

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I am going to draw some conclusions based on the analysis that I have done in the previous two chapters. In Someone Knows My Name, the author portrays Aminata Diallo as a round and static character. In Beloved, the author portrays Sethe as a round and dynamic character. I find that both novels discuss the same issue, namely the effect of slavery in one's life. Through the portrayal of the protagonists of both the novels, I can see that the novels have similarities and differences.

From the analysis, I can see that both female major characters are black woman slaves. They experience the hardness of life they get in slavery. They also struggle very hard to escape from slavery. They also have children that effected their life as a single mother. Those are the similarities that I find through the portrayal of these protagonists.

Besides the similarities, I also find some differences. The first difference that I find through the portrayal of the protagonists is that both of the characters have different characteristics. Besides, they also have different backgrounds why

they get into slavery. In Someone Knows My Name, the protagonist is Aminata Diallo. She is portrayed as a free Moslem woman who is captured by Americans to be a slave. She is also portrayed as a strong woman who survives from slavery. She struggles hard to get her freedom back. Her strong will makes her able to reach her dream to be a freeborn Moslem woman and comes back to her hometown. In Beloved, the protagonist is Sethe. She is portrayed as a strong woman who has a traumatic life she experiences from the slavery. She tries very hard to escape from it because she cannot stand it anymore.

From the analysis I can see that Aminata Diallo is a strong willed person who tries so hard to reach her dreams. No matter what obstacles she has in front of her, it can never stop her from reaching her dreams. Born as a free Moslem woman makes her miss her freedom so much. I think it is a normal thing that someone who has once been a freeborn woman never feels settled to be a slave. They will never forget how being a free man feels. Moreover, the treatment they get in the slavery is really terrible. Physical abuse and sexual abuse are inseparable things in slavery.

Meanwhile in Beloved, Sethe is portrayed as a strong woman slave with a traumatic life. She cannot forget the hard treatment and abuse she gets from the schoolteacher. It makes her have no principle in her life and pessimistic in life. This makes it difficult for her when she once kills her daughter, Beloved, in order to save her from experiencing the hard life of slavery. It does not only make her lose her daughter, but also loses her two sons owing to her fear that they may be killed.

I think having a trauma is a common thing that all humans ever experience. Yet, to heal the trauma is what one needs to do when one has traumatic moments in life. The trauma which has not been healed can destroy one's life unpredictably. It can influence the way of one's thinking. It is what happens to Sethe. Her traumatic life makes her wrongly see what life is. Her love to her daughter is not expressed properly. She also cannot think clearly so that she makes a lot of mistakes or is inconsistent in taking decision. Between both of the female protagonists, in my opinion, Aminata Diallo is better than Sethe in healing her trauma. In addition, she also can fulfill her dream by struggling so hard no matter how hard she has to struggle. She also can learn some languages fast which helps her reach her dreams.

Another difference that I find is that Aminata is having a dream in her life and she keeps struggling to reach it while Sethe has no dream in her life. Having a purpose in life is what mature people do. It drives one to be a better person.

I also notice that the purposes of the authors of creating such different characters. Lawrence Hill wants the reader to see that slavery can make someone's personality to struggle hard and reach her dream. On the other hand, Toni Morrison prefers to show the reader that slavery can make someone's life become worse because she cannot heal her traumatic experience.

Healing the trauma is one of the points I can get from the novel. I learn from the novel that everyone will face something bad in their life. However, we cannot stay in that point for too long. We should struggle and keep our spirit hard so that we could pass that point. We also should face and heal our trauma because

we cannot live in the trauma. It makes us unable to keep our life on. We will never get our dreams come true if we cannot heal our own trauma. One should leave the past behind and continue one's life.

Lawrence Hill and Toni Morrison have differences in portraying the characters. The background and gender of both the authors influence the way they portray the characters. Lawrence Hill, a son of a black man and a white woman, has optimism in his character, Aminata. He portrays her more optimistic than Toni Morrison does in her novel. As a woman author, she portrays Sethe has a lot of tension in her life and she cannot deal it right. I think how the authors portray the characters influenced by their gender and their personal background. Toni Morrison sees slavery as a never ending suffering in life because she is a black woman. She sees slaves cannot reach something good in their live as long as they are slaves. While Lawrence Hill sees slavery is something hard that can be passed by slaves. His being half black makes his point of view of slavery is not too gloomy. Moreover, he sees that a slave can survive from it.

Having read and analyzed these two novels, I have a new perception about life. We will face some obstacles in our life, but we cannot surrender. We should struggle hard and conquer the obstacle. This is what Aminata Diallo does in the novel. She never surrenders in such a terrible condition in her life. On the contrary, she keeps moving and reaching her dreams. Most of us seem to surrender when we get some obstacles and sometimes we cannot heal our trauma. It forces us to stay in a bad condition, as shown in Sethe's portrayal. She has no dreams to reach. She only lives in the shadow of her traumatic life. Therefore, I learn that we should face the obstacle, conquer it, and heal our trauma. Someone

also should not blame themselves on something bad happening to others. We are not a hero that can help everybody out of trouble.

Through the novels, I also find that slavery is a terrible thing ever that happens in human culture. It should not exist in any form because it is not the right thing to do.