

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the characteristics of the protagonist, Lucy, in Jamaica Kincaid's *Lucy*, I conclude that Lucy's characteristics really were affected by her life in the past, especially her bitter relationship with her mother. This effect is well described by Jamaica Kincaid although she makes the story in random flashback that require the reader to arrange her story in chronological time to get what Lucy's life is like. Nevertheless, Kincaid also tells the narration in a plain and truthful way. She describes Lucy's feelings and thoughts of the event that happen in Lucy's life so make the reader recognize Lucy's characteristics, which is full of anger and disappointment towards her past and present life. Lucy is described as a person who is bitter, jaundiced, cynical, and malicious person.

Kincaid describes Lucy's experience of bitterness and many difficulties; mother's betrayal, and her dissatisfaction with the condition of her hometown in her life. It not only creates dissatisfaction and anger in her life but also shapes her to become a bitter person. Those experiences determined her to change her life. She wants to design her new life by leaving all those unpleasant situations to North America, which she thinks a place of happiness. Yet, Lucy's anger and

disappointment, toward her mother especially, shaped Lucy to become jaundiced - very negative - in seeing people or situations around her. She becomes so cynical as always thinks that her mother never loves her as much as she loves her brothers and feels that her mother's attention is just an attempt to dominate her and to control her life. She even cannot see the beauty of the world and the positive side of the things which happen to her that makes her unable to see America as a chance for her better life.

Moreover, her bitterness has shaped Lucy to become malicious. She has the desire to hurt other's feelings not only her mother but also at Mariah, her employer, whom she thinks has acted and loved her like her mother. She thinks by diverting her anger at Mariah, she has hurt her mother. Lucy desires to hurt her mother by practicing a free life style which is against her mother's teaching. Yet, unconsciously by practicing a free life style, Lucy has also hurt herself for she has ruined her dream, which is to experience true love. Haunted by disappointment from her mother, Lucy becomes fearful to be deeply involved in relationships with men for fear that they will disappoint her as her mother does.

Lucy's disappointment in the past prevents her from making her yearning comes true. At first, she thinks by leaving her mother, her homeland, and live life as she wants, she will find her happiness. Nevertheless, she cannot fulfill her desire because she keeps herself haunted by the bitter memories and disappointment. She is able to see that her past life is incompatible with her desire, but she does not want to learn from her experiences. On the contrary, she always sees other people and things around her negatively, and thinks that they will disappoint her like her mother does. As a result, those memories become obstacles that prevent her from

experiencing love and happiness. Her disillusionment and disappointment make her even unhappier. Her life is not improving even after living for one year in America.

Having analyzed the novel, I conclude that Lucy's negative thought and reaction toward her bitter problem become an obstacle in facing her future life. Her reaction toward her mother's betrayal, not reconciling with but leaving her mother, only makes Lucy's present life worse because she is trapped amidst her bitter memories that make her unable to achieve what she really wants in life. Her bitterness prevents her from taking positive action in her present and future life that causes Lucy's life not to improve; on the contrary, her life becomes worse.

From the analysis of the characteristics of the protagonist, it can be seen that her feeling unloved or betrayed by her mother had given many negative impacts on Lucy's characteristics. It not only affects her relationship with others but also affect how she sees things around her. Her disappointment shapes her to become a person who is full of anger, bitterness, cynicism, and hatred that hinder her from realizing her dream.

I believe that Jamaica Kincaid has some purposes in creating such a protagonist. Kincaid wants to show the readers that mother's role to give love to all children is very important. The act of paying more attention to particular children and praising them more, can cause the feeling of being unwanted and betrayed as Lucy experiences. The feeling of being betrayed is really terrible and hurtful. It can damage their future life because it affects their characteristics and their points of view in seeing people and things. Thus, Kincaid wants to send a message to all mothers to act lovingly to make their children feel loved and wanted.

Moreover, I think by describing Lucy's life in America which is not

improving after a year, Kincaid wants to send a message to daughters to reconcile with their mother if they ever experience this kind of situation. Lucy leaves her mother without any reconciliation. As a result, she is always haunted by bitter memories that make her life even worse. In the end, Lucy realizes that the source of her happiness is within her mother, but the betrayal of her mother has shaped her to become so bitter that she does not want to have any connection with her mother. She decides to distance herself from her mother, which I believe is a wrong decision. I believe that once Lucy forgives her mother and learns from her past experiences, she will easily gain what she wants in life.

I also would like to conclude that this novel is worth reading and analyzing. The novel was so beautifully written, especially the use of the first-infinite person narrative technique that enables us to feel the character's intense feeling and thoughts. In the end, it leads us to reflect on our own lives and our society. Lucy's experiences happen many times in our society. Thus, by reading and analyzing this novel the reader can learn values that can transform us to have a better life. All in all, I conclude that although *Lucy* is a fairly short novel, but it contains something important that might help us in living our daily life.