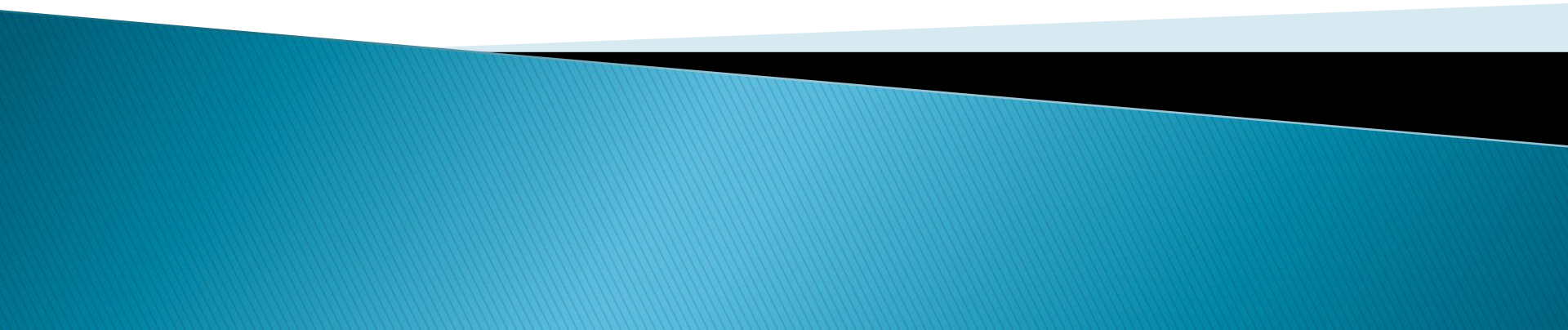


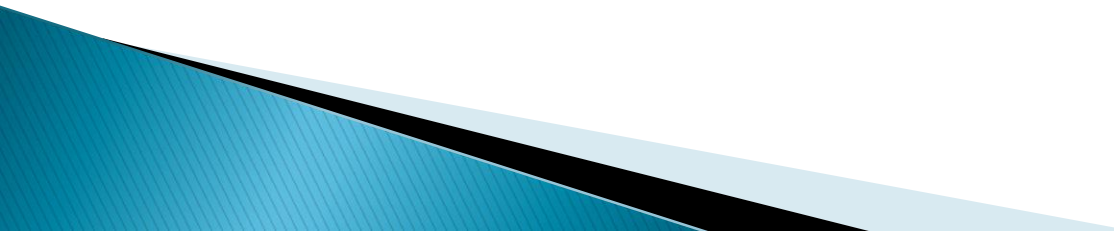
Faculty of Arts
Department of English Language and Literature
Text Analysis
Fourth Year
4th Lecture
Dr. Amany Eldiasty



- ▶ In the light of what was discussed previously in Gordimer's *July's people*, post apartheid era is considered a predicament to the white more than to the black in South African society. The white are hunted and murdered after the black begin a revolution against the tyrannies of the apartheid government. The narrartor gives the gist of it: “ It is black people who are making this war to get everybody's land back from the whites who took it”. See page 105

- ▶ Maureen rejects the present and refuses to accept reality. She tries to adapt to the new conditions, she cannot. She constantly dwells on past memories of a golden age. Unlike her children, she is unable to emerge as a new person (see pp. 31,45, 53).
- ▶ Maureen inability is due to her reliance on and adherence to her past privileges as one of the master race whose entitlement and supremacy are naturally and deeply rooted in her.

- ▶ Gordimer uses history as a structural device to examine the pasts of her characters and its claims on their presents. She manages to show how the past formulates our understanding of the present. She proves that the past cannot be separated from the present because they inform each other and “each implies the other.. Each co-exists with the other”.

- ▶ Maureen is depicted as a tormented white woman who is living between a lost past and a non-integrated present. No wonder she runs at the end of the novel towards the sound of a helicopter without knowing whether it belongs to the white government or to the rebel black forces. She runs in an attempt to face her indefinite fate that lies in the hands of others. She runs with the contradictions and uncertainties about the future as a white citizen in post apartheid South Africa.
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Questions

- ▶ How can you interpret Gordimer's open-ended novel?
- ▶ Gordimer uses past tense in narrating her novel except for the last chapter she uses present tense. Why is the last chapter written in the present tense?
- ▶ Why does Maureen run to the helicopter?
- ▶ How do you think Gordimer's descriptive style heightens the reader's experience, especially in the last chapter and the first chapter of *July's People* ?

Style

- ▶ Much of the atmosphere in the novel is the result of Gordimer's description of the landscape and the village. It reflects the mood and feelings of the characters—particularly of Maureen. The author frequently uses poetic prose to describe the intense physical awareness of the characters.
 - ▶ **For example:**
 - ▶ the description of the hut on page 2;
 - ▶ the description of the savannah on page 23;
 - ▶ the description of the Africans' hut on page 25.
- Please look back at the references given above.**

Thank you...
My best wishes!
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