

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **CONCLUSION**

As a conclusion from the discussion of the two novels, I would like to compare the works by showing the similarities in the two literary works and also to contrast them by showing the differences in how the construction happens and what the reaction of each character is.

After analyzing both novels, I can understand why the black characters in the story must act out certain behavior. Both of the characters, Joe Christmas and Bigger Thomas, constantly experience prejudice, discrimination, and injustice from society. And they are put in familiar settings of racist condition: one thing is family sufferings whether it is the struggle to come out of the poverty or the rejection from society because of having half-negro blood. The other things are defiance and violence which the characters experience through the injustice and unequal chance from the white society. Both of them are faced to the condition that they are undesirable and even sentenced to death. These settings are presented by the writers to strengthen the forms of social construction.

Racist propaganda, racial prejudice, oppression, and rejection are more or less of the same pattern of construction whose main purpose is to put the blacks in an inferior position as an object that is determined and controlled by the

white. It causes difficulties for the black to identify their identity as they are in a powerless condition to determine everything for their own lives. For all through their lives, they must struggle with the existence matters, which bring them to a powerless condition over their own lives.

The significant differences, which are seen from the two characters, Joe and Bigger, are their reactions to the construction. Bigger Thomas gives out strong reactions by showing his anger and fear openly through a rough or brutal action when he encounters with white. While Joe Christmas, the construction makes him become someone that tightly closes himself from socializing with others. It is interesting for me to notice that the process of construction which happens in the minds of the characters --Joe and Bigger-- is expressed differently by each author through the dialogues and thoughts of the characters. How the authors present their characters' thoughts and feelings emphasizes the reactions that are brought out by the characters. Richard Wright narrates Bigger's thought and feelings very clearly. The readers are able to know precisely what Bigger has considered in his every moves and know as well what he feels in every incidents. It is outspoken and clear just like Bigger's reaction that is openly acted and clearly extrovert. While William Faulkner does not give more details about Joe's thought and feelings. The readers are not able to get more information about what Joe thinks. They can only pay attention to his behavior and attitude if they want to understand Joe. This form of writing emphasizes Joe's being silent and introvert to the society. He is repressed by the construction that he experiences as the readers know little about his thoughts and feelings because his mind is not clearly uttered.

Another interesting difference is about the ending of the works. Both of the characters have the same tragic ending, they both give in to the white's supremacy; they both die, Joe is lynched, Bigger is sentenced to death. But in Native Son, Wright gives a thought as a warning through the defense from Bigger's lawyer who states that Bigger's criminal action is not completely his own mistake, but society is involved in this incident as it constructs the black's character through its being racist. And actually society can determine the next incidents whether it wants to keep its perception and construction towards the black by being racist all the time or it can stop applying the racialism and start to form a new perspective towards the black as to avoid the same thing as Bigger's incident to happen again. So, I conclude that in Native Son there is a contemplation to open a new thought which for a long time is closed by an inherent racialism. The idea tries to open an optimistic opportunity that those constructions and those thoughts are able to change. While in Light in August, through Joe's being lynched by the society, Faulkner emphasizes that the racist social construction is completely fixed; there is no chance to change or get better and as to emphasize as well that the end of the black people is all the same: they keep inferior.

As my general conclusion, what a great social construction it is that happens in someone's mind which will form certain images and characteristics. As part of society, people sometimes do not realize that their beliefs and customs that they apply in society give great input in influencing their perceptions, their actions and even their characteristics. It is unavoidable. Knowing that social construction influences people's mind and perception, some of it is deliberately made by certain people or groups for their own sake by forming certain images and views towards the targeted

race or group of people. This is what I have said in the previous chapter that actually what happens to the black characters is not their own mistake, caused by their being in a particular race, but it is because they are the product of the racist society. They are constructed and formed, eventually they become like what society believes. In other words, social construction tends to fulfill stereotypes. However, It depends on the black man whether he wants to fulfill the stereotype or to decline it, to prove himself by showing his ability and personal skill more than merely a stereotype.