

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the four poems, I come up with the conclusion of the analysis. The four poems I analyze are As I Grow Older, Cross, Democracy, and I, Too, Sing America. These four poems have different themes but they have a similarity, which is the subject matter: racial discrimination.

The second similarity of these four poems is that these poems are written in the same era of writing, which is in the early twentieth-century and they are written by Langston Hughes.

The third similarity I found in these poems is that Langston Hughes uses 'I' or first person point of view to describe the narrators of the poems. All narrators of the poems use 'I' to describe them. The four narrators reveal the marginal people's longing for freedom from racial discrimination.

The fourth similarity between these four poems is the same pattern of tone. The tone of all poems I discuss sounds pessimistic at the beginning of the poem but it changes into optimistic at the end of the poem. In the first, second, and the third poems, the optimistic tone describes hope to struggle for gaining equality; however, in the second poem, the optimistic is described in the narrator's acceptance of his black mother.

The fifth similarity which I found is the same purpose of writing, which is to free the black from racial discrimination in America. Although they have the same

purpose, which is freedom, Langston Hughes uses different dictions and symbols in each poem.

The different words used by the writer become the first difference of these four poems. In the first poem, the freedom which the black look for is described by the word 'dream'. In the first poem, the narrator describes his dream as something bright like the sun but he has to forget it because of the wall of racial discrimination. The narrator wants to get the dream but it seems very difficult and he feels pessimistic at the beginning of the poem because the wall of racial discrimination separates him from his dream and that wall has risen until the sky.

In the second poem, the narrator also looks for freedom but it is described through the identity issue. The narrator does not like the condition of being a mixed-race person and also he feels angry because of the racial discrimination toward him. In this poem, it also describes the condition of racial discrimination at that time. The different concepts of 'fine big house' and 'hack' represent the condition of the black in America. The search for identity can be found in the last two lines. When the narrator says, "I wonder where I'm going to die, / Being neither white nor black?" (11-12), it means that he is looking for the admission and certainty because such condition makes him discriminated.

In the third poem, the writer uses the word 'democracy' to describe the freedom the black look for. At the beginning of the poem, the narrator also feels pessimistic and he says that the country where he lives will not have democracy. It means that the condition of the racial discrimination has come to the worst condition and it makes the people who live in America, especially the black, almost give up in trying to gain a better condition of life. In this poem, the narrator describes the condition of the racism in America; he also states the rights as American citizens, which are to stand on his own feet and to own the land but he still cannot get those rights. Although the narrator seems very pessimistic at the

beginning, he later becomes more optimistic in expressing his desire to get democracy in his country.

The fourth poem also describes a black who looks for freedom, which is described by the word equality. In this poem, the narrator looks for equality with the white. This poem also contains a promise that the black will change their condition someday and they will not live in the same condition at the time discrimination occurred.

Besides the differences in dictions and symbols use in the poem, the identity of the narrator also becomes one of the differences. It is very clear as being told in the first and fourth poem that the narrators are the black. From the first poem, it can be seen through the line, "I am black." (14) The proof of the narrator is a black is also described in the fourth poems, that is: "I am the darker brother." (2)

It is different with the first and fourth poem, the narrator of this second poem is a mulatto and he is not a pure black like the narrators in the As I Grow Older and I, Too, Sing America. The proof can be seen trough the line, "My old man's a white old man. / And my old mother's black." (1-2)

In the third poem, the narrator's race is unclear whether he is a black or not. This poem only reveals that there is no democracy in America and that also applies to other immigrants who live in America. It can be the black, the Hispanic, the Asian, or the other races that live in America. All of the immigrants in America become the marginalized group and the narrator here is also marginal who does not experience equality. As they are marginalized, they want to free themselves from that condition and they want to look for democracy in the country they live.

Those are the similarities and the differences among the four poems. Moreover, the different dictions and symbols result in different theme statements

of the poems. However, they embody the issue of racial discrimination raised in each poem, which serves as the unifying elements of all poems.