

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of four subchapters. The first subchapter discusses The Boy's life. The second subchapter analyzes The Boy's self-concept. The third subchapter is focused on the analysis of the impacts of The Boy's self-concepts toward his behavior and mannerism. The last subchapter presents the discussion of The Boy's character change.

3.1 The Boy's Life

The Boy, Winston, is one of the main characters in *The World on a Hill*. He is a sixteen - year - old West Indian Negro who has desperate and unhappy life. He is described as a young thief who likes to tell lies. In the drama it is told that The Boy is chasing by the police because of stealing. The Boy runs up to the park bench where The Woman, (Mrs. Smith), another main character who is a white person, is sitting to have her picnic lunch. At first, the encounter is dominated by The Boy's threat to The Women, but the situation gradually changes – The Boy and The Woman arrive at mutual agreement i.e. to share their life experience. The Boy's meeting with The Woman reveals many aspects of The Boy's life.

First of all, The Boy represents the black men's image as people who are identical with bad qualities. The quotation below gives evidence of The Boy's bad qualities.

THE BOY. Don't move. (*She sits down and continuous to sip the drink.*) And don't scream.

THE WOMAN. I won't. You may have my purse, take it and go. Take the money and leave, I won't scream.

THE BOY. I don't want it.

THE WOMAN. Please, please don't, I beg you.

THE BOY. I know what you mean. You must think you're some Pretty. You're no movie star. I tell you.

THE WOMAN. Thanks God. I want to go home, if you don't mind.

THE BOY. I have a knife in my pocket, if you move, I'll cut you With it (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 109).

There are two bad qualities of The Boy that can be inferred from the quotation above. First, he is a black person who likes to threaten the whites. 'Threaten' itself is included as criminalization, and it makes somebody suffer. This condition can be explained as a picture of a black person as the Boy who has bad social image, low social condition and poorness. Because of such act, white people have a reason to feel suspicious with him. The Woman's response to The Boy's act: "You may have my purse, take it and go. Take the money and leave, I won't scream" implies that The Woman suspects The Boy as a snatcher. Although The Woman's suspicion is not proved because The Boy does not want her purse, The Woman's suspicion is reasonable because of The Boy's act and talk. Next, The Boy's remarks to The Woman: "I know what you mean. You must think you're some Pretty. You're no movie star. I tell you" shows that he is a person who likes to talk in ignorant way. Besides those two bad qualities, there is still another bad quality of The Boy that is he has a personal quality as a chronic liar. In a short time The Boy is capable to tell so many lies to The Woman. The quotation below shows one of The Boy's lies.

THE BOY. (*A strange, faraway look comes over his face*). I tried to rob the bank.
THE WOMAN. The bank? How?
THE BOY. I had cased the place, see? I walked in with my gun covered, a handkerchief over my eyes.
THE WOMAN. Where is the gun now?
THE BOY. Ah...er...ah... I threw it away.
THE WOMAN. Where?
THE BOY. In the river.
THE WOMAN. What river?
THE BOY. What different does it make?
THE BOY. But there's no river near here. You're lying again, aren't you (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 110).

Another aspect of The Boy's life that can be inferred from The Boy's meeting with The Woman is The Boy's feeling about the unfair relationship between the blacks and the whites. The whites always interfere with the blacks business while the blacks must stay away from the whites' affairs, as it is seen in the quotation below:

THE BOY. Are you happy?
THE WOMAN. That's none of your business.
THE BOY. Because I am Black.
THE WOMAN. Stop saying that.
THE BOY. Black business is your business but White business is none of mine (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 112).

From the dialogues between The Boy and The Women it can also be known that The Boy lives in a community where the blacks and the whites have different life situation. The whites have access to good job, money for food, education, and clothing while the blacks do not. The whites prejudice and discriminate against the blacks. The blacks are considered inferior to the white

just because of their skin color. In the drama *The Boy* mentions many times about his skin color.

THE BOY. Lady, I lie because I am black and you are white
(Childress in Maloney, 1984: 112).

THE WOMAN. ThatThat's none of your business.

THE BOY. Because I am Black.

THE WOMAN. Stop saying that.

THE BOY. Black business is your business but White business is none of mine (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 112).

THE BOY. Different things, it's seldom the same. Sometimes I'm a doctor who has made a discovery. I've discovered a sure cure for cancer, but I'm Black, see?

THE WOMAN. Yes? (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 114).

The statements of *The Boy* imply that his physical appearance – his skin color – has placed him into disadvantage situations. First of all, the whites prejudice the blacks as people whose image is bad. For example, they like to tell lies. Then the blacks are also considered unequal to the whites. The whites may interfere with the black's business while the blacks do not. Finally, the blacks are not given opportunities to access god job. This condition makes *The Boy* always imagine being the same level with the whites in terms of access to a job, money for food, education, and clothing. It can be seen in the statement below:

THE BOY. Different things, it's seldom the same. Sometimes I'm a doctor who has made a discovery. I've discovered a sure cure for cancer, but I'm Black, see?

THE WOMEN. Yes?

.....

THE BOY. . . . unless they change their ways. Then they do change and they're grateful to me because of my discovery; white

people give medals and black people send me millions of letters thanking me for what I've done to make them all free. I'm chief advisor to presidents and kings, I'll visit Buckingham Palace, and the Russians will give me a welcome like they do the astronauts.... (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 115).

The quotation above shows that The Boy expects to have access to job which are possible for the whites. However, The Boy is very aware that his expectation seems impossible due to the fact that he is a black. The next quotation shows The Boy's expectation to have money for clothing:

THE BOY. Sometimes I see myself as a famous movie actor, like Sydney Po-ten-nay... I stand on a platform and everyone is cheering and applauding. Other times I'm just rich, for no particular reason except I was maybe born rich. I have the best of everything. I'm dressed in fine suit, not store-bought but made for me especially (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 115).

Having enough money for clothing also seems impossible for The Boy because his family is very poor. His father has to work hard to support the family and his mother does the household. His parents are too poor to buy him fine suit or good food. Even The Boy has to share a room with his brothers.

THE BOY. It is whenever you look at it like this and talk about it straight out. It loses something because, well, I don't know, even if I couldn't have a great large house, I sure would like to have a room to myself instead of sharing one with three brothers; a nicely painted, clean room. I'd also like a pair of corduroy trousers and a Sunday suit (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 117).

THE BOY. Gratitude, I'm sick of it. My mother says my trouble is I'm ungrateful. I am. If we mostly have beans for dinner she says I should be grateful because beans are better than nothing.

She's always grateful for the rags we wear, the junk we eat
(Childress in Maloney, 1984: 117).

Because of their economic condition, The Boy's parents have to work all day so that they do not have time and too tired to care about their children. As to The Boy, he feels to be neglected and is not liked by his parents.

THE BOY. They're not at all like me. Pa just works and never says much. He's a porter in the movie house. Ma cooks and cleans and washes. They go to bed, wake up and start all over again. Every day is the same (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 118).

The Boy's parents also do not support his will to go to school due to the lack of money. The money they have only enough for one child to go to school and the right goes to his smart brother. The Boy who is considered a dumb by his parents loses the right to be educated at school and he is forced to work to get money to support his brother's education.

THE BOY. There is only enough money for one to go; so the bright one goes, not me.

THE WOMAN . That's not fair. Oh, I know what it is to be surrounded by bright ones. They're out to save mankind but they don't realize that I'm mankind also.

THE BOY. We have to help my brother because he's smart, smart enough to maybe become a doctor.

THE WOMAN. Even so, we're entitled to something.

THE BOY. And I hate chopping wood and cleaning yards. That's what I do, clean up the yards to help him through school when it's me that's me wanting to go. All right, I'm selfish but that's how I feel (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 119).

From the explanation above, it can be clearly seen that The Boy has great goals and expectations about his life as a black. The Boy, however, feels that other people may think that his expectations are set too high so that they are not likely to come true. Consequently, he never makes any effort to achieve his goals and expectations. Indeed, he even never tells his dreams to other people until he meets The Woman. He is afraid that if people know his dreams, they will laugh at him because his dreams might be considered not realistic. This, of course, will be very irritating.

3.2 The Boy's Self-concepts

The Boy's environment and life experiences have a great contribution in establishing The Boy's self-concept. The Boy is a black and lives in the white community. As a black he is always prejudiced and discriminated by the whites. He also does not have equal opportunity for a good job, money for food, education, and clothing. Apparently, this condition makes The Boy hurt. He must feel that life is not fair for him since he is judged only by his skin color. Due to this fact, The Boy who actually has high dreams is unconfident to tell the truth – his dreams – all the more his dreams are concerned with his wanting to be equal with the whites. Consequently, he chooses to become a liar. The Boy sees himself as a person who is unable to tell the truth and thus he becomes a liar: *“I choose to become a liar because the truth is hurtful, shameful, and makes other people laugh at me.”* The negative self-concept of The Boy can be seen in the quotation below:

THE WOMAN. Well, I never. Can't you tell the truth at all?
THE BOY. No.
THE WOMAN. Well, honestly, I do declare... Why can't you?
THE BOY. It's very hard for me to tell the truth.
THE WOMAN. It must be a curse or something.
THE BOY. I'm ashamed of the truth. The truth is terrible (Childress
in Maloney, 1984: 110-111).

THE BOY. Because, the truth is almost impossible. The truth shames
me, the truth makes other people laugh at me. The truth is hurtful
(Childress in Maloney, 1984: 113).

There are many kinds of truth that are hidden by The Boy. First, The Boy
hides the truth that he hates the whites. His hatred to the whites results in his
desire to annihilate all whites in the world. The Boy's desire to annihilate all
whites in the world reflects his jealousy of the whites who, according to him, have
everything while blacks do not.

THE BOY. (*his eyes glitter with pleasure*). Well, I would like to kill
all the White people in the world.
THE WOMAN. Oh, no! Well, I don't know why you'd think I'd
laugh at that.
THE BOY. The truth is the truth. I would like to kill them but I can't
and I'll probably never kill even one.
THE WOMAN. Why?
THE BOY. Because they have everything and I have nothing
(Childress in Maloney, 1984: 113).

The Boy, however, is aware that it is not possible to realize his desire because he
is not capable of killing and does not want to kill them. He depends on the war to
kill them. Through death, The Boy expected there would be equality between the
whites and the blacks. Inequality between the blacks and the whites becomes
another reason why The Boy hates the whites.

THE WOMAN.You mustn't think such things.

THE BOY.But I do. Since I can't kill them and don't like to kill except in my mind, ...then I wish a big war would happen and kill them for me.

THE WOMAN. The war would kill you too and so where's the profit?

.....
THE WOMAN.Truth is quite a game.

THE BOY.Don't worry. A man threw our belongings out in the street when we couldn't pay our rent. I prayed that he would die, , I prayed for a long time, . . . but he is still living and over seventy-five years old. A big war would settle matters quickly and all at once. Atomic war. . . . Whoosh! All settled, everybody the same, all equal (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 114).

The other kind of truth hidden by The Boy is his dreams to become a famous and successful person.He often imagines himself to become different famous persons: "...I'm chief advisor to presidents and kings, I'll visit Buckingham Palace, ..." (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 115);"Sometimes I see myself as a famous movie actor, like Sydney Po-ten-nay..." (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 115); "Other times I'm just rich, for no particular reason except I was maybe born rich . . . I'm dressed in a fine suit, not store-bought but made for me especially" (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 115). The Boy's dreams imply that The Boy actually wants to have access to good job and to have money for clothing.

THE BOY.I always imagine that I'm famous, very often I imagine until my father knocks me on the head. "Stop looking like a damn idiot! What the hell you strain' at? Get up and bring some fire-wood, such a be-damn good for nothing." And then my brothers and sisters laugh and mock how my mouth hangs open. (*Slants his*

head to one side and gapes in imitation of their mimicking.) Go on laugh if you want to.

THE WOMAN. What do you see when you imagine you're famous?

THE BOY. Different things, it's seldom the same. Sometimes I'm a doctor who has made a discovery. I've discovered a sure cure for cancer, but I'm Black, see?

THE WOMAN. Yes? (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 114).

The Boy's self-concept includes the reasons why he does not like to tell the truth and chooses to lie instead. First, The Boy's feeling that the truth is hurtful seems to be based on the fact that the blacks are discriminated by the whites. This condition makes him have difficulties accessing good job and education. Next, The Boy feels that the truth is shameful because he comes from a poor family but he has high dreams like to become chief advisor to presidents and kings, a famous movie actor, a great doctor, etc. Due to his poverty and to the fact that he is a black, his dreams must be considered too high and impossible to reach by other people. Thus, The Boy feels that if he tells his dream to other people, he will be laugh at. Therefore, The Boy chooses to keep his dreams by himself.

Furthermore, The Boy whose family live in poverty has a negative sense of gratitude. This condition establishes another negative self-concept of The Boy's which is reflected in his statement: "*Gratitude, I'm sick of it.*" This can be seen in the quotation below:

THE BOY. Gratitude, I'm sick of it. My mother says my trouble is I'm ungrateful. I am. If we mostly have beans for dinner she says I should be grateful because beans are better than nothing. She's always grateful for the rags we wear, the junk we eat.

THE WOMAN. My husband says I should be grateful that we have plenty of...almost everything....

THE BOY. Can you imagine my mother so grateful for beans? (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 117).

The quotation implies that The Boy's family live in poverty. They don't have fine clothes and never have good meal. The Boy feels that to live in poverty is not something to be grateful for. This is the reason why he becomes an ungrateful person.

In addition, The Boy's parents also contribute to how The Boy sees himself in the matter of his cognitive ability: "*I am dumb but I want to go to school.*" In this domain, The Boy's self-concept tends to be positive. Although he is considered dumb by his family and is not given an opportunity to go to school, he has a desire to have school education. The Boy's self-concept about his cognitive ability is reflected in the following quotation.

THE WOMAN. What do you really want to do? What one thing do you want to do more than any other?

THE BOY. I want to go to school but they won't let me because I'm dumb. I am dumb (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 119).

The quotation shows that The Boy's self-concept about his cognitive ability is negative – that is he believes that he is not smart but he has a positive will, to go to school. He thinks that school education is not only for the bright but also for all people regardless of their cognitive competence.

From what has happened to The Boy, it can be seen that in a family parents play a central role in the promotion of certain behaviors in their children's everyday life. Parents have an obligation to providing opportunities and

encouragement to their children to build their self-concept. Parents are important on an adolescent's activity pattern. Parental support and feedback is very influential to the involvement to build the children self-concept. If parents do not care with their children, they will make their own perception or judge themselves in accordance with their parent's attitude and it will result in a negative self-concept like what happens to The Boy. His parents always compare his intelligent with his brother'. This makes The Boy believes that he is really a dumb. Fortunately, The Boy has a great will and high expectation to go to school.

THE BOY. It's true. I'm stupid when you compare my marks with my brother's but I'd like to go to school anyway.

THE WOMAN. Yes, you go to school ad study hard (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 119).

By having these great will and high expectation of himself, The Boy is able to fight against any barriers and people that would try to prevent him from being the greatest person he can be and this is the key for The Boy's self-concept development.

3.3The Impacts of The Boy's Self-concept toward his Behavior and Mannerism.

The Boy's self-concepts greatly affect his behavior and mannerism. First ofall, The Boy's inability to tell the truth makes him become a great liar. This can be seen clearly when he meets The Woman at the park. The Boy continuously tells lies to The Woman.

THE WOMAN. But there's no river near here. You're relying again, aren't you? (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 110).

THE WOMAN. Yes, tell me, why do you tell so many lies? Your tongue should be washed with brown Soap.

THE BOY. Lady, I lie because I'm Black and you are White.

THE WOMAN. Oh, I see, I understand.

THE BOY. Ha, and that's the first lie you've believed, only because you're such a liar yourself (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 112).

THE WOMAN. Sometimes I have, everyone does at times, but not like you. If there's one thing I can't abide it's a chronic liar (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 112).

The Boy always tells lies because he thinks it is useless to tell the truth. All of the truth he hides is related to his identity as a black. The truth includes his wanting to be equal with the whites in all aspect of life such as education, access to job, and so on. This seems impossible to him because of the whites' discrimination to the blacks. The blacks are considered inferior to the whites in all aspects of life. The Boy hates this discrimination and feels angry with the whites prejudice against the black as well. The Boy's anger is reflected in his response to The Woman's question that says: "Lady, I lie because I'm Black and you are white (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 112)". The blacks are always under the whites' prejudice. One of the prejudices is that the black men are people who like to threaten white women. The boy feels that life is not fair for him. Blacks do not have anything like the whites.

The next impact of The Boy's self-concepts toward his behavior and mannerism is concerned with his ungrateful feeling. An ungrateful person never sees the positive side of things and chooses to look at the negative aspects of every situation. The Boy whose clothes are simply rags and whose dinners are

mostly beans cannot see the positive aspects of it. He cannot receive his mother's argument that “. . . beans are better than nothing (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 117)”. This negative feeling makes The Boy feel bad, bitter and negative.

Finally, The Boy's behavior and mannerism are also affected by his concept about his cognitive ability, as reflected in the following quotation.

THE BOY. There is only enough money for one to go;
so the bright one goes, not me.

THE WOMAN. That's not fair. Oh, I know what it is to be
surrounded by bright ones. They're out to save mankind but they don't
realize that I'm mankind also.

THE BOY. We have to help my brother because he's smart, smart
enough to maybe become a doctor.

THE WOMAN. Even so, we're entitled to something (Childress in
Maloney, 1984: 119).

The Boy accepts the fact that his family only has enough money for one person to go to school and the right for school belongs to his bright brother. The Boy who is considered a dumb by his family believes that he is indeed a dumb and he has to give in to his bright brother. He, instead, has to work hard for his brother's school expense. One positive manner of The Boy in this situation is that he never gives up hope to go to school.

3.4 The Boy's character Change

The Boy as one of the main characters in the drama is described as a developing or dynamic character. As a developing character, The Boy undergoes some distinct change of outlook, character and personality.

The Boy's change of outlook can be seen in his view on the whites. He, who at the beginning hates the white, slowly begins to change his perception. He can accept the opinion from the white. The quotation below shows The Boy can accept The Woman's suggestion that he has to tell the truth to his family.

THE BOY. And when I get home I'm going to tell them, "Look here, don't you think, don't you dare think..." (*Loses some of his resolve.*) Oh, they'll be so angry with me.

THE WOMAN. Let them. Can they bite you?

THE BOY. No, but...

THE WOMAN. Can they sentence you to be hanged?

THE BOY. No, but when my father is done through hollering at me, I'd rather be bitten and hung at the same time.

THE WOMAN. Let them be angry. After all, you're angry with yourself and I'm so mad at me I could scream. Let them be as angry as they damn well please. Understand? People need to hear from us. If they're asleep we'll wake them up. We've got our rights! Ride on, young man, ride through the storm.

THE BOY. (*Applauding*). Bravo! Bravo! Hear! Hear! (*Childress in Maloney, 1984: 119*)!

The Boy not only can accept The Women's suggestion but is also willing to trust the white. The Boy who at first suspects that The Woman's motivation in asking him to tell the truth is to make fun of him finally can trust The Woman and he is able to tell her the truth that he has never told to the other people, which is reflected in the following quotation.

THE WOMAN. Most likely that's so. It should be very easy for us to be truthful with one another. I don't know your name, you don't know mine and we shall probably never see each other again. Oh, there are so many things I need to say, that I've never been able to say. We could tell the truth to each other.

THE BOY. Native boy makes lady laugh. I'm not here for your amusement.

THE WOMAN. I won't laugh, I promise. Tell me some of your thoughts, what's important for you, . . . some deep truth.

THE BOY. You will laugh.

THE WOMAN. Try me. Tell me some innermost thought.

THE BOY. (*his eyes glitter with pleasure*). Well, I would like to kill all the White people in the world (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 113).

The Boy's change of outlook also reflects his change of character. At the beginning, The Boy is a coward who does not have courage to tell the truth to other people and this leads to his becoming a great liar. However, with the encouragement from The Woman, The Boy is finally has courage to tell the truth to The Woman and he is also determined to tell his family about his desire to go to school.

THE BOY. I was sixteen a month ago. This is how I'm going to tell them. . . .(*with swagger*) "Yes, yes, I'm going to school. You can holler all you want to. . . . Well, he will have to clean up some yards and pay his own schooling. Oh, don't make me laugh, go on and holler but I'm telling you the truth. . . . (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 121)".

From the description above, it can be inferred that The Boy's characters change from cowardliness into courage and from lie into honesty. The Boy's willingness to tell the truth to The Woman and his determination to tell the truth to his parents that he has a right to go to school also reflects that there is a change in The Boy's

self-concept. His self-concept develops from negative into positive. The Boy who is at first chooses to become a liar then determines to become an honest person by telling the truth.

The Boy's change of personality can be seen from his decision to become a better person. First, he decides to stop becoming a liar and then he does not want to become a thief anymore. The Boy's decisions are shown in the quotation below:

THE WOMAN. We're not afraid of anything! We'll tell the world!

THE BOY. Lady, I'm not a thief.

THE WOMAN. And I'm not a coward!

THE BOY. About the stealing, I woke up this morning and I knew something had to happen, I had to make a change, not tomorrow or the next but today (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 119)!

The Boy's character changes are affected by some factors. First, it is The Boy's meeting with The Woman that becomes the great role in his character changes. The Woman succeeds in persuading The Boy to tell the truth he has hidden from other people. The Woman also succeeds in encouraging The Boy to tell his parents that he deserves education. Next, The Boy's personality change is led by his strong desire to make his life different by making a change. He wants to leave behind the bad things in the past. Yet he does not know what to do and how to carry out his desire, as it is shown in the quotation below.

THE BOY. About the stealing, I woke up this morning and I knew something had to happen, I had to make a change, not tomorrow or the next but today!

THE WOMAN. Carry on! Carry on!

THE BOY. I didn't go to clean the woman's yard. I deliberately didn't.

THE WOMAN. Good for you. Didn't I walk out in the middle of one of his "Why don't you" speeches. Out, out in God's fresh air. I know what you are saying.

THE BOY. I walked around a while, then I looked like nothing was going to happen....

THE WOMAN. I know, the same old sameness.

THE BOY. . . . and I couldn't think of anything important, so I went for that orange, and I wanted them to see me doing it, because I didn't care if I was arrested and thrown into a jail, . . . just so long as things would be different this evening. I couldn't stand to have another day like the others behind me. I had to be different and it is (Childress in Maloney, 1984: 120)!

From the quotation above it can be inferred that The Boy who always imagines about his bright future does not have the ability to think on his feet and cannot deal with complex concepts in his life and he is only thinks about the negative side of him. He also does not have the ability to adapt to changing environments very quickly. He just follows what people say about the blacks. He steals, threatens a white woman, and intentionally talking in an ignorant way just to demonstrate how "hood" he is. It seems that The Boy's strong desire to change is not to bring it into reality. He needs The Woman's involvement to make him understand and know what to do. By The Woman's encouragement, The Boy can change his perception from his life experience and make him strive to change it. Finally, it is also The Boy's high expectation to have bright future that makes him change. His bright future can only be achieved if he is educated. Apparently, this is the factor that makes The Boy has a great desire to go to school.

From The Boy's experience, there are three things that can be inferred. First, The Boy needs to spend a long time to understand himself from the white that he always hates. Next, the keys to The Boy's changes are the encouragement

of The Woman, his strong will, and his high expectations. Finally, the way the blacks need to correct the problems of self-concept is to set higher expectations for them. For example, they have to go to college and to be successful. They must also have a strong will to pursue what they want. The blacks must be free from low expectations.