

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I draw a conclusion of my analysis of the themes of three Margaret Walker's poems revealed through diction. The poems from Margaret Walker's that I have analyzed in Chapter Two are: "For My People," "The Struggle Staggers Us," and "We Have Been Believers."

The theme of Walker's "For My People" is "Even though one has been severely suffering from discrimination, one should fight to get equality." The words that show the suffering from discrimination are "never gaining," "never understanding," "black," "poor," "different," "nobody cared," "lynching," "burdened," "hopeless," "distressed," and "deceived." The used of those words help the reader to understand that the persona wants to deliver the cause and effect of being discriminated by white people that make the Afro-Americans suffer. Because of being discriminated, the persona encourages her people to fight to get equality and

it is revealed through words such as “bloody peace,” “courage,” “freedom,” “rise,” and “take control.” In this poem, the persona tells the life of Afro-Americans who are discriminated by white people from the past to the modern time. Even though she and her people are discriminated by white people, that is why she has a hope and encourage them to get a better life.

The theme of Walker’s “The Struggle Staggers Us” is “One should fight the discrimination, so one can get a better life.” The used of the words “struggle” and “staggers” have a strong effect which shows the persona’s feeling about the struggle that stagger her people. To show that there is discrimination between the Afro-Americans and white people, the persona use the word “journey” that makes the reader understand there is a long and difficult process to be free from the discrimination. Because of not wanting the struggle staggers her people, the persona use the word “struggle forth” to persuade the Afro-Americans to fight. The persona wants her people to be actively fighting the discrimination to get the important things for their life. So, in the end they will be able to settle the hardships and get a better life.

The theme of Walker’s “We Have Been Believers” is “Belief alone will not help one to overcome discrimination so one should struggle in order to get a better life.” The diction such as “believers” shows the reader that the Afro-Americans are

obedient to their belief. They not only believe but also embrace and practice the doctrine that they get from the gods they believe. It turns out that their belief is not helping them to get out from the discrimination. The persona thinks that believe is not enough to solve their problem so they need to struggle that is revealed through words, such as “stand ready,” “long-suffering arise,” and “fists bleed.” The persona emphasizes “we have been believers” to explain that long ago they were believers who believed in white people that they saw as their master. However, she thinks her people are not supposed to only believe in them because they only feel misery in believing white gods. In order to get out from the suffering, the Afro-Americans must struggle to get a better life.

After analyzing the poems, I found similarities in the three of Walker’s poems. First, those three poems are telling about the suffering of the Afro-Americans who are oppressed by white people. Second, the Afro-Americans power must be awakened so they will be able to struggle. Third, they should move forward to fight the discrimination in order to get a better life. Besides the similarities, there is only one difference which is the theme itself.

In my opinion, Margaret Walker is skillful in expressing her poems towards discrimination. She does not put harsh words even if she receives negative treatment. She is also keep believing that her people will be free from the discrimination although there are so many obstacles. Walker wants her people to remain strong and always put hopes through the long hardships.