

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

Having discussed the delineation of identity of the woman protagonists (Antoinette Cosway in Jean Rhys' Wide Sargasso Sea and Lucy Josephine Potter in Jamaica Kincaid's Lucy) in the two previous chapters, I would like to conclude that the time and place in which both woman protagonists live as well as the people whom they deal with, especially those whose relationship is close to them, affects the formation of each woman protagonist's identity.

I notice that in the two novels the setting of places from which each protagonist comes and is reared, namely Jamaica and West Indies (precisely Windward Island), are the so-called the colonized islands which are occupied by Britain. Nevertheless, unlike Jamaica, which during Antoinette Cosway's narration is still under British colonial domination, Windward Island, Lucy's homeland, has attained its independence. Furthermore, the two novels' settings of time differ more than a century from each other; the story of Antoinette Cosway in Wide Sargasso Sea is set in 1830s whereas the story of Lucy in Lucy takes its setting in the 1960s. However, I notice that the two novels' settings of time and place make no difference to both woman protagonists. Both Antoinette and Lucy suffer the effect of British colonization over them. Little Antoinette experiences

how colonization has created dissension between Jamaican and people from her rank, precisely those who are non-native of the island. The colonization has successfully sown the seed of discord over her homeland; thus, conflicts between black Jamaicans and those who once enslaved black labourers, like her family, recurrently take place after Britain has established the law which nullifies slavery. The dissension renders it difficult for Antoinette to identify herself with Jamaicans, the community she feels she belongs to. As a result, she deems it easier to conform to her husband's ideal to become an English lady, though in the end it turns out to be disaster as to make it difficult for Antoinette to identify herself as either Jamaican or Englishman.

Similar to what has happened to Antoinette, despite the fact that little Lucy does not experience the colonization herself, she experiences how the effect of colonization has suppressed her people's minds, especially her parents'. West Indians as well as Lucy's parents think highly of their ex-colonizer, namely Britain, which finally leads them to use the whites' standard as their measurement. The fact that her parents' thought is oriented towards their former colonizer makes Lucy's mother fail to treat her equally to her younger brothers, as proven by her mother's idea to send their sons to England in order that they can have good occupations and positions in society. It is this unconsciously-imposed thought that drives Lucy's parents to send their sons to England. It is also this effect of colonization that becomes the trigger of the clash between Lucy and her beloved mother. Little Lucy finds her mother's conduct a great disappointment. Thus, she decides to go to America, hoping that she can escape from her mother's shadow and be an American. However, arriving in America, Lucy finds it difficult to

identify herself as either West Indian or American due to the fact that in the so-called New World, the place where Lucy feels she can design her new life, she finds out that her mind has also been unconsciously imposed by the colonizer's hegemony. I believe this becomes the reason why she decides to go to America, a country which is culturally similar to Britain. Without realizing it, Lucy's act proves her to be ambivalent. She tries to repulse Britain and its hegemony; nevertheless, she is unconsciously attracted to it by the imposing idea that has also unconsciously been implanted during her association with her homeland people. In fact, I think that the colonized cannot completely free themselves from and oppose the colonizer's hegemony.

Having analysed the identity of both woman protagonists, I notice that the effects of colonization have trapped the two woman protagonists in identifying themselves. Being in the circumstance that is filled by clashes which are triggered by colonization (Antoinette with Jamaicans in her neighbourhood, Lucy with her mother), each woman protagonist suffers identity crisis. To be in crisis means to be in 'a time of great danger, difficulty, or uncertainty when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made' (Hornby, 2000: 298). I think that Antoinette experiences identity crisis, as seen when she speaks to her husband and lets him know that their relationship has made it hard for her to recognize who she is and to which country she belongs. This also happens to Lucy. She also finds it hard to recognize herself although in fact it is she herself who decides to reinvent herself like a painter draws his model. Moreover, Lucy makes it worse for her to identify herself by making a decision that ironically damages her identity due to the fact that, unwisely, she 'sacrifices' herself to many men by having sexual

intercourse with them. Having noticed that both protagonists experience uncertainty in identifying themselves, I believe that they undergo identity crisis.

I strongly believe that the authoress of each novel has roughly the same purpose in creating such a woman protagonist who experiences identity crisis; both authoresses want to expose something which their readers are not aware of. Firstly, they want to show us what troubles the conquered, those who live in a colonized culture. Referring to what I mention in the Introduction, namely that those writers who are living and writing in a colonized culture mostly insert three questions in their works; first, who they are; second, how they have developed into the persons they are today; and the last, to which country or to which culture they are forever linked, I strongly believe that the two woman protagonists are intentionally lifted up as the reflection of what troubles both authoresses inside, namely that being in two clashing cultures can make a person at a loss as to what to do, whether to connect himself/herself to his/her historical roots or to the new culture that is imposed by the colonizer.

Secondly, the authoresses want to convey to their readers the danger of the colonizer's imposing hegemony, which can influence, haunt, and damage the mind of the colonized, as reflected by what troubles Antoinette and Lucy. Their uncertainty in recognizing themselves, which makes them trapped in identity crisis, happens as they are 'brainwashed' by the hegemony that is imposed on their minds. After her husband's betrayal, it must have been easier for Antoinette to reject her husband's ideal to become an English lady and decides to be a Jamaican. However, Antoinette still finds it difficult to identify herself as a Jamaican. To some extent, I think this happens because deep down inside,

Antoinette still longs for the land of hope that everyone around her keeps talking about, namely England. Unconsciously, the idea of the remarkable England is imposed on her. But for her longing, Antoinette can easily reject her husband's ideal. Nevertheless, due to her mind being oriented to England, which she considers to be her dreamland, she keeps reconsidering the possibility of becoming an English lady.

The same thing happens to Lucy; she has been unconsciously affected by Britain's hegemony, which I believe, is the reason for her leaving for America. Culturally, America, Lucy's escapade country, is similar to England, the land of her homeland's former colonizer. Its people have roughly the same skin colour and the same culture. Lucy can, indeed, go to another country instead of America. In having the purpose of proving herself, places like Asian countries, which are mostly colonized countries, will fit her best because her intention of proving herself will be fully accomplished once everyone knows that she can survive in the conquered country, where there are people who are physically and culturally similar to hers. Besides, she can also ward off her mother's high expectations of England. However, she chooses America, which resembles England, as her destination. Having known this fact, I strongly believe that Lucy's mindset has been unconsciously affected by the idea that is also manipulated in the minds of her parents and other West Indians.

Having interpreted Wide Sargasso Sea's ending as Antoinette's being able to identify herself as a Jamaican and Lucy's ending as Lucy's failure to identify herself as either a West Indian or an American, I conclude that though Wide Sargasso Sea and Lucy differ more than a century from each other, it makes no

difference. Under the condition of Britain's colonial domination, Antoinette, who is very unstable and fragile can indeed recover and identify herself as a Jamaican whereas Lucy, who does not experience the colonization directly, turns out to be so paranoid to the effect of colonization as to make her unable to identify herself as either a West Indian or an American. Based on this fact, I conclude that the effect of colonization can affect people so much that it is possible for the so-called the conquered to lose their identity. The threat of the colonization not only harms their physical land; the most dangerous is that the conqueror's hegemony or ideology may spoil the conquered. Having analysed the two novels, I believe that the effect of colonization all over the world can still be felt today by the so-called the colonized. Whether or not a country has attained its independence, post-independence societies are still subject to the effect of the colonization, which proves that independence has not solved the problem of the conquered.