

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I am going to draw a conclusion on my analysis of three of Langston Hughes' poems and three of Claude McKay's poems revealed through diction. The poems from Langston Hughes that I have analyzed in Chapter Two are: "I, Too," "I Dream a World" and "Merry-Go-Round" while the poems from Claude McKay that I have analyzed in the chapter three are: "America," "Enslaved" and "The White House".

The theme of Hughes' "I, Too" is "Despite the unequal treatment that black people receive, they remain hopeful and believe they will get equality because they are part of America," and it is revealed through words, such as "brother," "grow strong," "tomorrow" and "I, too am America." The persona is a black person who is treated unequally in his country. However, he has a hope that makes him not want to succumb as he believes in the end white people will realize that black people are Americans too and they will be treated equally.

The theme of Hughes' "I Dream a World" is "Despite the unequal treatment that black people receive, they have to stay optimistic and believe that in the end they will get equality," and it is revealed through words, such as "dream," "share," "freedom" and "wretchedness will hang its head." The persona has a dream that one day white people will treat black people equally, no matter what their skin colors are, so, they can share love and peace together and in the end every man in this world can taste freedom.

The theme of Hughes' "Merry-Go-Round" is "Despite the unequal treatment black people receive, they have to stay critical and believe they will get equality in the end," and it is revealed through words, such as "Jim Crow section," "On the bus we're put in the back" and "but there ain't no back to a merry-go-round." The persona is a black child who received an unequal treatment when he was still living in the south. The child is shown to be confused when he asks where the Jim Crow section on the merry-go-round is. The child wonders where he has to sit because merry-go-round does not have fore nor rear. It shows us not all of things can be separated and it empowers black people to not easily surrender to situation.

The theme of Claude McKay's "America" is "Bitterness motivates black people to fight for equality," and it is revealed through words, such as "bitterness," "erect against her hate" and "rebel." The persona is a black person who receives bad treatment in America. However, he uses his bitterness from this bad treatment to fight for this situation so in the end they could receive equality.

The theme of Claude McKay's "Enslaved" is "Suffering motivates black people to fight for equality," and it is revealed through words, such as "long suffering," "robbed," "avenging angel" and "yoke." who has a reflection of what has happened to his race since a long time ago. He also feels the suffering that befalls his race and makes him want to fight for equality.

The theme of Claude McKay's "The White House" is "Rage motivates black people to fight for equality," and it is revealed through words, such as "My anger proudly and unbent," "wrathful" and "superhuman power." The persona is a black person who is struggling under white people's bad treatment. Deep inside his heart he feels this rage and he uses it to find wisdom so one day he could receive equality.

After analyzing the poems from Langston Hughes and Claude McKay, I found several similarities. First, both of the authors are Harlem Renaissance writers. Second, they wrote the poems about bad treatment that black people receive from white people. Third, both of the poets have the same messages to remind black people to remain strong under the oppression and that they will get the equality at the end.

But, besides the similarities, there is one difference between the poems written by Langston Hughes and Claude McKay. Hughes' poems reflect a positive attitude in delivering the author's message about fighting for equality. These poems depict hope and optimism, so black people could have the courage to keep pursuing equality, despite the harsh reality they receive because of segregation. On the other hand, McKay's poems reflect a negative attitude. These poems

depict hate, revenge and anger. However, McKay's intention is not to tell black people to give up. Instead, he wants to make black people realize their suffering and fight to reach equality.

As a conclusion, I believe Hughes and McKay have the same purpose to encourage black people to remain strong to get equality. However, they are using different ways to convey their messages, as reflected in the dictions and the themes of their poems.

In my opinion, Langston Hughes and Claude McKay are both skillful in expressing their disagreement towards segregation despite their different-yet effective-ways. However, I prefer Langston Hughes' idea about being positive in all situation especially under bad treatment as I believe having a positive attitude will boost your performance and give you a hope that tomorrow will be better than today. My favorite poem from Hughes is "Merry-Go-Round" because it teaches me to be more critical in every situation and not to easily accept everything that only gives disadvantage.