

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After analysing James Baldwin's novel entitled Go Tell It on the Mountain and William Faulkner's novel entitled Intruder in the Dust, I would like to draw some conclusions. Both novels deal with the issue of self-identity and have black persons as the protagonists. Both protagonists can not accept their identity as black persons because of several reasons and it is resulted in their denying their identity.

I also find that both novels have the same setting of time, which is in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (1930s), when racial discrimination is still very severe. Thus, both protagonists live in an era when the white people and the black people do not have a good and close relationship. At this time, the white people are usually described to be superior than the black people. Each of them should know where they stand. According to the white people, the black is portrayed as bad, ugly, and criminal. This situation later will influence both protagonists in considering their self-identity.

Both protagonists have different reasons to reject their identity. John Grimes is an insecure child who rejects to be identified as a black person because of lacking of acceptance from both his father and mother. He is also humiliated by his own people. Therefore, he wants to be identified as a part of the white people. Being humiliated and lacking of acceptance makes John become a highly imaginative person. He starts to visualize himself as a man who has a rich life like a white person and it results in his denying his identity and his desire to be a part of the whites. Having a high imagination makes John become a rebellious person. He does anything forbidden by his father to be a part of the whites. This desire is supported by his intelligence which causes him to be easily accepted in the white society.

While Lucas Beauchamp rejects his identity as a black person not because he wants to be a part of the whites. He simply does not care about the categorization. He is a loner and an individual. He wants to be acknowledged as a human being, neither as a black person nor a white person. He thinks he is in the same level with anyone. He also acts both like the whites and the blacks because he wants to be acknowledged as a human being. He is brave when he deals with the white people who look down on him. He is also a high-principled person who does what he believes is true without letting himself be pressured by the society.

I also want to conclude that the ending of both novels are different. In the first novel, John Grimes finally finds his true identity as a black person which is symbolized by his admitting God and receiving the salvation. It is caused by his father's influence. His father who always says that the white people never praise

God. Therefore, John thinks with the view that the whites are Godless and the blacks are religious based on his family background not the general principle. However, in the second novel, Lucas Beauchamp is still persistent in his principle not to be categorized. He still acts as a human being without choosing any races.

Through the portrayal of the protagonists, the authors of both novels show their purpose in creating these novels. Considering Baldwin as a black person, he emphasizes his purpose in creating the character of John Grimes. He wants to criticize those black people who discriminate against his own race. He also emphasizes the importance of black people to embrace their identity. Whereas Faulkner as a white person creates a character of a black person, but he presents his character as a good character in his novel. On the other hand, he emphasizes on not identifying a person based on his/her skin colour. His purpose is more ambitious than Baldwin's because Faulkner intends to end the segregation between black and white through his novel.

After analysing both novels, I think I prefer Baldwin's Go Tell It on the Mountain to Faulkner's Intruder in the Dust because Baldwin presents his story and his purpose more realistic than Faulkner. As we can see in our life that black people sometimes feel shameful of their identity and it is resulted in their denying their identity as it is represented in John's characteristics. While Faulkner hopes to end segregation by creating the protagonist like Lucas and I think his purpose is not easy to be reached because to make two different races become one unity is very hard to be done.