

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I am going to draw a conclusion of the two novels which have been discussed in the two previous chapters.

Through the protagonists, Thea Kronborg and Daniel Lavette, I can see that America is considered the main target for many immigrants to get a better living. Thea as a Swedish immigrants and Daniel as an Italian immigrant believe that America is a land that provides a chance to succeed. Besides, America becomes the target because America provides the freedom they would never have in their own countries.

The novels also show the issue of achieving the American Dream. The protagonists are described as immigrants who have a great desire to reach their dreams as a representation of the American Dream. Thea has a dream to be an international opera singer and she is successful to reach her dream ; on the other hand, Daniel also has a dream to build a vast shipping empire and he finally succeeds. Both these protagonists have the same way of thinking.

They think that the American Dream is a dream for all people who come and live in America and that is a dream that encourages them to maximize their potential and quality to be successful. The slogan of the American Dream which is “going from rags to riches” is also seen through the protagonists’ life. Both of the protagonists start their journey from nothing. At the beginning of the story, they are described as the poor immigrant people but at the end of the story they finally prove that they can reach their dreams. The American Dream gives them spirit to believe that a successful life can be their part too.

To reach the American Dream, I see that both the protagonists imply what is called the traditional American values. They have similar characteristics that are considered the American characteristics and values. The traditional American values which are individual freedom, equality of opportunity, material wealth, self-reliance, competition and hard work, can be seen through the protagonists’ journey of life in the process of achieving their dream.

I find that there are also the differences between the novels. The obstacles that the protagonists face are different. Daniel must face the economic problem to build his business. However, Thea has to face not only economic problem but also gender discrimination. At the beginning of the story, Thea is not allowed to reach her dream because her parents think that Thea’s job as a piano teacher is enough for her. At that time, women are still perceived “to be better suited to domesticity”. Teaching is considered one of the respectable and proper jobs for women. But Thea breaks the social rule and becomes a successful woman as an international opera singer.

Besides, in The Song of the Lark, Thea is created as the protagonist who fights for her dream and finally succeeds but in The Immigrants, Daniel is described as the protagonist who not only achieves his dream but also gets bankrupt because of the economic crisis in the Depression Era. He undergoes success and failure also. But he still shows his spirit and he does not want to give up.

I also find the different emphasis on both authors. Through The Song of the Lark, Cather emphasizes on the possibility of achieving the American Dream. This novel shows Cather's idea about Thea's success to achieve the American Dream at the end of 19th Century. In Thea's era of 1890s, many people still have a big desire to reach the American Dream so that Thea also fights to reach her dream and get a better life. Cather shows that the land of America and the concept of the American Dream are still highly adored through Thea's life.

On the contrary, in The Immigrants, Howard Fast emphasizes not only on the possibility of achieving the American Dream but also the possibility of the failure of that dream. Fast describes the immigrants life in 20th C that is more difficult. Although America is considered the highly industrialization country, at the same time America also becomes the main target for many immigrants. It creates a more difficult condition to find job in America because the competition becomes extremely stronger. Here, I think Fast wants to emphasize not only how the immigrants are attracted by the American Dream but also about the possibility of the failure of the American Dream which generally happens in this era. Many immigrants find that America is not only a land that provides happiness

and hope but through this novel Fast gives an honest fact that many immigrants who live in America will find such a miserable life also.

Cather and Fast have succeeded to show that America is a land that provides a chance to have a better living and the American Dream is a dream not only for the settled Americans but also for the new immigrants. Both writers show the traditional American values through the protagonists' characteristics to emphasize that every single person has the opportunity to live and achieve their American Dream if they imply and concern about those values.