he places the knife at Gus's throat it is his way to cover up what he is trying to hide, fear. After having tough on Gus,

he feels tension of fear relaxed.

At the movies, he sees white's discrimination lively portrayed in the pictures of the movie.

Two features were advertised; one, 'The gay Woman was pictured on the posters in the images of white men and white women lolling on the beaches, swimming and dancing in night-club; the other 'Trader Horn', was shown on the poster in terms of black men and black women dancing against a wild background of barbaric jungle.

(NS, p. 32)

At those, white schematizes the luxurious world for their own. On the contrary, blacks are induced into 'barbaric jungle'. They are the real descriptions of social condition. And he feels a hot-hate.

Bigger Thomas feels both angry and fear entering the white world -the Daltons; a world which is so utterly different from his own. Here, the writer sees that there is two sharp contrast between black and white world. He sees his own apartment like garbage dump in the wooden floor. On the other hand, the Daltons' house is a high, black, iron picket fence, feeling constricted inside. Entering the house, he feels like walking over a rug so soft and so deep(NS, p.46). He can feel pride, a certainty and confidence in its area.

The story reaches the climax that is apparently

indicated with the murder of Mary Dalton by Bigger Thomas. A climax is a major crisis or turning point in the whole action of a plot. It is a point at which the fatal step is taken, the essential decision made which results in the action concluding one way or the other (Little Graham, 1966:84).. Bigger Thomas previously detests her because of his prejudice that she will blow up his job in the Daltons. She asks him whether he belongs to the Union or not. Her question confuses him and he is maddened. His hatred is again challenged when she and Jan ask him to eat with them in the same table. He takes prejudice on Mary and Jan's concern about his life and black race since his intense of hatred toward white world is challenged. Their propaganda of equality in Communist belief confuses him. He hates Jan holding his hand and shoulder because it signifies white's tremendous curbing and grasping on his life. His suffering leads his prejudice toward both Jan and Mary Dalton. In short, he hates them because of their white skin.

In Mary's bedroom, Bigger Thomas commits a murder. It is an act of self-defense. His committing a crime on Mary Dalton is activated by his fear to be caught together with the white heiress in the bedroom. He surely knows that

being together with a white heiress in a room will surely direct the white to accuse him for trying to rape her. And his life will end in the electric chair. It is so because the white law strictly prohibits black men from going in touch with white women. He knows that sex relationship between white and black is repulsive to most white men.

Even though the murder of Mary Dalton is accidental, Bigger Thomas tries to convince himself as Mary's murderer since it will give him a sense of full excitement and wholeness. He grasps the fact that he has actually killed a white woman. When he first thinks that his killing is motivated by his fear, now he comes to the fact that his act is really stirred by the motive to rebel against the whites. When his free-will is blocked, it creates a motif. In accordance to this, Abraham Maslow states that a need is an internal state of an organism involving a deficit such as lack of food, water, which result in a motive or drive, a goal-directed state. The hierarchy of the basic human need is psychological need, safety, possessiveness, love, esteem (ego need, the needs of approval of one self and others and self-actualization needs (*Humanistic Psychology*, 1982:162). Garret then adds that those aroused motives is a goal-directed state of a

man. When a strong motive is blocked, conflict or indecision develops (*Humanistic Psychology*, 1982:75).

In fact, his act in murdering of Mary Dalton is an embodiment of his revenge toward the unjust white treatment. And Mary Dalton has functioned to set off his anger. Whereas his murder is instinctive, his brutal violence to cut off her head and to burn her corpse are ultimately conscious acts. He cuts her head off and burn her dead body to eliminate the evidence. It is the first time he feels his free-will be released freely. He feels that his deed has shed the invisible burden he has long carried. Bigger Thomas finds out that violent action that he has committed is able to give him a sense of being liberated from the overpowering influence of the white. Now Bigger Thomas feels a kind of eagerness, a confidence, wholeness and a freedom. His entire life is constituted in a supreme and meaningful act.

The murder of Mary Dalton constitutes a supreme act in his entire life. Dealing with his crime, Bigger Thomas surely has a certain protection. He deadly knows that no-one will suspect him for the crime. No-one will think that he -black nigger has killed a rich white woman; a daughter of one of the most respected man. For Bigger, all

are blind because they don't expect a black like him dare to manage brutal action on white girl. Bigger Thomas is not really afraid any longer because he can handle things as smart as whites do. If violence is previously his only means to survive, the important step he has to do now is how to manage his action. He must act naturally so no-one will suspect him. Natural acting he undergoes will protect his life. He must act with his family, with Daltons, with private detective, and with the reporters. He is tough when his mom asks his strange behaviour. His acting now is his only chance of survival. It is considered his only means for survival. All are in consciousness. He should be careful with his answer. He could be careful with his actions whether it looks strangely or unnaturally. as long as he acts naturally, everything will be alright. If he does not act in natural way, he will blow up his life. Even he is never trapped by Britten's investigation. His alibi is so well planed that no one will direct suspicion to him. his words are so rehearsed to stir investigation toward Jan. It seems hard for whites to find that a black can plan and manipulate the ransom note idea. It is not easy for them to conceive that the idea is born in the brain of Jan, a communist thinker. Bigger Thomas is so sharply to

think that white's investigation will not reach him. No one will believe that he-only black nigger can be so smart as whites. He feels confident now. His idea of ransom note brings him to collaborate with Bessie. When the murder of Mary Dalton is disclosed, he has to kill her. She knows a lot about the crime and the murder Bessie will keep her from talking. Like those previous crimes, Bigger Thomas also crushes on Bessie's head. This savage nigger always destroys his enemies' heads since white people has stunted his intellectual and emotional development, and he responds in kind, destroying his victims' brains, the potential source of such growth (Evelyn Gross Avery, 1979:20).

After committing a murder on Mary Dalton, Bigger Thomas obviously undergoes a crucial psychological development in his personality. The murder of Mary Dalton brings new pride and dignity for him as a human being. It is the first time he completely and freely express his free-will. His free-will again is expressed freely with the murder of Bessie. And those become the most meaningful and supreme acts in his life.

Bigger Thomas's flight over the roofs of Chicago Black Belt is terrifying. Bigger Thomas perceives his life valuable. To captured him, the authorities should mobilize

over eight thousands white men to search for him. there is a pride awakened in Bigger Thomas's heart. His flight means an attempt to escape from white's society and law. That's why, he is angry when he finds out his mother's asking for mercy to the Daltons. He hates it because it bounds his freedom from white's bound

In the police station, Buckley attempts to indict him to many more unsolved crimes. Buckley also connects the case with raping. In the court, state offers Bessie's dead body to prove his crime on Mary. His having raped and killed Bessie is used to charge him on raping and murdering Mary Dalton. Brought to the jail, he throws his cross away. He rejects it like he rejects Christian belief. He rejects it because it never helps him to solve his conflict.

Facing to his trial, Bigger Thomas openly makes a confession of his feeling toward social treatment. It's his disappointment on white social treatment that has generated him to handle some brutal violences. Like he tells Mr. Max

Mr. Max, a guy gets tired of being told what he can do and can't do. You get a little job here and a little job there. You shine shoes, sweep streets; anything...You don't make enough to live on. You don't know when you going to get fired. Pretty soon you get so you can't hope for nothing. You just keep moving all the time, doing what other folks say. You ain't a man no more. you just work day in day out so

the world can roll on and other people can live. You know, Mr. Max, I always think of white folks..."
(NS,p. 326)

"Well, they own everything. They choke you off the face of the earth. They like God.. They don't even let you feel what you want to feel. They after you so hot and hard you can only feel what they doing to you. They kill you before you die. I ain't got a chance. I don't know nothing. I'm just a black and they make the laws.

(p. 327)

He realizes that only a crime that can penetrate the 'cold' white world. He then tries to justify himself to manage action. He prefers to die in dignity than to live in fear and shame. He refuses to believe in the eternal life in the hereafter. He rejects the truth of the church since it promises nothing for his life. For him, happiness can't be obtained only through singing and shouting and praying but actions. As he states :

" I didn't like it. there was nothing in it. Aw, all they did was sing and shout and pray all the time. And it didn't get 'em nothing. All the colored folks do that, but it don't get 'em nothing. The white folks got everyhtings."

(NS,p. 329)

He also accomodates himself not to trust the church's doctrine which states that the bitterest life of human being in the world, the happiest his life in the hereafter.

In Max's asking questions he has felt a recognition of

his life, of his feelings, of his person that he has never encountered before. He feels that the heavy burden on his shoulder has already been lifted out. From the talk of Max, he gains the new sense of the value of himself. He can feel his pride and dignity. Max asks his question that nobody ever asked him before. And he treats him like a man. And Max's defense on him gives him pride ;

Bigger was not at the moment really bothered about whether Max's speech had saved his life or not. He was hunging the proud thought that Max had made the speech all for him, to save his life. It was not the meaning of the speech that gave him pride, but the mere act of it.

(NS,p. 371)

Bigger Thomas has undergone a crucial step for his personality and life. Bigger Thomas's life ends in the electric chair, but he gets pride and dignity first that refer to his manhood.

Bigger Thomas is an embodiment of all oppressed people, either white or black. He is a realistic description of a man who feels emotional tension, afraid, nervous, hysterical and restless to apprehend the deadlocking life in the Black-Belt. He is a type of personality whose existence, ignored racial and nation lines of demarcation (How 'Bigger' was born:xix). Why he revolts then?

Bigger Thomas lives in a world whose a fundamental truth of ultimate hereafter no longer exists. When he is then covered with misery and pain, the way to escape is through sex and crime. He thinks that murders as much through the thirst for excitement. It's his way of living As stated through Mr. Max's speech:

This Negro boy's entire attitude toward life is a crime! The hate and fear which we have inspired in him, woven by our civilization into the very structure of his consciousness, into his blood and bones, into the hourly functioning of his personality, have become the justification of his existence.

(NS, p. 367)

He is cynical to take the church's promise of eternal life. He justifies himself to the truth of his actions.

Bigger Thomas is a product of dislocated society that denies his right to have dignity. He is a victim of injustice society that tries hard to protect a private security for their custom. Facing his death in the electric chair, he realizes that his murderous defiance has done him no good. And it makes him helpless. It was a deceptive freedom he has achieved. He is as helpless facing death as he has been in facing life. There is no escape for his caged spirit in a society which hates him.

CHARACTER

Characters are a basic element in much imaginative literature, and therefore they merit the considerable attention paid to them. The term character generally refers to his whole nature -his personality, his attitude toward life, his spiritual quality, his intelligence, even his physical build, as well as his moral attribute.

Regarding the role's importance, characters are divided into two basic terms of main-minor characters. main character is one of the main centers around which the story resolves. In the other hand, minor character is participating to support the main character. Following to their complexity, E.M. Forster divides characters into flat-round types of characters. Flat characters are those who are not changed by circumstances but they move through circumstances. While round character bring smooth movement to the story's plot (*Aspects of the Novel*, 1954:67).

Throughout the whole story, this character obviously consumes some significant changes. Dealing with their function to the story, character may also be distinguished into protagonist-antagonist. Protagonist is always the focal point of the action of the story, the character that the story is most obviously about. He is usually in the

forefront of the action and usually has the most to say, whether the reader likes or approve of him or not. Yet, the protagonist is not always the winner, nor do the readers necessarily want him to win. And the protagonist is the person, thing or force that opposes the protagonist.

This thesis contributes the analysis of characters of *Native Son* which regard to those types discussed above. Before making the sketch of characters, I firstly propose to categorize those in accordance with their type in a list of characters' role. This will be helpful to understand the sketch easily.

Table of Characters' Role

No.	Character	Type	Role/Function
1.	Bigger Thomas	Major + Round	Protagonist
2.	Mrs. Thomas	Minor + Flat	Antagonist
3.	Buddy	Minor + Flat	Protagonist
4.	Vera	Minor + Flat	Antagonist
5.	Mr. Dalton	Major + Flat	Antagonist
6.	Mrs. Dalton	Minor + Flat	Antagonist
7.	Mary Dalton	Major + Flat	Antagonist
8.	Bessie	Minor + Flat	Antagonist

9.	Buckley	Major + Flat	Antagonist
10.	Britten	Minor + Flat	Antagonist
11.	Jan	Minor + Flat	Protagonist
12.	Max	Major + Flat	Protagonist

The description of characters discussed later are restricted to those who are classified as major characters who greatly support to bring the smooth movement of the story.

Bigger Thomas is a major-round-protagonist character. He is a 20-year-old American negro who comes of a poor darky family. He is about five feet, nine inches tall and his skin is exceedingly black. His lower jaw protrudes obnoxiously. His arms are long, hanging in dangling fashion to his knees. His shoulder are huge and muscular.

From the very beginning of the story, what the reader must bear in mind is that there are two Bigger Thomas : an outward person socially conditioned by a injustice and deterministic environment - an environment that governs his body and soul; an inward person psychologically tries to struggle against the intense pressure of his environment in order to obtain a degree of autonomy.

Living as minority, he feel both ashamed and hatred

toward the whites.. It is ashamed because of his being black. and it is hatred because the whites never let him become a part of their world. All his life is conflict trapped within the abstract wall that is created by the whites. It is the wall that has hindered him to develop himself/ his personality.

Having no money, having no chance to get a good job, Bigger Thomas is filled with fear and hatred. These feelings are his only feelings when he is faced with the white world. As the result, he is covered with the feeling of inferiority. Conversely, he always envies the white world from a distance, but when he has to face it, his envy is quickly overwhelmed by the waves of fear. He can't dare to enter white world by himself. To enter white world alone, he has to bring thing that makes him feel secure, make him equal with them. he needs thing to lift his uneasiness and distrust out, to make him safer and to own a sense of completeness like he takes a gun when he enters the Daltons. Bigger Thomas hates toward whites because he feels that they always rule him even when they are far away and not thinking of him, rule him by conditioning him in his relation to his own people (NS,p.110).

His suffering brings him not to believe neither God

nor Christian belief. For him, the confession of the God's existence will trick him into a cheap surrender. And his belief in religion means his acceptance of his 'dark' faith. Before the murder of Mary Dalton, Bigger Thomas is curbed chiefly by the whites' law that governs his entire life mentally and physically. White has prevented him to have a feeling of completeness and a wholeness -a thing that signs his manhood. But after he murder of Mary Dalton, Bigger Thomas becomes 'a man' for himself. He is a native son who is denied for his free-will and right. The violence of Mary Dalton, in fact is a struggle for the individual identity.

While the murder of Mary Dalton shows his being a human, and the murder of Bessie is just his survival motion. The killing of Mary Dalton is the most meaningful and supreme act that has ever happened to him and made his muscles relaxed. It is the fullest expression of free will. In his way, he takes a crucial step toward selfhood. 'If Bigger Thomas previously becomes no man, he is 'a man' to himself. There is a new born strength on him. These two murders have really created a new reality of his own world that gives a new esteem for himself.

Bigger Thomas is really a human. He is not a social

monster as Buckley said or a wild ape released from a barbaric jungle as press calls him. He is a victim of dislocated social treatment. It is an environmental pressure that force him to carry out his violence.

Mary Dalton, for Bigger Thomas, is an embodiment of all sort white people he wants to avoid. Mary Dalton is a different type of white person who considers black as a human. She tries to announce her friendship to Bigger Thomas and treat him kindly and humanly. But her white skin makes her an object of his prejudice that serves to set off his emotion. Her beauty symbolizes the white's social norm that Bigger Thomas intends to break down.

Mr. Max is Bigger Thomas's lawyer and a member of Communist Union at once. Through the Communist's belief that resonates to the equality in human right, Max's speech criticizes all mistreated and misguided to all minorities. He so cynically assails white sacred customs that keeps blacks within the rigid limit. His involment to defend the hero is connected with Richard Wright membership to Communist party. He is a spokeman of Bigger Thomas whose duty is to defend him in the trial.

Buckley is a white and brutal prosecuting attorney. he continuously attempts to indict Bigger Thomas for raping

Mary Dalton and other more unsolved crimes. The case of Bigger Thomas is a keen chance to compete for the position as the state attorney. Buckley is an embodiment of all white's law that always tries to corner and keep blacks as the outsiders.

Mr. Dalton is Mary's father and the owner of the South Side Real estate Company. He is a supporter of the national Association for the Advancement of Colored People who contributes huge sums of money for black education. Mr. Dalton is dichotomy in action. Eventhough he gives millions of dollars fund for negro education, he only rents houses to negro only in the prescribed area. His agency refuses to rent houses to negroes if those houses are in the other sections of the city. this policy is applied to kep negroes cornered on the south side. He also charges the negro family more rent for the same kind of houses than he does to whites. Like the Thomas, Mrs. Thomas has to pay rent of eight dollars per week for one-unventilated, rat-infested room where four people live.

Bigger Thomas cares none about his charity. Like him, Max also states that the general condition of black people can't be alleviated by ping-pong tables. This condition can only be improved if the fair social law let blacks

participate in the nation activities, if white men share equality in civil right. In deeper sense, he is an embodiment of all white civilization whose duty is to make blacks cornered at a distance.



CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION