

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I am going to draw a conclusion on my analysis of four of Langston Hughes's poems and four of Countee Cullen's poems revealed through diction. Four of Langston Hughes' poems that I have analyzed in Chapter Two are: "I Dream a World", "Ruby Brown", "Merry-Go-Round" and "A New Song." Four of Countee Cullen's poems that I have analyzed in the previous chapter are: "Incident", "Uncle Jim", "Scottsboro, Too, Is Worth Its Song (A poem to American poets)" and "A Brown Girl Dead."

There are several similarities between Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen. First, they are both black people who come from the New Negro or Harlem Renaissance era, and they write poems about discrimination performed by white people towards black people. Secondly, in writing poems both Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen use simple words that are easily understood, in relation to discrimination. For example, in "I Dream a World", Hughes uses the words "love", "freedom" and "peace", while in Cullen "Scottsboro, Too, Is Worth Its Song", Cullen uses the words "tears", "blood" and "cries." Interestingly, both

Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen use contrasting words in their poems. For example in “I Dream a World”, Hughes uses the words “black” and “white”, while in “Uncle Jim”, Cullen uses the words “bitter” and “joy.”

There are also several differences between the poems written by Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen. The first, it concerns the speakers’ attitudes in their poems. The speakers in Langston Hughes’s poems show optimistic attitudes towards discrimination, which is because Hughes was born and grew up in a multicultural environment that it made him realize that “both black and white people are equal in many aspects of life” (“Langston Hughes: Childhood”). On the other hand, the speakers in Countee Cullen’s poems show pessimistic attitude towards discrimination, because Cullen was “raised and educated in a white people community” (“Countee Cullen”), which is why he thinks like white person, who thinks that it is impossible for black people to be free from discrimination.

In addition, Hughes and Cullen have different styles in writing poems. Langston Hughes’ poems are conversational, while Countee Cullen’s poems are narrative. For example, in Hughes’ “Merry-Go-Round”, Hughes includes a conversation between the speaker and a white boy, while, in Countee Cullen’s “Incident”, the speaker narrates the discrimination that took place in his or her life in details.

In my opinion, Hughes is successful in presenting the issue of discrimination in his poems. Four of Langston Hughes’ poems that show the spirit of optimism in facing discrimination are very inspiring. For example, in my favorite poem, “I Dream a World,” the narrator shows his/her optimism to struggle against the discrimination that he/she experiences. The poem delivers a

message that one should not easily give up. Moreover, one has to be optimistic and brave in order to survive from any hardships in life, such as discrimination.

Cullen is also successful in presenting the issue of discrimination. Through four of Countee Cullen's poems that I have analyzed, one is aware of how discrimination may have a destructive impact on one's life. For example, in "Incident," the discrimination that the narrator experiences makes him or her become pessimistic because he or she is burdened by the discrimination he or she has experienced in the past. Even though I disagree with the pessimistic attitudes of the narrators in Cullen's poems, I believe one may learn to understand why many black people feel pessimistic or even bitter due to the discrimination they have experienced in the past.