

**LENA YOUNGER'S EFFORTS TO GET EQUALITY  
OF BLACK COMMUNITY  
IN LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S *A RAISIN IN THE SUN*  
(A Sociological Approach)**



**THESIS**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement  
For the Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Department  
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Sebelas Maret University

By:

**LUTFI YOANNA OENU**

C0302040

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SEBELAS MARET UNIVERSITY  
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Approved to be examined before the Board of Examiners  
Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts  
Sebelas Maret University

Thesis Consultant

Dra. Endang Sri Astuti, M. S  
NIP 130 902 533

Head of English Department

Drs. Riyadi Santosa, M. Ed  
NIP 131 569 264

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Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiners  
Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts  
Sebelas Maret University  
On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Chairman : Drs. Mugijatna, M. Si ( )  
NIP 131 569 256

Secretary : Yuyun Kusdianto, S. S ( )  
NIP 132 309 446

First Examiner : Dra. Endang Sri Astuti, M. A ( )  
NIP 130 902 533

Second Examiner : Dra. Zita Rarastesia, M. A ( )  
NIP 132 206 593

Dean of Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts  
Sebelas Maret University

Drs. Sudarno, M. A  
NIP. 131 472 202

## PRONOUNCEMENT

Name : Lutfi Yoanna Oenu  
NIM : C0302040

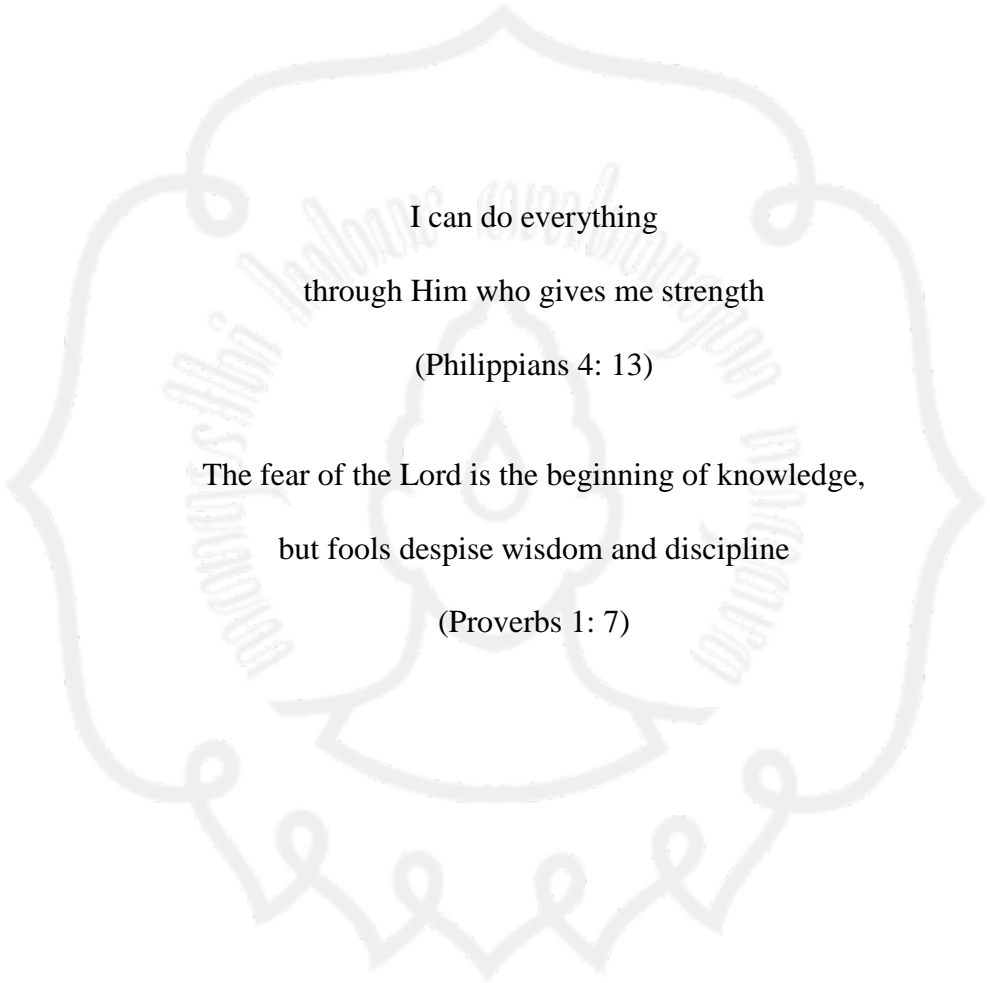
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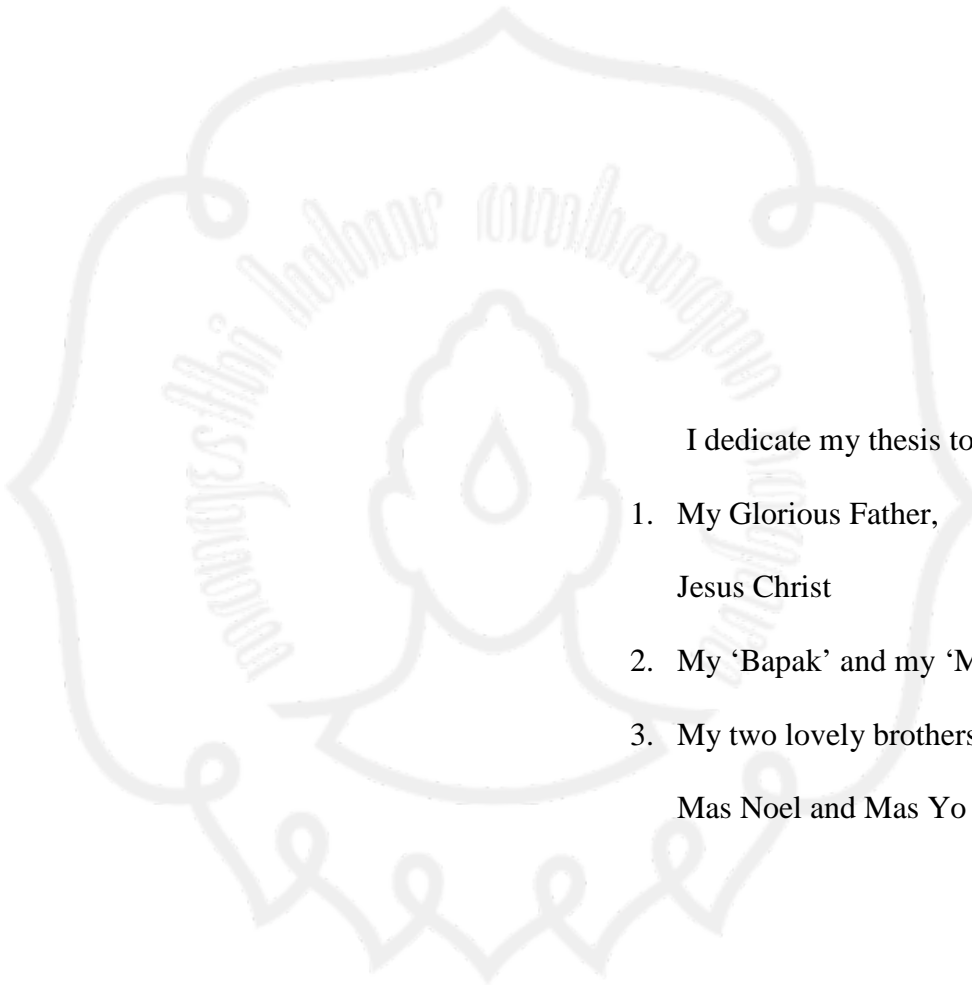
## MOTTO



I can do everything  
through Him who gives me strength  
(Philippians 4: 13)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline  
(Proverbs 1: 7)

## DEDICATION



I dedicate my thesis to:

1. My Glorious Father,  
Jesus Christ
2. My 'Bapak' and my 'Mami'
3. My two lovely brothers,  
Mas Noel and Mas Yo

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Where are you now? When will we go to Kemuning, friends? I hope we can spend our time together again and again☺.
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I know that the thesis is not perfect and I would be open hearted to accept criticism and suggestion concerning this. It is hoped that this thesis will give important information to the readers. Finally, now I am ready to see and face my beautiful future.

The researcher



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## ABSTRACT

**Lutfi Yoanna Oenu. C0302040. 2007. *Lena Younger's Efforts to Get Equality of Black Community in Lorraine Hansberry's 'A Raisin in the Sun'*. Graduate Thesis, Surakarta. English Department, Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts, Sebelas Maret University.**

This research analyzes the struggles of Lena Younger for the equality of black community in the play 'A Raisin in the Sun'. It applies the social condition in America in 1960's pushing Lena's efforts. That condition motivates Lena so she fights for her right as American citizen. As the social condition has an important point in this research, sociological approach is suitable to be used, especially the social condition which exists in the work itself.

The purpose of this research is to explain the struggles of Lena Younger as the main character to get the equality of black community. Besides, the obstacles that must be faced by the main character can be known easily. The result of this research will be useful for the readers who learn about black American, for the readers as the inspiration to have a significant role in their community and to think about the development of their social life, and for the other researchers who will take a research about American black people using sociological approach.

The research uses an explanative-qualitative research because this research explains the object, it is verbal or qualitative data, and it only takes books and other writings to support the subject matter. The data source of this research is the play 'A Raisin in the Sun' written by Lorraine Hansberry published by A Division of Random House, Inc. in New York in 1994. Those are the dialogues of the characters, the other information in this play, and also any information dealing with the theme.

From the analysis, it can be derived some points that show the ways Lena Younger's efforts to get equality of black community in America and apply the social condition in 1960's influencing her to struggle for this equality including those obstacles coming from both white and black people living in America. Each point in the chapter of analysis is written with the supporting quotations from the dialogues of the play.

Based on the research, the research question can be answered by those finding found in the analysis dealing with Lena Younger's efforts to get equality of black community in America. Lena Younger's efforts are seen through her struggles to support her daughter to get the same opportunity in education that is to gain doctor, to support her son to get the same chance in having a better profession, and also to get the same opportunity to get a proper settlement for her family in the white neighborhood as white people as a common American citizen. The result of the analysis can also be supporting data for those who will conduct a research about American black people who struggle for the equality using sociological approach.

## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Research Background

Human are creatures that are considered as ‘special’ created things because they have the common sense given by God, the creator. They have the highest position between the other created things, such as animals or plants; even they can conquer the earth and the nature for fulfilling their necessities to survive in this world. People are more intellectual than the others, so they could do anything to change their life. They try to make everything better, to solve their problem, and to create something new in their best way.

Nevertheless, human in this world cannot live by themselves to change their life. They need somebody else to support each other. It is impossible for them to stay without corporation and communication. “They must belong to a group of people who interact and share certain things as a group, but it can refer to various collections of living things sharing an environment, plant or animal” (Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community>). In addition, according to *Chambers English Dictionary* they belong to “a body of person in the same locality, leading a common life, and under socialistic or similar organization”. They live in certain place and what they want to do is regulated by norms and regulations. As a part of community, they depend on each others. It is impossible to do everything without any help from their surrounding. They cannot supply their needs by themselves. Simply, there is a process where some people produce

something and some of them consume it. It is like a chain in which people cannot be apart.

Everything done by human is influenced by their environment. The condition of the society, the progress of education and the advance of technology can make people be changed and change something. Nowadays, many people can mend or worsen certain condition because of those factors. They realize that they are created equal so that they also have the same right. However, even though they know about human rights, in some places there are many cases that some people ignore the human rights in this world. On the one hand, some people do their own concern arbitrarily and they do not care that they have offended their fellows. As a consequence, some people are under pressure because of this injustice.

Dealing with literature which means as an expression of the writer's feeling and thought, as an overflow of feeling, an author wants to express her or his feeling in the written text. As M. H. Abrams says that: "General terms, the central tendency of the expressive theory may be summarized in this way: a work of art is essentially the internal made external, resulting from a creative process operating under the impulse of feeling, and embodying the combined product of the poet's perceptions, thoughts, and feelings" (Abrams, 1953: 17). Although Abrams only says about the perceptions, thoughts, and the feelings of a poet, all of the author including the writers of novel and play surely express their perceptions, thoughts, and feelings. They try to write their thought in order to be known by many readers, so that they will be appreciated as human beings who have roles in making their world useful and meaningful.

Drama or play is one of literary works used by an author as means to express their perceptions, thoughts, and feelings. According to Christopher Russell Reaske that “drama is defined as a work of literature or a composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of-and dialogues between-groups of characters” (Reaske, 1974: 5). Besides the function of a play is entertaining the readers or the spectators, play can also tell about history, society, and still many knowledge or information. Play as a literary work is also used as a sign of movement in certain period or as a written work telling a history.

One of the great literary works of Lorraine Hansberry, ‘*A Raisin in the Sun*’ is interesting to be analyzed dealing with social condition in 1960’s in America. This play tells about a black American family which consists of Mama named Lena Younger, her daughter named Beneatha Younger, her son named Walter Lee Younger, her daughter-in-law named Ruth Younger, and her grandchild, Travis Younger. Mama has just received the insurance money from Mr. Younger’s death. The family is planning a family meeting in four weeks in order to decide the best use for the money. Walter Lee wants to open a business; Beneatha wants to continue her study, while Mama, Ruth, and Travis want to have a new house which is bigger than the one they live in now. Mama tries to overcome her family’s problem. She should decide the best decision for keeping the wholeness of her family. She also can avoid a conflict coming up in her family by giving a solution for the member of the family. Then, the Youngers must face another problem coming from the white people. It happened because the Youngers wanted to stay among the white community and hoped that they would

be accepted in this community. Lena Younger has a big role because she struggles to have the same opportunity as the white people.

The condition of America in 1960's inspired Hansberry to write this play. Black people were considered to be the underdog community and they did not have equality there. As Benjamin Quarles says that "Negro did not have the same rights as white people and because they were under pressure by white people, they strived to be the same in education, sport, political, economical, and still in many parts" (Quarles, 1969: 229). They also wanted to omit indirectly the stereotype of black people in America through these ways.

From the condition of society in America especially the black people, Lorraine Hansberry wants to show that this is a reality which happened. She herself underwent this condition. That is why she knew almost everything about black people in America at that time. She has a big awareness that black people in America did not have the same rights as white people. They are physically and psychologically under pressure. The reason why Hansberry could say the condition of black American is that she is a black who lived in America in 1930-1965 too. She grew up in a white, middle-class neighborhood, and she attended a public school. Her family frequently faced the threats of racist mobs.

Hansberry portrays a woman character, Lena Younger as a person who has a big role for her community, for her family, and also for her race, Afro-American. She struggles for making her family's dreams come true and making everything happen in her community's life in the right way. Through Lena Younger and also the other characters, Hansberry wants to show the efforts for certain community. The conflicts in the family and out of the family can be seen



in this play. It mostly happens because of the social condition. As Milton Albrecht says that “At one time on another literature has been thought to reflect economics, family relationships, climate and landscapes, attitudes, morals, races, social classes, political events, wars, religion, and many others more detailed aspects of environment and social life.” (Albrecht, 1978: 106). It means that the acts in this play show many aspects of family’s life and the community’s life. Those aspects cannot be separated from the plot of the story.

Connecting to the meaning of community, Lena Younger is very close to her community. According to *Chambers English Dictionary*, Community which means “a body of persons in the same locality, leading a common life, and under socialistic or similar organization” (Schwars, 1990: 289) can be easily seen from this play. While Lena Younger character lives in her family, she cannot be separated from her community, exactly in black community in America. People in a community have the same interest. It means that people have the same importance, part, and also right. Even, when one certain community is learned, it can be known that the people have the same habit and same custom generally.

On the other hand, Hansberry tells that those characters, especially Lena Younger, is considered as a person who changes their community’s life which is judged as a rough and immoral group of people to be the better one, as a group of people who have an equality in having human rights. Equality which means state of being equal is very important in this story because it becomes the main theme that influences those characters. They struggle for their rights as an American citizen.

“The first amendments to the Constitutions, called Bill of Rights, assure individual rights and freedoms. Added in 1791, they include



provisions for freedom of speech, of press and of worship; the rights of citizens to meet peacefully; the right to be secure in one's own home against unreasonable searches and seizure of person or property; and the right of any person charged with breaking the law to have a speedy trial by a jury of fellow citizens." (United States Information Agency: 16)

Besides, equality which means the condition of being equal; sameness; and evenness according to *Chambers English Dictionary* was also very important. The word equality was always talked by American people; even it was upheld after it has been the essential thing in the Declaration of Independence. It was connected to the democracy in America.

"The development of American democracy has been, in many ways, an elucidation of the premises outlined in the Declaration of Independence: that certain truths are self-evident, that people are created equal, that they are endowed with inalienable rights, that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed and that the purpose of government is to protect these rights." (Urofsky, 1994: 3)

Therefore, all of characters, the members of Younger's family, consider themselves as American citizens who have the same opportunities. They do not care about their physical appearance which differs from the white. They also struggle for their status and for everything that they deserve to have.

While about the title of the play itself, Hansberry quotes from a line of Langston Hughes' poem. It tells about the dream of black American which wants to be gained. They hope that they would not be considered as slaves, but as ordinary people. Therefore, Hansberry also tells about black American's dream through some characters. As it is said before that the condition of America in 1960's inspired Hansberry to write most every parts of this play. That is why; the American social condition in 1960's will be needed as a supporting data for analyzing the issue.

According to the statement above, the researcher is interested in digging up the issue of a person who wants to change the community's life and to struggle for it. It is entitled **LENA YOUNGER'S EFFORTS TO GET EQUALITY OF BLACK COMMUNITY IN LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S A RAISIN IN THE SUN.**

## B. Research Question

The researcher formulates the problem as follows:

How does Lena Younger strive to get the equality of black community in America described by Lorraine Hansberry in 'A Raisin in the Sun'?

## C. Scope of the Study

To limit this study and to avoid deviations in this research, the researcher confines the analysis on the main character of the play, Lena Younger. The researcher examines this research from the side of black community and chooses the character of Lena Younger as the object of this research because she is a person as a part of black people living in America who strives for her group which are under segregation. The information from the play itself will help this research because Hansberry, the writer, is also a black American and absolutely, she uses black people's point of view. Besides, the other characters will be discussed as long as they support the analysis to answer the problem and the

social condition in America at that time will be needed to support this research. Shortly, this research focuses on the American black people's perspective and uses sociological approach for the process of researching.

#### D. Research Objectives

The objective of the research is:

To explain Lena Younger's efforts to get the equality of black community in America described by Lorraine Hansberry in '*A Raisin in the Sun*'.

#### E. Research Significance

The researcher hopes that the result of this research will be useful for literary development that brings benefits to the society. Some of the benefits are:

1. The research finding about American social condition in 1960's which influences black people to strive for their community will be useful as additional information for readers who learn about black American.
2. The research finding about the Lena Younger's efforts for equality of her community will inspire the readers to have significant role in their community and support the readers to think about the development of their social life.

3. The research will be useful as a comparative data for the other researchers who will take a research about American black people from American literary works using sociological approach.

## F. Theoretical Approach

This research discusses the efforts to get the equality of black community in America. It also discusses the social condition in America influencing Lena Younger as the main character to strive the equality of her community. Therefore, sociological approach is proper to be used in this research.

Sociological approach is one of approaches used in literary research. It is dealing with the sociological condition of the work, the author, or the readers. The analysis of an issue is seen from the sociological point of view.

This research uses sociological approach because the issue has a close relationship to social condition in certain time in America. The researcher uses the social condition which exists in the work itself for digging up the issue because social condition of the work can represent certain time from the real happening in the world. Besides, because certain condition happens in this world, people do what they want to do reasonably. As Guerin says that: "During the 1930's, however, a number of our writers expressed special interest in social reform, and there was considerable stress on the uses of literature in the proletarian revolt and on seeing literature as a projection of the movement social history" (Guerin, 1979: 273). It means that writers or authors bring their thought through their written

works. They show to the readers that there is a fundamental fact; so that the readers must be aware of that fact.

## G. Research Methodology

Research method is a technical process used by the researcher in doing the research. The research method of this research is:

### 1. Type of Research

The research applies an explanative-qualitative research. It is explanative because the research aims to explain the object in accurate way so it will be more comprehensive. It is qualitative because the data used in the research are verbal or qualitative data and it does not use numerical data. The researcher only uses books and other writings to support the subject matter of this research.

### 2. Data and Source of Data

The data source of this research is the play of '*A Raisin in the Sun*' by Lorraine Hansberry published by A Division of Random House, Inc. in New York in 1994. There are two categories of data employed in this research. First, the main data or the primary data were taken from the play of '*A Raisin in the Sun*'. They were the dialogues of the characters supporting the analysis of Lena Younger's striving ways and other information in this play, such as prologue and characters' action directions. Second, the supporting data were

derived from any information supporting the main theme, the striving ways for equality of black community. Those were taken from the theory of literature especially sociological approach, the American social condition in 1960's, criticisms, internet data, and previous researchers that support the primary data.

### 3. Technique of Collecting Data

The process of collecting data begins by reading the story of play 'A Raisin in the Sun' to comprehend it and to find the main idea of the play. After this, the researcher quotes the dialogues in this play and selects important information which was relevant to the main problem relating to the theme, the striving for the equality of black community. Then, the researcher analyzed the data by describing and explaining the quotation from the play based on the American social condition in 1960's.

## H. Thesis Organization

This thesis is divided into four chapters in order to give a simple and easy analysis of the play 'A Raisin in the Sun'.

### Chapter One: INTRODUCTION.

It consists of: Research Background. It is the reason of the researcher to choose the theme; Research Question. It consists of one question which helps the researcher to discuss an issue about efforts to get equality of black community; Scope of the Study. Its function is limiting the issue so that it is not too broad; Research Objectives. It is the purpose of researching the issue dealing with the research questions; Research Significance. It consists of the benefits of the research for the society; Theoretical Approach. It explains the theoretical approach used by the researcher in order to dig up the information from the main data; Research Methodology. It consists of the type of research, data and source of data, and the technique of collecting data; Thesis Organization. It shows the chapters discussed in this thesis.

### Chapter Two: LITERATURE REVIEW.

This chapter consists of: Sociological Theory and the social condition of America in 1960's.

Chapter Three: ANALYSIS.

It consists of: The analysis of Lena Younger's efforts to get the equality of black community in America described by Lorraine Hansberry in 'A Raisin in the Sun'.

Chapter Four: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.

It consists of: The research's conclusion about the study and the researcher's recommendation to the readers.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **A. Literature and Society**

Literature is a product of human thought. It can be influenced by the environment of the author; even it may contain the author's way of life. Whilst, most people consider that literature is the mirror of human life. In other words, literary works are used by authors for telling what they have felt, they have seen, and they have faced in the social life involving human activities. Literary works



are known by people in the written form, those are novel, poetry, and also play. Most of these works are appreciated because they bring moral messages in which the readers can learn. From literary works too, the condition of place in certain time can be known directly, so that the development of certain period can be detected. As John H. Mueller says that “The interaction between art and its epoch is not one-sided but reciprocal” (Mueller, 1978: 64). It explains that it is a close relationship between art and the age in which the place and the time can be known easily and both of them cannot be left. Besides, literary work, as a part of art, always has a connection to the time, not only when it was made by the author but also the time in the works of art itself, when it is appreciated. In short, literary work is a part of art which cannot stand itself without the age or the period of time.

Literature is also called as work of art. Mostly literary works are created by the imagination of the authors. They are arranged with the authors' style as the authors are acquitted to write their works in their style. It makes the literary works to have artistic point and uniqueness. That is why; literary works are always appreciated by people around the world in looking at the artistic side and looking for the interesting issues. Many messages can be found from those works, but these messages can be known usually by reading and comprehending the works. It cannot be caught easily and directly. Even, the style of the authors itself in writing should be understood so the main theme and important information can be found by the readers. It is about the background of the writer and the setting of place and time that should be known to support the comprehension of certain works.

Like many other human works, literary works also have important function. These are expressing human feeling and telling the world naturally. Even, from the literary works too, the information about certain history in certain places can be known indirectly. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren say that

“Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature ‘represents’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary *imitation*.” (Wellek and Warren, 1977: 94)

They explain that literary works show the world to the readers, even though there are some literary works which are fully imaginative called fiction. However, Mueller in his article tells us that “A work of art, therefore, is not the product of genius alone; it is a cooperative enterprise between author, audience, geography, philosophy of life and the innumerable winds of fashion which, as far as we are consciously concerned, blow whither they listeth” (Mueller, 1978: 65). He supports the statement of Wellek and Warren that everything surrounds us is told through literary works. Those might be physical reality, such as geography and social condition, psychological reality like human behavior, and also philosophical reality, for example the guide of life known as norms.

Meanwhile, talking about society, there are many parts that can be discussed. Some of them are the people, their relationship, the rules, civilization, places, and attitudes. This condition can be learned in sociology. According to Max Weber,

“Sociology is a science which attempts the interpretive understanding of social action in order thereby to arrive at a causal explanation of its course and effects. In “action” is included all human behavior when and insofar as the acting individual attaches a subjective meaning to it. Action in this sense may be either overt or purely inward or subjective; it may consist of positive intervention in a situation, or of deliberately refraining from such intervention or passively acquiescing in the situation. Action is social insofar as, by virtue of the subjective meaning attached to it by the acting individual (or individuals), it takes account of the behavior of others and is thereby oriented in its course.” (Weber, 1994)

The development and the progress of society are still discussed until this day because it is useful for the society itself and the other societies in the future.

Dealing with literature, the authors of literary works are the members of society. It means that the authors and the society cannot be separated. Society is a group of people where the authors belong to, where they live. It also contains the regularities, norms, and values in which they must obey. All authors cannot live by themselves, they must have relationship with the other persons and they depend on each others. Even, they should communicate with their surrounding to complete each other and to fulfill their necessities physically and psychologically.

When the theory of literature is being talked, the statement from M. H. Abrams cannot be left out from the discussion. One thing that should be discussed connecting to the condition of the environment of the story in literature is mimetic theory. It explains about literary work which tells about the world through languages in written form. In other words, it represents what happen surrounding us. Together with the development of theory of literature, there is a sociological approach used to analyze literary works. According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, “Sociological approach is divided into three; these are the

sociology of the writer, the social content of the works themselves, and the influence of literature on society” (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 96). Sociological approach used by many people to analyze certain literary works can be found from three sources. Those are the sociology of the writer or the author, the social content of the works, and the influence of literature on society.

Because every writer is a part of society, he can be studied as a research. Through his biography, the important information of author’s community can be learned. The condition of a country, for example the movement, the industrial development, the spirit, or the civilization, is one of interesting issues that can be examined. The background of the writer can inspire his work and even the habit of the writer which is the same as the other habitants can be detected through his work. Alexander Kern in his article entitled “The Sociology of Knowledge” in *The Study of Literature* says the same thing that:

“Admittedly the connection between the social base and the literary superstructure are complex, intricate, and often concealed, while the relations upon the intellectual level are exceptionally strong. Nevertheless the author is a member of society. Certainly, the content of prose and poetry, the products of living authors, will be influenced by the author's place in that society. That this is true of the novel is sufficiently obvious, and specific relationships could be multiplied. The author’s attitudes, too, are amenable to the same approach. He may be accepting the situation or he may be reacting against it by trying to produce forms or by turning aside.” (Kern, 1978: 75)

Therefore, literary works can be used to help in learning social condition and social fact. It means that it contains of sociological information which is useful. This useful information is usually known as we interpret the works together with the background of the writer.

The second division is the social content of the works itself. Milton C. Albrecht says through his paper that:

“In most theories of the relationship of literature and society reflection, influence, and social control are implied. Literature is interpreted as reflecting norms and values, as revealing norms and values, as revealing the ethos of culture, the process of class struggle, and certain types of social “facts”. “Influence” is not strictly the reverse of reflection, since social stability and cultural ideas are involved. Social control, however, articulates closely with one version of reflection, though to a limited extent in complex, dynamic societies.” (Albrecht, 1978: 105)

This part is considered as structuralism because it deals with the setting of place and time of the works. The sociological condition of the works can be the same as real world, but it can also be different. It means that the writer may be a part of the society told in the story or he may look at certain society out of his community and write it to the readers through his work. While, talking about the custom of the society, they are seen from the characters of the story because they usually represent their group. It would be interesting if we can meet the unusual habit as a new knowledge.

The last part of sociological approach is the influence of literature on society. “The writer is not only influenced by society: he influences it. Art not merely reproduces life but also shapes it” (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 102). Literary works have a power to change society. It influences some people to do something after they have read it. Vladimir Karbusky also states that “No one can deny that a work of art stems from reality and that it has an influence on society. There will be less agreement on the actual nature of the interrelations between reality, a work of art, and society and on the place and possible influence therein of social and cultural institutions and communication media” (Karbusky, 1978: 195). Literary works may be able to motivate the readers. The readers are motivated to be person who has the same characteristics or habits as the character

in the story. It can happen to the children, teenagers, or elders. Literary works may also have provocative influences. Certain literary works can support a group of people to change their community. Even, it may cause a movement rise; one of many examples is women movement. One literary work can make public opinion which provokes or influences a number of people. Then, those people will express the new opinion and their point of view through a movement.

However, the research looking at the influence of literature on society will need more time and involve more people. It needs the opinion from a group of people who read the literary work. It begins with collecting the responses from people after they have read certain work. It is known as distributing questionnaire to get information.

To know the sociological condition from literary works, we should consider that those works show reality. The statement of Georg Lukacs will explain it.

“Lukacs’ use of the term ‘reflection’ is characteristics of his work as a whole. Rejecting the ‘naturalism’ of the then recent European novel, he returns to the old realist view that novel reflects reality, not by rendering its mere surface appearance, but by giving us ‘a truer, more complete, more vivid, and more dynamic reflection of reality’. To ‘reflect’ is ‘to frame a mental structure’ transposed into words. People ordinarily possess a nature and social relationship.” (Selden, 1997:94)

He explains that many literary works tell about the real world. He also says that literary work contains the sociological side of a society, according to his statement that ‘a literary work reflects not individual phenomena in isolation, but *the full process of life*’ (Selden, 1997: 94). It means that the development or the changes of life are influenced by the condition of the

environment including the people. At the same time as, these kinds of development and changes of life can be seen through literary works.

## **B. The American Social Condition in 1960's**

United States of America is a country that consists of many people with various backgrounds. Mostly, according to the history of America, the American inhabitants are immigrants who come from many countries around the world.

“The United States has often been called “a nation of immigrants”. There are two good reasons for this. First, the country was settled, built, and developed by generations of immigrants and their children. Secondly, even today America continues to take in more immigrants than any other country in the world. It is not surprising, therefore, that the United States is counted among the most heterogeneous societies in the world. Many different cultural traditions, ethnic sympathies, national origins, racial groups, and religious affiliations make up ‘We the People’.” (Stevenson, 1998: 13)

Besides, America is known as a country that appreciates human right. It always talks about the rights that belong to every person in the world. They are all the same and there are no differences between the people. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” (United States Information Agency: 5). They can live anywhere, they can breathe anytime and they can do anything because they are created equal but they must obey regulations conducted in their place.

Afro-American, the ancestors of black American, is one of the minority groups living in the United States. “Most settlers who came to America



in the 17<sup>th</sup> century were English, but there were also Dutch, Swedes and Germans in the middle region, a few French Huguenots in South Carolina and elsewhere, slaves from Africa, primarily in the South, and a scattering of Spaniards, Italians and Portuguese throughout the colonies” (Whitney, 1950: 30). Black people that have a small number in America are easily known when the history of American is being told because they are always connected to this superpower country. The number of those black people is under the white one. They are considered as immigrants because their ancestors originally came from Africa. According to American history, they came to the United States as they were brought in order to be slaves. They can be easily identified for their physical appearance.

“The first slaves brought to what is today the United States arrived in Virginia on board a Dutch ship in 1619 (a century after they were taken, in large number, to the New World by the Spanish). On the eve of the American Revolution, slavery was already firmly established in what was shortly to be the United States of America. In 1776, probably about a fifth of all inhabitants in the British colonies in America were Negro slaves.” (Stevenson, 1998: 23)

Black people called as immigrants came into America in order to live and work to survive, but actually the life of black people in America is sometimes quite different from the statement of American’s The Declaration of Independent because of their ancestors’ background that is not originally American people, but from the continent outside of America.

“The first blacks were brought to Virginia in 1619, just 12 years after the founding of Jamestown. Initially, many were regarded as indentured servants who could earn their freedom. By the 1660s, however, as the demand for plantation labor in the Southern colonies grew, the institution of slavery began to harden around them, and Africans were brought to America in shackles for a lifetime of involuntary servitude.” (Whitney, 1950: 95)



Firstly, they arrived in America as the contract worker, but unfortunately, they were oppressed to be slaves without limited time. They also could not get the freedom that was promised before. That is why; it is very difficult for them when they want to propose their argument because of their social status.

Considered as the minority, discrimination was always faced by them. In the past, when they were still being slaves, they were considered as commodities that could be bought and sold.

“New England shippers soon discovered, too, that rum and slaves were profitable commodities. One of the most enterprising — if unsavory — trading practices of the time was the so-called “triangular trade”. Merchants and shippers would purchase slaves off the coast of Africa for New England rum, then sell the slaves in the West Indies where they would buy molasses to bring home for sale to the local rum producers.” (Whitney, 1950: 31)

Even because of their number and their background, black people feel that they are under pressure because of white people’s behavior. “We know that unemployment and welfare dependency rise in communities separated by considerable distances from the economic base controlled by the majority; we have seen this happen to people in the central cities as whites have migrated to the suburbs, taking the factories, the banks, and the supermarkets with them” (Herbers, 1998: 111). Black people were still considered as the second class. Moreover, when they tried to get their rights such as getting a proper settlement or profession, white people made rules that avoided black people’s struggles or sometimes canceled their efforts to have a better life in America. Indirectly, white people ruled the regulation and they became the decision maker dealing with the life of both white people and the other minorities groups in America, one of them is black people. Black people usually strived for their group because they wanted

to change their life. They did not want their black community experience the bad things anymore when they were treated cruelly. “Race riots occurred in a number of cities, the largest in Chicago in 1919, lasting eleven days and resulting thirty-six deaths and more than five hundred injuries. These took the form of not of the black rampages of the 1960’s but of bands of blacks and whites warring against each other” (Herbers, 1973: 16). Because of racial difference between black and white people in the cities in America, there were some conflicts happen between them. Both of the two racial groups tried to struggle for their social status in that country. Many black people struggled for their community’s rights. The purpose of their efforts was getting their social status as common American citizen who can get proper condition and opportunity in each part of life. Black people tried to struggle through many ways in order to make their purpose come true. One of many ways is education. Education was well-known as a part in which they struggled for theirs. Surely, they hoped that there would not be discrimination anymore in America.

Discrimination in education could indicate discrimination of the entire black community. “.....laws in Southern states that segregated public schools, forbade or limited black access to many public facilities, such as parks, restaurants and hotels, and denied most blacks the right to vote by imposing poll taxes and arbitrary literary tests” (Whitney, 1950: 174). They were not allowed to study in the same institution as the white people. Basically, black people are very different from the white people and they could not get the same facilities as the white could get.

The situation of slavery was very poor. It brought a bad condition for black people living in America. They could not get their freedom and they were avoided to use public facilities normally. This was also being a reason of Abraham Lincoln to abolish slavery in America when he was a President of United States of America.

“Abraham Lincoln had long regarded slavery as an evil. In a speech in Peoria, in 1854, he declared that all national legislation should be framed on the principle that slavery was to be restricted and eventually abolished. He contended also that the principle of popular sovereignty was false, for slavery in the western territories was the concern not only of the local inhabitants but of the United States as a whole.” (Whitney, 1950: 160-161)

Lincoln as an American people felt that injustice and he realized that it must be changed in order to save black people as a part of American people. Although some people, even white people, supported to abolish slavery in America, there was still discrimination based on the race, especially between black people and white people.

Actually black people living in the North did not go through the same treatment as the white did. Though they struggled for their fate, they faced discrimination gradually. Life for millions of blacks in the large cities was more and more difficult and they were isolated from the economic growth that most white were making. Slavery in America creates discrimination between people there, especially black people and white people. The treatment for black and for white people is different because of their backgrounds that the ancestors of black people in America known as Negro are brought into America as slaves. They work as forced laborers in the place called promising land. Even though, they are

undertaken as workers and white people take the advantages from them, they are often not appreciated for their usefulness.

“George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Nixon Administration, and other officials have acknowledged publicly that the policies of the federal government had much to do with the development of segregated neighborhoods in American cities. Until 1950, the Federal Housing Administration had a policy written into its manuals against insuring homes in integrated neighborhoods. At the same time, through a practice called “redlining,” it generally refused to insure loans for housing in the central cities where masses of Negroes lived on grounds that to do so would constitute a poor risk.” (Herbers, 1973: 69)

Federal government in America also has interference with segregated neighborhoods. They made policies that can differentiate black people from white people in America. As a consequence, although black people live in America, they cannot get the same chance as white people. They stay in America as American inhabitants but it is very difficult for them to get facilities from government.

Most of blacks in the North lived in the slum areas. They were not allowed to live in the areas in which white people lived. Yet they were not permitted in living in the white neighborhood. They should stay in the apartments where there were mainly black people. They also get very limited and improper facilities. “We know that all-black communities composed predominantly of the poor and ignorant and cut off from the commerce and culture of the country at large decay and fester; we have seen this in all-black towns of the South and we have seen it in public housing and tenements of the North” (Herbers, 1973: 111). Black people must stay in all black people area. This place was called as ghetto, a place for minority group with very poor limited facilities. However, in the other hand, most American people have a custom where they want to move from one place to another place based on certain reason. They are familiar to move into the

new place in order to get new situation. “Another development that has continued since the founding of the United States is the gradual but definite movement from rural to urban areas, from farms and small towns to the cities and the suburbs” (Stevenson, 1998: 29). White people freely tried to move into new settlement to get a new condition in which they could achieve a better life and get adequate facilities for their daily activities. This condition also pushed black people to move into the better place, but it was very difficult for them because of discrimination.

For that reason, in 1960s, there were still some movements which struggled for the equality and rights of Afro-American.

“One of the black discrimination stories which are very well-known is the story of black woman, Rose Parks. “On buses operated in the city, Negroes were required to sit in the back or in a “neutral” zone in the middle, so long as no white passenger required the “neutral” seats. Mrs. Parks took a seat in the neutral zone, but after a few blocks white passenger boarded and, as usual, demanded seats. Mrs. Parks refused to move and then the driver stopped the bus and called the police. Mrs. Parks was arrested and taken to jail.” (Herbers, 1973: 20)

Rosa Parks is one of black woman living in America. After she had worked, she went home by bus. She got the seat for her foot was pain. However, after the bus was driven passing some blocks, there were some white people entered this bus. She was asked by those people, but she rejected their wants. Because of her objection, the driver stopped the bus and reported Rose Parks to the policeman. As a consequence, she was arrested and sent to the prison.

As a result, there was a movement known as nonviolence movement after the Rose Parks’ tragedy. At that time, black people did their movement, the bus boycott. What they did in the South brought more fundamental effect because it influenced black people in the North. It also made enormous gains in respect for

blacks. Even it inspired other minorities in America to do the same thing, such as Indians, the Native Americans, to organize in protesting various forms of discrimination.

One person who always be talked when we learn about black nonviolence movement is Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a leader of a group of black people that reacted to the discrimination. His speech was very famous because it told about a dream of black people in getting rights and equality as American people. In his speech, he told about the real condition of black people through those days. "One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize as appalling condition" (Seattle Times Company, 2003). His nonviolence movement concerned not only simply with well-being of this group, but also the whole condition of society. Through this movement too, Luther wanted black people get their status as American people and status as same as white people. "This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" (Seattle Times Company, 2003). He tried to make American realize that this nation must be changed because in fact, it is not in the right way anymore. "It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked *insufficient funds*" (Seattle Times Company, 2003). Basically, the

movement led by Martin Luther King was different from the Black Nationalist movement that happened before and afterwards because nonviolent movement brought a unity between black people and white people, while Black Nationalist did not.

Black people's life is usually under force because white people consider themselves as the most important community there. Everything done by black people are limited by white people's behavior. Yet some black people give up because of this condition. They do not want to struggle for their life, but they give their community up to the disadvantage situation. For this reason, many of black people made nationalist movement. The popular person who led this movement was Malcolm X. His action was diverse from King, Jr. has. "Malcolm X (Malcolm X Little; later El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz)(1925-1965), a leading figure in the 20<sup>th</sup>-century movement for black liberation in the United States" (Seattle Times Company, 2003). The purpose of this movement is known as separatism. Those black people who support this movement want to separate from white community, but equal. They did not want to be united with white people. They wanted to live in America and to have equality, but they wanted to separate their area from most American people, white people.

The other protests against discrimination came from the voices of black poets and writers. "The voices of black poets and writers speak eloquently of a difficulty that Negroes have faced ever since their arrival in this country, a difficulty that today remains central to the question of Negro goals— the problem of identity in a society that was built for and is run largely by whites" (Herbers, 1973: 47). They wrote the reality that happened in the black community in United



States. “The idea of America being a melting pot where everyone is assimilated is wrong. America is more like a bowl of vegetable soup with Irish, Italians, Poles, blacks and all representing peas, corn, carrots and tomatoes, and the common base is the continent of North America. The trouble is that the blacks have been pushed to the bottom” (Herbers, 1973: 99). They wanted others to know the difficulties faced by blacks and hoped that they would support their efforts. Some of them also told about the blacks’ dreams. “The blacks, then, were to a large extent bound to their own communities whether they liked it or not. For those who took a realistic view of this, the logical action was to try to obtain as much power and self-control as possible within the white society” (Herbers, 1973: 70). Because of their uncertain social status in America, black people tried to struggle through many ways in order to get their equal rights as common human beings who live in a country.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **ANALYSIS**

#### **Lena Younger’s Efforts to Get Equality of Black Community in America**

United States of America consists of many people with various backgrounds. Actually, there are only few amount of Native American called Indian. Most of American inhabitants are immigrants who come from several countries in the continents around the world. They move into America because of



many reasons, such as to get freedom, to avoid disasters, and politic religion. Basically, they want to have a better life in America universally known as promising land.

In about 1960's black American must live under many kinds of discrimination. Almost all of black people in America were oppressed by white people because in fact, America is not their homeland and they are considered lower than white people living there. Firstly, they were brought from their homeland, Africa. They were forced to leave their place and their culture and to work in different place as slaves.

“They were brought here in slavery, severed from their African past, their language, their very names, and required to live under a society that placed a high premium on family and morality and on male leadership but then made it so that blacks could acquire these traits only under the most difficult and rare circumstances. Even after winning a semblance of liberty and civil rights, the life of every Negro was framed by the white society into which he could never enter freely but that shaped his own thoughts about himself” (Herbers, 1973: 48).

“Worse yet was the extent to which many Negroes accepted the white society's belief that whites were superior and Negroes inferior” (Herbers, 1973: 49). There is a belief saying that Negroes did not have important role in America in which they live and survive. As a consequence, many black people gave up to their status. They were oppressed to accept their status that is lower than white people. Being an inferior community was not their desire, but they must forcedly undergo this poor condition.

Living in a superpower country called United States of America was not easy for black people because they experienced a great issue known as discrimination. They were differentiated from white people and they are forced to

agree with the white people's belief that considered black people as the underdog community. They could not get their right even though they had lived and had given their roles in America for many years.

There were many kinds of discrimination that must be faced by black people in America. The kinds of discrimination can be known as overt discrimination and the other one is covert. The overt discrimination can be seen easily because it shows openly. Even it is very familiar for black people, for example discrimination in public facilities. American people know about the regulation that differentiates black people from the white one. Clearly, black people were forbidden to use public facilities for which white people using them too. Even, when black people broke the regulation of the using of public facilities, they could be arrested and sent to jail because of their violation. It does not only happen in public transportation but also in the restaurants, in the waiting rooms, and still in many public facilities.

On the other hand, covert discrimination must be experienced by black people in America too. This discrimination can be felt by black people, but it can be said as secret because it does not show overtly and visibly, it is different from the overt one. The covert discrimination that is often suffered by black is in education and economic field. It cannot be seen as overt discrimination in which there were some forbidding signs for black people or some allowing signs for white people writing 'white only'. Primarily, covert discrimination formed some regulations that were disadvantageous for black people and on the contrary, there were advantageous only for white people. Sometimes, this discrimination came up as white attitude toward black people in America. It was not a kind of

discrimination where black people were forbidden to use public facilities by forbidden signs, but it is a treatment of white people that avoided black people when they wanted to get and use their rights. Even, this treatment oppressed black people, such as when they studied in the public school, they must obey the 'white' rules or it was difficult for them to get a high position in their work, even though they were high qualified workers. In some places too, there was no opportunity for black people to get a job and on the contrary, it was easy for white people to get the same job, although the quality of black people was higher than white people's quality. When black people could find a chance like white people in education, black people must face another consequence. Some black people also must face a bad treatment that they must be evicted when they supported the integration between black people and white people. They have to undergo the bad effects of the regulation made by white people when they try to break the wall of discrimination. Essentially, those kinds of discrimination differed people based on the race in which black people was under white people. Then, an opportunity to get equality as human being was closed for black people because they were avoided to be the same as white people.

Lorraine Hansberry's play entitled 'A Raisin in the Sun' portrays many kinds of discrimination faced by the Younger's family. Therefore, the struggle of black American to overcome their discrimination problem can be seen from some characters, one of them is the main character, Lena Younger. She tries to get equality of her community, black people in America through some ways because she realizes that properly, black people are the same as white people and they deserve to get their right to live as the white people have too.

The reaction of black people facing the discrimination in America varies. In fact, at least there were two main streams of their response. Some of them supported integration between black people and white people because they felt that they were the same as white people as American citizen and human being. However, on the other hand, a number of black people disagreed with integration. Therefore, almost all of their attitudes showed separatism. They were very proud of their race and they did not want to accept white people culture and to obey the rules made by white people. Even though they lived in America, they did not want to be interfered and regulated by the government rules, but they wanted to organize their community by themselves without white people interference.

“Not only had Negroes been excluded and made a people of inferior position, but whites had then defined the condition and causes of black inferiority so that the burden of responsibility lay not on the oppressor but the oppressed. And to make matters worse, Negroes by the millions had accepted the white man’s definitions because whites so thoroughly controlled the society under which Negroes lived. Young blacks, when they saw this, were understandably angry and ready to accept the idea that the only hope for blacks was to set themselves apart, make their own definitions, and free the minds of their own people before they could consider living in the white society.” (Herbers, 1973: 64)

Because of white’s attitudes, they are annoyed and then, they decide not to have contact with white people. This group of people never supports the integration of racial communities in America.

On the other hand, a number of black people make a movement of integration which means ‘the act of members of a racial minority entering into the life and institutions of the larger society without regard to the race of the other participants’. In a research in America, there is a result that shows the percentage of black people who agree and disagree to integration. “Almost half of the Negro

sample indicated a preference for living in a mixed neighborhood and another third said that the racial character of the neighborhood made no difference to them” (Herbers, 1973: 58). This sentence shows a number of black American people who want to integrate and to abolish the discrimination between black and white people. They feel that living in a mixed neighborhood is not a problem for them, black people. It also means that they, as a part whole black people, support integration between black and white people.

Lena Younger and her family belonged to the black people who wanted the integration between white and black people come true. They tried not to see the difference between their race and white people and they also considered that they had been ruled by governmental regulation so they would get the same chance as white people in many aspects. This family must face many obstacles coming from several sides. However, they did not give up because of the difficulties and they still fought to conquer the term of discrimination. Yet, many kinds of discrimination could not make them surrender or leave their struggle. Looking at the oppression that made them displeased, they were getting braver and braver to continue and finish their struggle in order to get the equality for their community, black American people.

**A. Supporting the family’s member to have an opportunity to gain high education as a common American citizen.**

Education is an essential component for people in this world. Even, almost all countries in this world think that education for people is the priority,

especially for the development of the country itself. Through education, government can solve their problems dealing with stupidity among the community. Besides, education is very important because the new generation in this world should face the development of this era. They are demanded to be intellectual person who will rule and arrange their world. America is one of many countries that concerns for education like the other countries. It means that the superpower country sees that education is an important thing for each people living there. “Americans have shown a great concern for education since early colonial times. The first settlers, in fact, included as usually high proportion of educated people” (Stevenson, 1998: 49).

Life can be changed by education. One of the considerations of job proposal is educational background. A person with a higher education will get the higher position than the others who have the lower educational background. In other words, the educational background influences the prestige of anyone. They will be respected if they are considered as intellectual persons.

Education influences profession. The profession can absolutely influence social status. People will be considered as important persons if they have a good position in their office or in their working place. It means that education also represents social status because there is relationship between profession and education. It can be seen in this world that most of people try to have a good education for increasing their social status. Certain time in America, education cannot be achieved without looking at the race. There is school segregation in 1960's there. “Negro who sought to enter his child in a “white” school might find it difficult to keep his job, to have his teaching contract

renewed, to extend his mortgage, or to get credit at the bank. A Negro tenant who favored integration ran the risk of being evicted” (Quarles, 1969: 240). The quotation above says that black students must study in the all-black people school. Eventhough they are allowed to study in the predominantly white students, they are still under pressure because the economic condition of the parents will be disturbed. It is a kind of covert discrimination because black people must face difficulty in having the same chance in education as white people have. There is an unnoticeable prohibition for black people to study in the same place where white people study. Basically, the regulations in America at that time are advantageous for white people, but those are inconvenient for the blacks.

In the play ‘A Raisin in the Sun’, the condition of black people education can be easily seen. Beneatha Younger, one of Lena Younger’s children, is an educated girl who studies in Senior High School. She is a smart person. Even she will continue her study in medical school. Mainly, she wants to be a doctor and it will come true if she is supported by studying in medical school.

WALTER (*Senselessly*) How is schooling coming?

BENEATHA (*In the same spirit*) Lovely. Lovely. And you know, biology is the greatest. (*Looking up at him*) I dissected something that looked just like you yesterday. (ARitS 1. 1. 410-413)

From Beneatha’s saying, she looks as a girl who is very interested in knowledge. She is so full of spirit when she is asked about schooling. She will tell about what she doing in her school. It also means that according to Beneatha’s utterance, she is a part of black people community who has a good point of view



that education is very important to change her life and to support the existence of their group living in a big country.

BENEATHA Get over it? What are you talking about, Ruth? Listen, I'm going to be a doctor. I'm not worried about who I'm going to marry yet—if I ever get married.

MAMA and RUTH If!

MAMA Now, Bennie—

BENEATHA Oh, I probably will...but first I'm going to be a doctor, and George for one, still thinks that's pretty funny. I couldn't be bothered with that. I am going to be a doctor and everybody around here better understand that! (ARitS 1. 1. 846-850)

Beneatha wants to make her dream come true. Over again, she views education as a priority. She is an intellectual person and she is absolutely a clever girl. She is interested in talking about study and it shows that she completes her schooling whole-heartedly in order to get her purpose after she graduates from her school. Even, she is very optimistic that she will continue in medical school and be a doctor. After she has graduated from Senior High School, she will not think about getting married yet. Although there is a man named George who loves Beneatha and wants to marry her, she wants to continue her schooling in medical school in order to gain her doctor.

Although discrimination also happens in education in which black people are pressured by the existence of white people, Beneatha has a spirit to make her dream come true, to be a doctor. Realizing that it is difficult to have the same right as white people in getting the same education facilities, Beneatha is not



going down to make her dream come real. The spirit of Beneatha to get the same opportunity in education is influenced by the social condition in America at that time. “Since the important 1954 Supreme Court decision that ordered an end to separate schools for black and white students, the federal government has become increasingly committed to a program of providing equal educational opportunity. Of the more than 11 million students in colleges and universities, 11 percent are black” (United States Information Agency: 72). She knows that there is an equal educational opportunity and as a part of the minority group, black people, she wants to get higher education to become a doctor. Then, as the result, it will change the social status of her family and also black community in general.

Lena Younger, as the mother who receives the insurance money also supports her daughter study in medical school by allocating that money. She hopes that Beneatha will get her dream to be a doctor so that this family will be respected because of the achievement. The equality in education that will be gained is not only getting the same facilities as white people, but also having the same opportunity in finishing the study and having a profession dealing with the educational background.

Lena Younger, as an American inhabitant, is absolutely influenced by the opinion of American people that education is very important. “The belief that the future of society depends on the quantity and quality of its educated citizens is widely held. It explains why a great many Americans are still willing to give more money to education, even during times of economic difficulty.” (Stevenson, 1998: 52). Thus, she also tries to support her daughter’s schooling even though her family is still in difficult time where there are a lot of things that must be fulfilled.

MAMA I ain't rightly decided. (*Thinking. She speaks now with emphasis*) Some of it got to be put away for Beneatha and her schoolin' .....(ARitS 1. 1. 657-659)

After Lena Younger has received the insurance money, she has a plan that she will keep a part of that money for preparing Beneatha's school fee. It shows that Lena Younger has much attention that education is an important thing because she believes that it will change her community's social status. She shows her support for Beneatha's study through allocating the insurance money. She asks Walter to keep firstly for the house and for Beneatha's medical schooling. She realizes that education is important as a way to change black social status as common American citizen, from the second class to be equal as white people.

WALTER ..... And that's my sister over there and she's going to be a doctor—and we are very proud— (ARitS 3. 1. 540-541).

From Walter's utterances too, high education is rarely found by black people. "Rather, they concentrate on the fact that within the United States, minorities are still not equally represented in the number of high school graduates, or the numbers of engineers, doctors, lawyers, and university professors" (Stevenson, 1998: 57). Younger's family is one of black family who struggles for the member, Beneatha, to be a doctor. It will be their pride and it can open an opportunity to change their social status in America because their family will be more appreciated than before.

Through Beneatha, Lena Younger struggles for equality of black community. She is conscious of her family that needs a lot of money for paying their daily necessities, but firstly, she pays for the new house. Then, she saves the

insurance money for Beneatha's medical schooling because she realizes that it will need a lot of money. It means that Lena Younger thinks that even though school segregation still takes place in America, Beneatha can take the medical school in order to get the doctor and absolutely, she will get a lot of money as she works as a doctor. Besides, if Beneatha can be a doctor, it will change black people social status as the same as white people.

Black people know that they are considered as inferior group and their life are limited by the life of the white. They become inferior people because of white people's attitude that classifies them based on the race and the history of their ancestors brought in America as slaves. White people's views about their group are different from the black ones in every aspect of life in America.

“Young blacks coming of age in the 1960's were able to see with clarity, perhaps for the first time, what white society had done to their people, psychologically as well as materially. Not only had Negroes been excluded and made a people of inferior position, but whites had then defined the condition and causes of black inferiority so that the burden of responsibility lay not on the oppressor but the oppressed. And to make matters worse, Negroes by the millions had accepted the white man's definitions because whites so thoroughly controlled the society under which Negroes lived.” (Herbers, 1973: 64)

Knowing that their community is inferior, black people struggles to have the rights to change their status through many aspects of life, such as education. Looking at the place where Younger's family lives in Chicago, the development of that place influences the inhabitants living there. “Chicago is located along the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan and is a major center of transportation, industry, politics, culture, finance, medicine, and higher education,” (Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago>). The fact of social condition in America, especially Chicago where Youngers live, influences the way of thinking of

Beneatha who wants to be a doctor and Lena who supports her daughter. They see that many people in Chicago are familiar to higher education and they think that this chance is also open for black people. The condition of their surrounding is being their motivation. They try to get the chance dealing with education in order to reach their goal that is to have a proper social status in America.

The other obstacle that must be faced by Lena is the influence of black people who wants to go back to Africa represented by Joseph Asagai. He is an African boy who has been studying in Canada. He tells about Africa, tries to make Beneatha realize her identity, and hopes that Beneatha follow him to go to Africa. From Asagai's point of view, it can be said that he disagrees with assimilation of African culture and American one. Finally, Beneatha is interested in her Afro identity and she begins to be proud of it. Even, she asks her mother to permit her to be a doctor in Africa. However, Lena tells Beneatha to think about it because Lena has a dream that her daughter will be a doctor in America so it will change their social status there.

As it is said before that person will be appreciated because of their backgrounds. One of the backgrounds is education. It will also happen to Younger's family. If Beneatha be a doctor, it will influence their family status. It also brings a new perspective that black people can be respected as white people because they can struggle for their education to prove that they are intellectual person. Besides, even though the background of their ancestor was brought as slaves and as commodity that could be bought and sold, Lena Younger has a very important opportunity to show that black people also have important role in the

place where they belong. It can also bring a great change for black people community to be normal American people who have rights as citizen.

**B. Getting a chance in having proper job as white people to gain prosperity.**

The life of family depends on the finance and the finance depends on the people who support the existence of this family. Family's members who have jobs will support the whole family. They will fulfill their necessities including foods, education, entertainment, and still many others. That is why working is very important for supporting the family.

Principally, black people in America must survive living there as the common people. They must work to fulfill their necessities. Generally, people look for job and then, they will get paid. However, unfortunately, the chance for black people to get a job is not the same as white people. It is difficult for black people to get the same position or profession as white people because they are limited by covert discrimination. "Blacks still faced widespread employment discrimination. Some stores refused to hire African Americans as clerks. Blacks bus drivers, police officers, and firefighters were limited to positions serving their own community" (Christopher Manning, 2004). Discrimination in profession is different from discrimination in public facilities. Employment discrimination cannot be seen from the signs like in the public facilities, but this discrimination must always be faced by black people. Even, when they get certain profession like white people, they are limited to serve only their community, black people. The

disadvantageous condition for black people is the involvement of white people in working place who have lower quality than black people, while black people who have higher quality than white people are rejected to work in the same working place. The indicator of racial discrimination in profession is the increasing of unemployment for black people in America. The opportunity of black people in having jobs is getting limited.

“By 1950, the jobs in unskilled labor that had sustained other immigrant minorities had given way to mechanization. The trade unions, which had provided a ladder upward for countless white poor, were closed to blacks. The inner cities where the Negroes lived were becoming more and more economically depressed as the white moved to outlying areas and took much of the economy with them. President Johnson, in an address at Howard University in June, 1965, stated something of the problem in his appeal to whites to have an “understanding heart” and help blacks escape the cycle of poverty and deprivation. Thirty-five years earlier, he noted, the unemployment rate for Negroes and white was about the same. By 1965, the Negro rate was twice as high. The unemployment rate for Negro teen-age boys was 23 percent, as compared to 13 percent for whites. Between 1955 and 1957, 22 percent of experienced Negro workers were without jobs at some time during the year. Between 1961 and 1963, that proportion had risen to 29 percent. And so on.” (Herbers, 1973: 33)

WALTER I mean—I have worked as a chauffeur most of my life—and

my wife here, she does domestic work in people’s kitchens. So

does my mother. I mean—we are plain people...

LINDNER Yes, Mr. Younger—

WALTER (*Really like a small boy, looking down at his shoes and then*

*up at the man*) And—uh—well, my father, well, he was a laborer

most of his life... (ARitS 3. 1. 521-528)

Basically, having job is important for the existence of family because every member of the family needs money for their activities. It also happens to Younger’s family in play ‘A Raisin in the Sun’ who must fulfill their necessities

in many parts of their life. Younger's family is like common family that needs a supporting finance. They use money for each member both for daily necessities and their importance. Surely, each member of Younger's family needs it to complete their needs, their daily activities, and also for education. "More money is being spent for education, medical care, services, travel and recreation, while smaller percentage of income goes food, clothing and automobiles" (Unites States Information Agency: 67). It shows a normal life of a family in which they need anything and they must afford to get it. They cannot deny it or refuse to fulfill those necessities because they must survive in the place where they live and spend their lifetime. Those necessities that must be fulfilled are in many parts of human's life, such as daily needs, education, medical care, and still many others. It also happens to the life of Younger's family. They must carry out their necessities while they live in America.

TRAVIS Mama, this is Friday. (*Gleefully*) Check coming tomorrow, huh?

RUTH You get your mind off money and eat your breakfast.

TRAVIS (*Eating*) This is the morning we supposed to bring the fifty cents to school.

RUTH Well, I ain't go no fifty cents this morning.

TRAVIS Teacher say we have to. (ARitS 1. 1. 159-166)

Travis Younger, Lena Younger's grandchild, needs money for his education. Sometimes, he asks her mother to give him money because his teacher asks the students to bring money to the school. It means that he needs enough money to pay his study in the school because students must always buy books or other school equipments to support his education.



Besides, Travis also needs money for buying sweets. Just like the other common children, he wants to buy some snacks when he sees his friends buy it too. It is also difficult for Ruth to refuse her son's desire because she knows her son still a child who does not know whether his family condition is poor. Travis only knows that he will be happy if what he needs can be provided by his parents.

TRAVIS (*In the face of love, new aggressiveness*) Mama, could I please go carry groceries? (ARitS 1. 1. 237-238)

From Travis' utterance above, he indirectly asks Ruth, her mother, to give him money because he asks her to allow him to go to carry groceries. It means that Travis needs money to buy foods or goods from grocery. As a child, he does not know that his family is not a rich family. He only knows that he will be happy if he can play with his friends or if his needs can be provided. As a parent, Ruth cannot refuse to give money for Travis because she knows that education and basic need must be completed. That is why; she must have enough money to it and to get amount of money, Younger's members must work to afford it.

Besides, Beneatha, Lena Younger's daughter, also needs money for her education. She studies in Senior High School and she is going to continue in medical school so that she needs a lot of money to finish her study. She herself does not work yet. It means that like Travis, she depends on another person to pay her school fee.

BENEATHA Oh, I probably will...but first I'm going to be a doctor, and George, for one, still thinks that's pretty funny. I couldn't be



bothered with that. I am going to be a doctor and everybody around here better understand. (ARitS 1. 1. 846-850)

The quotation above shows that Beneatha will continue her study in the medical school after she graduates from her study from Senior High School. Beneatha's dream to be a doctor needs a lot of money and to make it come true, Lena Younger must allocate Younger's money for Beneatha's study and Lena cannot ignore to pay for her daughter's schooling. Therefore, this family must think about the fee of Beneatha's study. As a result, this family will be respected if Beneatha becomes a doctor. Then, it can also influence the social status of black community. Hopefully, black people will be equal as the white ones in America.

While Ruth, Travis' mother, is pregnant for the second child. Absolutely, it would need a lot of money for the childbirth process and for taking care of the baby. Even before Ruth gives birth to the baby, she also needs enough money for keeping her health so that her baby will be healthy too. Her pregnancy is out of her plan and surely Ruth and Walter do not prepare the money or in other words, they do not have budget for a baby.

RUTH (*Dispiritedly*) Well, I guess from all the happy faces—  
everybody knows.

BENEATHA You pregnant?

MAMA Lord have mercy, I sure hope it's a little old girl. Travis ought  
to have a sister.

(BENEATHA and RUTH give her a hopeless look for this  
*grandmotherly enthusiasm*)

BENEATHA How far along are you?

RUTH Two months.

BENEATHA Did you mean to? I mean did you plan it or it was an accident?

MAMA What do you know about planning or not planning?

BENEATHA Oh, Mama.

RUTH (*Wearily*) She's twenty years old, Lena.

BENEATHA Did you plan it, Ruth?

RUTH Mind your own business.

BENEATHA It is my business—where is he going to live, on the roof?

*(There is silence following the remark as the three women react to the sense of it)* Gee—I didn't mean that, Ruth, honest. Gee, I don't feel like that at all. I—I think it is wonderful. (ARitS 1. 2. 111-133)

Lena Younger and her daughter, Beneatha have different opinion. Beneatha thinks that it will make a new problem if there is a new member of Younger's family because it needs more money. However, Lena Younger believes that Ruth's new baby has a right to live in the world and she is happy and tries to do the best thing to welcome and to take care of the new baby. From Lena Younger's point of view, person including a baby has an equal opportunity to get a right to live in the world.

Realizing that all of the members of Younger's family need a lot of money, some of them must work in order to survive in that country. Once, their father, Mr. Younger, worked as a laborer and he was dead. Now, only Walter and Ruth work for this family. Walter is a driver, while Ruth is a worker in the people's kitchen. Shortly, both of Walter and Ruth are not people who officiate as high position in their work, they are only plain people and they do not have

definitive salary, whereas, in reality, Younger's family needs a lot of money, for their basic needs.

Black people can only get plain and lower job which is different from the white ones. They cannot get the other jobs which are better. Besides, working as a chauffeur and in people's kitchen can only deserve a few amount of money. From Walter saying too, her father, Mr. Younger, only worked as a laborer most of his life. It means that eventhough black people have an important role in their profession for a long time, they still work in the same position as firstly they come in their working place. "Increasingly concentrated on the city's South Side, Chicago's black population developed a class structure composed of a large number of domestic workers and other manual laborers, along with a small but growing contingent of middle-and upper-class business and professional elites" (Christopher Manning, 2004). Briefly, black people can only work as worker and it is difficult for them to get higher position in their profession. This treatment also belongs to one kind of discrimination that happens in profession in America. Most black people work as domestic workers and the other manual laborers. They are limited to work only in a part of certain profession and usually face difficulty to get other position which is higher or same as white people. Discrimination usually happens when job opportunity in the same place is open only for white people but it is close for the black, although they have same quality.

The condition of black people in America for having jobs is very poor. "White workers were imported to industrial centers where qualified Negroes were looking for jobs" (Quarles, 1969: 216). This sentence shows discrimination between black and white people clearly. In the same working places called

industrial centers, the opportunity of black and white people for getting a job is very different. White people are more appreciated than black people in profession competition, although black people have higher quality than the white one. In the other words, involving white people in a certain office is a priority because white people are considered more important than black people.

After the death of Mr. Younger, Mrs. Younger replaces her husband as the head of Younger's family. She must think about how her family can complete their need and tries to get amount of money for her family. In fact, however, this family condition in which they cannot have the proper job influences the income of Younger family. "Thousands of people need better housing, medical treatment, and other services. Much poverty also exists among minority groups. The average incomes of American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics continue, as a whole, to be lower than those of Whites" (Stevenson, 1998: 27). Realizing the poor condition of her family, Lena Younger must think about the existence of her family. She fully supports Walter and Ruth to do their works hardly. Even, she allows Walter to use a part of the insurance money for the best thing according to Walter. It means that Lena Younger gives a chance to Walter to decide the using of the rest of the insurance money for job opportunity for Walter in order to get a good position in profession.

Lena's struggle in getting job opportunity cannot be realized by herself because it is impossible for her to get a job in order to pay her family's necessities. She is getting older to look for a job and to work in order to get salary for her family. She struggles in another way that she supports her son, Walter Lee, to open his chance in getting a job by using a part of the insurance money and

keeping the existence of their family and their community. She thinks that Walter Lee, as a young man, still has energy to reach a better position in a working place so her family will get amount of money. Besides, if their family living is better than before, they will be respected as a common American people who have the same right as white people. “The American system of government, too, has encouraged citizens to vigorously pursue their own economic interest” (Stevenson, 1998: 64). Another reason of Lena Younger to support her son, Walter Lee, to decide his own interest, is the American government system. This government system indirectly influences American people to struggle for the opportunity in having a job and for deciding in what place they want to work. This system also shapes Lena Younger’s way of thinking. She knows that as a part of American people, Walter Lee has a right to get the opportunity in having a proper job. Behind Younger’s purpose to have job to get salary, there is one more important purpose that changes the social status of black people in America to be common citizen who have the same rights as white people. Then, prosperity can be gained by both white and black people.

MAMA Listen to me, now. I say I been wrong, son. That I been doing to you what the rest of the world been doing to you. *(She turns off the radio)* Walter—*(She stops and he looks up slowly at her and she meets his eyes pleadingly)* What you ain’t never understood is that I ain’t got nothing, don’t own nothing, ain’t never really wanted nothing that wasn’t for you. There ain’t nothing as precious to me... There ain’t nothing worth holding on to, money, dreams, nothing else—if it means—if it means it’s going to destroy my

boy. *(She takes an envelope out of her handbag and puts it in front of him and he watches her without speaking or moving)* I paid the man thirty-five hundred dollars down on the house. That leaves sixty-five hundreds dollars. Monday morning I want you to take this money and take three thousand dollars and put it in a savings account for Beneatha's medical schooling. The rest you put in a checking account—with your name on it. And from now on any penny that come out of it or that go in it is for you to look after. For you to decide. *(She drops her hands a little helplessly)* It ain't much, but it's all I got in the world and I'm putting it in your hands. I'm telling you to be the head of this family from now on like you supposed to be. (ARitS 2. 2. 320-343)

Actually, Lena does not agree if Walter invests the insurance money to the liquor business. She thinks that Walter's dream will destroy him, while Walter thinks that investing money to the liquor business is more important than buying a new house because he believes that he will get a lot of money from it and family's dream will come true soon. Lena argues that Walter does not understand and appreciate Lena's decision. Nevertheless, Lena still respects her son to look after the rest of the money for his business. She also supports Walter as the head of this family to make a good condition for each member of the family. She divides the money for buying a house, for Beneatha's schooling, and for Walter to be used well. She also says that Walter must decide what the use of the money for because Lena knows that Walter Lee has a right to decide his own economic interest and she wants her son has a responsibility to Younger's family in using the rest of the

insurance money. She expects Walter Lee will do the best thing for the family. Truly, Lena Younger supports Walter Lee in getting a better job than before as a chauffeur. She hopes that if Walter gets a job in which he is an important person who has an important role in the place where he will work; her family and her community will get a proper status as American citizens. However, finally Walter is deceived by his friend named Willy Harris. Firstly, he wants to invest money for business, but unfortunately, Willy Harris runs Walter's money away.

After the money was run by Willy Harris, Walter Lee is considered as a person who has shattered Younger's dreams. Nevertheless, Lena Younger still believes Walter as the head of Younger's family and supports him to keep the social status of this family and also black people.

**C. Defending to have a proper settlement as the white people have.**

Generally, people in this world need a good house for their settlement. They use their house for protecting themselves including their families. They want to keep their body from the burning hot of sunshine and from the water that can make them sick when it rains. Moreover, a house is very important for people living near the wild world. They absolutely need house to protect them from many wild animals.

A good house does not always mean a luxurious house that shows riches. A good house means a house that can fulfill the main function in human protection. A proper house or settlement is also giving comfort for the owners so it can make the people feel well for living there. In this age, a house should be



made agree with healthy reasons, such as it must have a good air circulation or it should provide a good sanitation.

Besides a good settlement, people also need a good environment. Surely, a healthy environment is needed too because it provides a comfort for the inhabitant. For example, the environment supported by the trees absolutely influences the atmosphere. It creates a fresh condition in order to make a comfortable place for people. In the other hand, a good neighborhood also can make a comfortable environment. A good neighborhood cannot be separated from good community that contains people who have the same interest in their life. They support each other and they have a high tolerance in many parts of life so it creates a balance and proper relationship between people in certain community.

Talking about America, both black and white people living there also need a good settlement for their family as a common people around the world. They try to get a house that is surrounded by healthy environment and harmonic neighborhood. They do not want to be disturbed by uncomfortable situation but contrarily, they want to live peacefully in the place where they stay in the lifetime.

As a usual community, actually American people appreciate human rights; they always state that every people are equal. However, there is still discrimination between them, especially white people and black people. Even though black people are identified as American inhabitants, they are still considered as the second class after the white one. They should live in area that is very different from the 'white' area. Black people are not allowed to stay in the same area with white people. They are forbidden to use facilities for white people, while in their place, they cannot found enough facilities because those facilities



are not available for them. It is not very fair for black people, even it is very clear that white people are very exclusive and they cannot be integrated with black people. It also happened to Martin Luther King, Jr. as a black man in America when he was a child. “Seeing “WHITE ONLY” signs for waiting rooms, restrooms, water fountains, and eating places constantly reminded young Martin what is meant to be a nigger in a white man’s society” (Cone, 1991: 24). He must face a different treatment for his community. He knew that his group, black people, was not allowed to use public facilities and visit the public places which are same as those accommodations used by white people. Luther, as a part of black community in America, must see direct-forbidden signs for black people in most public facilities and place there.

In the same case, black people experienced the difficulty in getting a place for staying. There were two places in America according to the race. “White renters or buyers were shown properties in “white” areas only, and Negro renters in “Negro” areas” (Quarles, 1969: 258). There was no integration between black and white people because they were regulated to have their own areas based on the race. Black people could not move into white area and in addition, white people dislike living with the black. “Segregated housing also operated to the disadvantage of the Negro by fostering a “two-price” system in which he paid a higher price than a white renter or purchaser for the same housing. To meet the higher prices, Negro families often had to double up or take in lodgers, increasing the population density of the neighborhood. Moreover, segregated housing tended to produce segregated schools” (Quarles, 1969: 258). Mainly, all-black people housing are different from all-white people. When black people want to move into

white neighborhood, they must face a difficulty in paying the place because there is a manipulation in price appointment. As a consequence, they would cancel to have house among white people. This kind of discrimination also happened to the *A Raisin in the Sun*'s writer, Lorraine Hansberry, who is also a black people. "Lorraine Hansberry was born in Chicago as the daughter of a prominent real-estate broker, Carl Hansberry..... When Lorraine was eight, her parents bought a house in a white neighborhood, where they were welcomed one night by racist mob" (Margaret B. Wilkerson, 1994). Actually, Hansberry is a daughter of a prominent real-estate broker in Chicago. Her father was familiar to the business dealing with land and buildings. In fact, he had an important role in this business and he was quite well-known in real-estate business in Chicago. However, when he bought a new house in white neighborhood and moved in it, his family must face the impact of racial discrimination in America at that time. This true story represented discrimination in America in about 1960's. Although black people had given their thought, their energy, or even their body for the development of the country, they were not appreciated as American citizen who have right to be equal. It also showed that discrimination was felt by black people in every place, both upper class and lower class.

While in the play 'A Raisin in the Sun', Younger's family stays in the apartment where all of the people in this community are black people. They were regulated to live in predominantly black people known as ghetto, part of a town where a minority group or poor people live. They were oppressed to live there with the limited facilities and they must obey the regulation without objection and protest. "But the homes, buildings, and businesses in the Negro neighborhoods

across the country, North and South, still were owned and controlled largely by whites. Thus, so were the jobs that were available to blacks” (Herbres, 1973: 81). However, Lena Younger wants to get a better place for living. She knows that living in the apartment will get limited facilities and she must share the rooms in the apartment for some people, while living in the house, her family will live comfortably because a house can be adequate for the family’s need as it is wider than a room in the apartment. Therefore, she wants to use the insurance money to buy a house in the white community in certain place in America.

MAMA (*Holding out her arms to her grandson*) Well—at least let me tell him something. I want him to be the first one to hear... Come here, Travis. (*The boy obeys, gladly*) Travis—(*She takes him by the shoulder and looks into his face*)—you know that money we got in the mail this morning?

TRAVIS Yes’m—

MAMA Well—what you think your grandmama gone and done with the money?

TRAVIS I don’t know, Grandmama.

MAMA (*Putting her finger on his nose for emphasis*) She went out and she bought you a house! (*The explosion comes from WALTER at the end of the revelation and he jumps up and turns away from all of them in a fury. MAMA continues, to TRAVIS*) You glad about the house? It’s going to be yours when you get to be a man.

TRAVIS Yeah—I always wanted to live in a house. (ARitS 2. 1. 436-452)

Lena Younger tells Travis, her grandson, about her desire for having a house. She uses part of the insurance money to buy it. It shows that Lena Younger has a firm will in moving into predominantly white people area, so it will open an opportunity for black people in getting the same facilities as white people doing. Having a house is the obsession of Lena Younger because a room in an apartment is not available for the activities of her family which consists of five people. She is aware of their room in the apartment is not adequate for their activities anymore. She wants to have a better house for her family as the most American people. Lena also thinks that their social status of her family will increase when they get a house for their living. In addition, she considers that in a house, it will be more space than in a room of apartment for herself to develop her gardening hobby and for Travis to play.

Indirectly, she makes her family to be one of some black families moving into white people neighborhood. Then, hopefully, the other black people could move into white people area too where there are enough facilities.

MAMA (*Tentatively, still looking at her son's back turned against her and RUTH*) It's—it's a nice house too... (*She cannot help speaking directly to him. An imploring quality in her voice, her manner, makes her almost like a girl now*) Three bedrooms—nice big one for you and Ruth.... Me and Beneatha still have to share our room, but Travis have one of his own—and (*With difficulty*) I figure if the-new baby-is a boy, we could get one of them double-decker outfits... And there's a yard with a little patch of dirt where

I could maybe get to grow me a few flowers... And a nice big basement... (ARitS 2. 1. 480-490)

Unfortunately, a conflict happens between Lena, Walter, and Ruth Younger, after Lena tells the location of their new house in the Clybourne Park. Lena insists to have a house in Clybourne Park because the place is equipped with many public facilities.

‘Clybourne was a justice of the peace, a school trustee, and Chicago’s first constable. Initially installing a basketball court and playground equipment, the city added a sandbox and wading pool by 1950. In 1959, the city transferred Clybourne Park to the Chicago Park District, along with the more than 250 other properties. Paying the entire playlot with asphalt in the early 1960s, the park district substantially rehabilitated the site in the late 1980s by replacing asphalt areas with turf and plantings, and installing a new soft surface playground.’ (Anonim, [http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/parks.detail/object\\_id/9B8915CB-FF10-4168\\_9BCF-5521BBEC](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/parks.detail/object_id/9B8915CB-FF10-4168_9BCF-5521BBEC))

Lena is interested to have a home in Clybourne Park because surely she wants to have a better place for her family. She knows that Clybourne Park has complete public facilities so her family can use it and they will be satisfied by living there. She thinks back to the first aim that black people want to have a better place when they move from the South into the North. “African Americans also engaged this spirit national self-examination. Between 1910 and 1930, a huge black migration from the South to the North took place, peaking in 1915-1916. Most settles in urban areas such as Detroit and Chicago, which held greater opportunities for jobs and personal freedom than the rural South” (Whitney, 1950: 253). The history of black people moving from rural into the urban also pushes her to get the better life. Besides, she wants her grandchild, Travis, be happy living in Clybourne Park because there is a wide playground which is different from the apartment.

Lena Younger thinks that having a proper settlement is a basic need for common people. She wants her family live in a home pleasantly. In addition, she hopes that each member in her family can stay and sleep comfortably; it is also for baby, Ruth's child after Travis. She thinks for her family not only in the present time but also for the future. She realizes that Younger's family needs more rooms for the members. Travis needs a private room when he grows up to be a mature man and Ruth will give birth to a baby who will grow up and need another room.

According to the dialogue between Lena, Walter, and Ruth that talks about a house bought by Lena, Ruth says that Clybourne Park is a white people area and there is no colored people living there. However, Lena Younger still defends her decision in having a house in the white neighborhood in order to stay in the better place.

RUTH Where is it?

MAMA (*Frightened at this telling*) Well—well—it's out there in Clybourne Park—

(*RUTH's radiance fades abruptly, and WALTER finally turns slowly to face his mother with incredulity and hostility*)

RUTH Where?

MAMA (*Matter-of-factly*) Four o six Clybourne Street, Clybourne Park.

RUTH Clybourne Park? Mama, there ain't no colored people living in Clybourne Park.

MAMA (*Almost idiotically*) Well, I guess there's going to be some now.

WALTER (*Bitterly*) So that's the peace and comfort you went out and bought for us today!

MAMA (*Raising her eyes to meet his finally*) Son-I just tried to find the nicest place for the least amount of money for my family.

RUTH (*Trying to recover from the shock*) Well—well—'course I ain't one never been 'fraid of no crackers, mind you—but—well, wasn't there no other houses nowhere?

MAMA Them houses they put up for colored in them areas way out all seem to cost twice as much as other houses. I did the best I could.  
(ARitS 2. 1. 498-521)

After Lena has said that she has bought a new house in Clybourne Park, Walter and Ruth are shocked because they know that all of the inhabitants in this place are white people. Walter and Ruth are afraid that their family will face a very bad treatment from white people when they decide to move into white neighborhood because there is still a discrimination that can bring a bad effect for the black family who has an inferior status. Although Walter and Ruth say their objection to move into Clybourne Park, Lena Younger still wants to live there. She considers that all people are not different; they have right to stay in certain place as long as they have enough money to buy a house. Besides, she hopes that her family will live in the proper place, get a comfortable home where each of them has a room for taking a rest everyday. Even, she thinks about the baby who will be born by Ruth. Above all, Lena struggles for black people social status. If they could stay in white neighborhood, she hopes that their community status will be changed as equal as white people social status.



In order to make her dream come true, Lena Younger, as the oldest person in this family, struggles for her family, even though there are some pressures that must be faced, from the black people and the white one.

One day, Mrs. Johnson, the Younger's neighbor in the apartment comes to the Younger's home. 'The "Mrs. Johnson" character brings laughter to the scene, for she is a comical figure, but also expresses sentiments that have always been prevalent in the black community' (Wiley Publishing, 2000). Mrs. Johnson is a person who likes to interfere to the others' business. She also represents black people who discourage their fellows who struggle to get equality. Her character is dominant in the black community. She is a part of black people who wants to separate from white people. This group of people is different from another group who fully supports integration.

Moreover, looking at the dialogue of Mrs. Johnson, it can be said that she is not a part of black people who support the integration between black people and white people, but a part of black people who support a separatism of black from white one. This group becomes one of obstacles for black people who support integration between white and black people. It is the same as Lena Younger and her family who must face a group of black people that do not want to integrate represented by Mrs. Johnson.

JOHNSON Oh honey, I can't stay hardly a minute—I just dropped in to see if there was anything I could do.  
(*Accepting the food easily*) I guess y'all seen the news what's all over the colored paper this week...

MAMA No—I didn't get mine yet this week.

JOHNSON (*Lifting her head and blinking with the spirit of catastrophe*) You mean you ain't read 'bout them colored people that was bombed out their place out there?



(RUTH *straightens with concern and takes the paper and reads it.* JOHNSON *notices her and feeds commentary.*)

JOHNSON Ain't it something how bad these here white folks is getting here in Chicago! Lord, getting so you think you right down in Mississippi! (*With a tremendous and rather insincere sense of melodrama*) 'Course I think it's wonderful how our folks keeps on pushing out. You hear some of these Negroes 'round here talking 'bout how they don't go where they ain't wanted and all that—but not me, honey! (*This is a lie*) Wilhemenia Othella Johnson goes anywhere, any time she feels like it! (*With head movement of emphasis*) Yes I do! Why if we left it up to these here crackers, the poor niggers wouldn't have nothing—(*She claps her hand over her mouth*) Oh, I always forgets you don't 'low that word in your house. (ARitS 2. 2. 128-153)

Mrs. Johnson tries to tell about the story from newspaper about black people who was bombed because they live in the white neighborhood. It represents the discrimination that still happened at that time, even though it had been a movement that brought a change of racial community especially black people. “Although the Civil War (1861-1865) brought an end to slavery in all of the states, discrimination against Blacks would continue” (Stevenson, 1998: 23). She also talks about the bad treatment of white people facing black people living in the same place with them. She tries to forbid Younger's moving through telling frightening news about black people living in a white neighborhood. She hopes that Youngers cancel their moving and become a part of black people supporting

separatism. Besides, Mrs. Johnson states that Chicago, a state where they live, is a place in which white people are very bad, in order to instigate Youngers. “Chicago’s white abolitionists were also active, but African Americans still suffered from segregation in various public venues, such as schools, public transportation, hotels, and restaurants. Moreover, black Chicagoans could neither vote nor testify against whites in court.” (Christopher Manning, 2004). In 1960’s, some white people supported black people in abolishing the difference between them, but the other white people still considered that the social status of their community is higher than black people. Therefore, black people still experienced discrimination. That poor condition pushed Mrs. Johnson to forbid Youngers’ moving.

On the other hand, Mrs. Johnson states that she is not same as the other Negroes who do not want to move from black community, but, from her dialogue, she lies, she does not tell her true feeling. She just pretends that she supports the moving of Younger’s family. From her statement too, actually she does not encourage Youngers because she ascertains that Youngers will be in the newspaper as bombed Negroes. The motivation of Mrs. Johnson saying to Younger’s family is making them to see white people’s treatment to black people and arising up their awareness to be free from discrimination and to rule black community without white people’s interference. Through her dialogue too, there is a hidden message from Mrs. Johnson saying that it will be better if black people live in black community than live in the mixed neighborhood.

JOHNSON Mmmmmm, he sure gets his beauty rest, don’t he? Good-

looking man. Sure is a good-looking man! (*Reaching out to pat*

RUTH's *stomach again*) I guess that's how come we keep on having babies around here. (*She winks at MAMA*) One thing 'bout Brother, he always know how to have a good time. And sooooo ambitious. I bet it was his idea y'all moving out to Clybourne Park. Lord—I bet this time next month y'all's names will have been in the papers plenty—(*Holding up her hands to mark off each word of the headline she can see in front of her*) “NEGROES INVADE CLYBOURNE PARK-BOMBED!”

MAMA (*She and RUTH look at the woman in amazement*) We ain't exactly moving out there to get bombed.

JOHNSON Oh, honey—you know I'm praying to God everyday that don't nothing like that happen! But you have to think of life like it is—and these here Chicago peckerwoods is some baaaad peckerwoods.

MAMA (*Wearily*) We done thought about all that Mis'Johnson.  
(ARitS 2. 2. 173-192)

As the Younger's neighbor in the apartment, she warns the Youngers about moving into a predominantly white neighborhood. Indirectly, it becomes an obstacle for Lena Younger because Mrs. Johnson talks about an incident when black people move into white people neighborhood. The incident like this will happen because white people have a bad perspective when they live together with black people. “Negro organization have sought to dispel whites' fears about living next door to a Negro, including the belief that property values decline when a Negro moves into the neighborhood” (Quarles, 1969: 258). From this quotation,

white people have a reason to prohibit black people living in white community. This reason also supports Mrs. Johnson, a black people, to forbid Younger's family who will move. Nevertheless, Lena Younger still defends her argument to move into white neighborhood and does not care of Mrs. Johnson, a person who does not support her effort for black people equality.

The pressures do not only come from black people but also from white people. They try to prohibit black family, in this case Younger's family, to stay with them. They collect money to pay back Younger's money that has been used to buy a house in Clybourne Park.

LINDNER (*More frustrated than annoyed*) No, thank you very much. Please. Well—to get right to the point I—(*A great breath, and he is off at last*) I am sure you people must be aware of some of the incidents which have happened in various parts of the city when colored people have moved into certain areas—(BENEATHA *exhales heavily and starts tossing a piece of fruit up and down in the air*) Well—because we have what I think is going to be a unique type of organization in American community life—not only do we people that kind of thing—but we are trying to do something about it. (BENEATHA *stops tossing and turns with anew and quizzical to the man*) We feel—(*gaining confidence in his mission because of the interest in the faces of the people he is talking to*)—we feel that most of the trouble in this world, when you come right down to it—(*He hits his knee for emphasis*)—most of the trouble exists because people just don't sit down and talk to each other. (ARitS 2. 3. 197-214)

Mr. Lindner in this play is white person who represents the community life of Clybourne Park, one of all white people areas. He offers Younger's family to rethink about moving into this area. He indirectly threatens Younger's family not to do their desire. From his utterances, he considers that there will be a big problem if colored people move into the white community. It means that there is discrimination between them because black people are not considered equal as white people. Through Mr. Lindner utterances too, white people in Clybourne Park do not agree if the integration between white people and black people is allowed. They consider that black people is very different from their group. Therefore, they do not permit black people come into the white neighborhood in order to be united as American citizen because they feel that it will make problems for white people when black people stay with them as they are not

considered as American people and their ancestors were brought as slaves. “There is a widespread belief that the white man will never of his own accord accept nonwhites as his equals in status and opportunity, in America or elsewhere” (Herbers, 1973: 34). This kind of act done by white people can forbid black people to have equality.

Even, the white community makes an effort to cancel the moving of black people into their community. They collect money to pay back Younger’s money used for buying house in Clybourne Park. They send Karl Lindner, as the representative of the white community living there in order to forbid the moving of Youngers. This action can make Lena Younger and her family cancels their moving and does not continue their struggle for being equal.

LINDNER (*Putting on his glasses and drawing a form out of the briefcase*) Our association is prepared, through the collective effort of our people, to buy the house from you at a financial gain to your family. (ARitS 2. 3. 271-274)

However, Lena Younger still does not care about the pressures. She does not accept white people’s effort to collect money for buying a house bought by her several days ago. She still wants to move into Clybourne Park, all-white people area. “As a goal, it has been based on the complete acceptance of the fact that in order to have a decent house or education, blacks must move into a white neighborhood or send their children to a white school. This reinforce, among both black and white, the idea that ‘white’ is automatically better and a ‘black’ is by definition inferior” (Herbers, 1973: 52) She thinks that her family will have a better life there and it is not a problem if her family moves in it and she believes

that black people will be respected as common American citizen. The pressures from Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Lindner who try to forbid her cannot make Lena Younger change her decision. She still defends her decision that black community is a group of people who could have rights appropriately and keeps her decision to move into white neighborhood even though there are some affecting people who want to forbid them realize their dreams.

### **C. 1. Defending black community as a group of people that could have rights appropriately.**

Equality is a word that is very familiar to America. There are some words that show about American people and equality. America can be seen as 'melting pot', 'pizza', and 'salad bowl'. Generally, it tells that every people in America with various backgrounds have the same role in this country. Even, they are very proud because they appreciate that human right in America is equal.

"E PLURIBUS UNUM, the national motto of the United States means "one from many". Suggested by patriots as the outbreak of the American Revolution, this motto was originally used in a political sense, to demonstrate that out of thirteen separate states one new sovereign power had come into existence. But since the time of the Revolutionary War, this Latin expression has taken on a larger meaning. It has come to suggest that America is made up of many peoples from many lands, having become, in essence, a nation of nations. One of these many groups come from the continent of Africa, a group that was numbered among the very first to arrive in the New World." (Quarles, 1969: 15)

Briefly, America is a country which consists of many people with various backgrounds. They live in America as citizens and they do not see the differences, such as race.

Unfortunately there is a contrary condition in America. In some cases, there is no equality between American people with different backgrounds. The term of being equal for every American people does not happen for a number of racial communities because they do not have rights as American citizen as it is said before that Afro-American are considered as the second class. They are not the same as white people because they came to America as slaves so that they do not have an important role there. Shortly, they are treated very differently from the white people.

There are some different treatments for black people in America. Those treatments mostly come from the white, but some cases come from the same race, black people. Many treatments addressed to black people often show discrimination and affects the social status of black people that is getting lower and lower than white people's social status.

WALTER (*Not listening at all or even looking at her*) This morning, I was lookin' in the mirror and thinking about it... I'm thirty-five years old; I been married eleven years and I got a boy who sleeps in the living room—(*Very, very quietly*)—and all I got to give him is stories about how rich white people live... (ARitS 1. 1. 348-353)

Walter looks tired with his community's life. He feels anxious with his family's home in the poor apartment. He also sees the difference between white people's life and the black's. From his utterance, it can be said that there is a very big gap between them. According to Walter's statement too, there is only white people who can be rich, while a colored people can't. That is why, the social



status of both black and white people can be known that they are different as black people are under the white one in America.

Certain time, when Lena and Ruth talk about their plan dealing with the using of the insurance money, Ruth suggests Lena for traveling around the world with the money. “But Americans like to see other countries as well as their own. Each year more than four million go to Europe and nearly half a million travel to Bermuda. Countries in Asia, Africa and the Near East are also attracting more American tourists each year” (United States Information Agency). It means that traveling is one of many customs of American people. However, from Ruth’s dialogue too, it can be found that traveling becomes a life style for white people, but not for black.

RUTH You know what you should do, Miss Lena? You should take yourself a trip somewhere. To Europe or South America or someplace—

MAMA (*Throwing up her hands at the thought*) Oh, child!

RUTH I’m serious. Just pack up and leave! Go on away and enjoy yourself some. Forget about the family and have yourself a ball for once in your life—

MAMA (*Drily*) You sound like I’m just about ready to die. Who’d go with me? What I look like wandering ‘round Europe by myself?

RUTH Shoot—these here rich white women do it all the time. They don’t think nothing of packing up they suitcases and piling on one of them big steamships and—swoosh!—they gone, child. (ARitS 1. 1. 640-653)

It is not common for colored people to go traveling because black people are considered as people who do not have money for traveling. If they have money, it is enough for their daily living. From Ruth's saying, traveling is an activity that is usually done by white people, but for black people it is something luxurious. Traveling itself represents the social class of those who do it. "Beginning in the 1950's, middle-class Americans began to travel abroad, for enjoyment, venturing where previously only the wealthy used to go" (Stevenson, 1998: 146). It also shows the different social status of black people and white people. Although traveling is not a basic need for people, it can be used as a measure of people's social status.

From the two quotations of dialogue in a play 'A Raisin in the Sun', the social status of black people is different from white people. Many white people can live in a comfortable place easily, while black people should live in a very simple place, even in a limited-facilities place. The way of life between black and white people is dissimilar and it becomes the indicator that the social status of black people is lower than white people. The different condition between black and white people pushes Lena Younger to keep striving for the black people's rights. Expectantly, there will be the same life for black and white people in America and there will not be differences between them.

Black people social status that is lower than white people is made not only by white people's treatment but also by black people who want to preserve the discrimination. One person who can be the example of those black people is Mrs. Johnson. She considers black people as a group who cannot live as white people. Mrs. Johnson who is a part of black community living in the same

apartment as Younger's family says that colored people are not accepted in the white neighborhood. According to her, black people are not so important for the white community. Even, each time black people live in that community, they will be treated as people who do not have right to live, then they have to be destroyed with bomb. Black people's attitude tends to separate from white people represented by Mrs. Johnson influences black people's social status that is inferior because black people will tend not to struggle for equality of their community, but to live away from white people even though still in the same country, America.

JOHNSON Oh honey, I can't stay hardly a minute—I just dropped in to see if there was anything I could do (*Accepting the food easily*) I guess y'all seen the news what's all over the colored paper this week...

MAMA No—didn't get mine yet this week.

JOHNSON (*Lifting her head and blinking with the spirit of catastrophe*) You mean you ain't read 'bout them colored people that was bombed out their place out there? (ARitS 2. 2. 128-136)

As a contrary, Lena Younger considers her group, black people, have a right as a common American people. She does not see the difference between black people and white people. Indeed, she struggles for her community. She still believes that she has a same chance as the white in living in the same place and using public facilities because black people and white people are under the same government's authority. Even, Lena Younger is not easily affected by the different opinion coming from people near the family's environment. She does not care if her family will be the first family who lives among white community because she

believes if her family can live in the same place as white people, it shows that black people are not different from white people so hopefully, black people community can gain their rights normally. She is also not afraid of the consequence if black family moves into white neighborhood. She is a solid person in defending her decision, although her son and her daughter-in-law warn her about the consequence.

In the dialogue between Lena, Ruth, and Walter Lee Younger, there is a little conflict between them. Ruth and Walter do not agree if Younger's family moves into Clybourne Park where there is no colored people living there. They are shocked when they know that their mother has bought a house there. They think that discrimination gives a bad effect for black family and they are absolutely afraid that they will be bombed as the other black people who fight for their community. On the other hand, Lena Younger does not pay attention to the objection of Ruth and Walter. Although it is difficult for her to say that she has bought a new house in the Clybourne Park, a predominantly white people, to Walter and Ruth, she still defends her decision. Even, she does not worry that her family will be the first family living in white neighborhood and she hopes that the other black families will follow her struggle to be the same as white people. One purpose of Lena is struggling for black community in order to get social status as American citizen. "Negroes hold strongly, perhaps more strongly than any other element in the American population, to a belief in nondiscrimination and racial harmony" (Herbers, 1973: 59-60). According to the quotation above, Lena wants to show that black people would not like to disturb the environment as they are perceived by the whites. Lena Younger is one of black people living in America

who is convinced that there will be nondiscrimination and racial harmony after she struggles for her rights as American citizen. She fully believes that she has a power to do her struggle and knows that there will be a change for black people living in America. Therefore, she does not only see the fate of black people or many obstacles that must be faced, but also tries to make a good future for her family and for black people in America.

### **C. 2. Keeping the moving decision from the affecting people.**

Younger's family wants to have a new house; they want to move from the predominantly black people apartment. Unfortunately, a group of white people living there has decided to make Younger's family cancel their moving into Clybourne Park. They send their representative namely Karl Lindner to talk about the condition of Clybourne Park community. Basically, they do not want if there is black family living there. From the Lindner's statement, he tries to make Younger's family face difficulties when they move. As an organization that has a structural management, Karl Lindner comes to Younger's place as the Representative of Clybourne Park Improvement Association to talk about the result of a group of people discussion. He says that the buying of a house in Clybourne Park by Lena Younger is a kind of problem for the association and this matter has been discussed by the association as a serious problem that needs important attention.

WALTER (*Amiably, as he sits himself easily on a chair, leaning forward on his knees with interest and looking expectantly into the newcomer's face*) What can we do for you, Mr. Lindner!

LINDNER (*Some minor shuffling of the hat and briefcase on his knees*) Well—I am a representative of the Clybourne Park Improvement Association—

WALTER (*Pointing*) Why don't you sit your things on the floor?

LINDNER Oh—yes. Thank you. (*He slides the briefcase and hat under the chair*) And as I was saying—I am from the Clybourne Park Improvement Association and we have had it brought to our attention at last meeting that you people—or at least your mother—has bought a piece of residential property at—(*He digs for the slip of paper again*)—four o six Clybourne Street... (ARitS 2. 3. 141-156)

From the quotation above, it shows that there is a problem after Lena has bought a house in Clybourne Park because Younger's family is a black family and Clybourne Park is one of predominantly white people neighborhood in America. At that time, surely, discrimination still happens in every aspect of life. Therefore, they do not allow black people live together with them. As the consequence, an unfair way done by white people comes up in the process of the black people's moving into white people neighborhood. There will be a discussion in the white people association to make some considerations to allow a family living there. Actually, these considerations are made in order to forbid black people moving into 'white' area.

LINDNER Well, I don't know how much you folks know about our organization. (*He is a gentle man; thoughtful and somewhat labored in his manner*) It is one of these community organizations set up to look after—oh, you know, things like block upkeep and special projects and we also have what we call our New Neighbors Orientation Committee...

BENEATHA (*Drily*) Yes—and what do they do?

LINDNER (*Turning a little to her and then returning the main force to WALTER*) Well—it's what you might call a sort of welcoming committee, I guess. I mean they, we—I'm the chairman of the committee—go around and see the new people who move into the neighborhood and sort of give them the lowdown on the way we do things out in Clybourne Park.

.....

LINDNER (*More frustrated than annoyed*) No, thank you very much. Please. Well—to get right to the point I—(*A great breath, and he is off at last*) I am sure you people must be aware of some of the incidents which have happened in various parts of the city when colored people have moved into certain areas—(BENEATHA *exhales heavily and starts tossing a piece of fruit up and down in the air*) Well—because we have what I think is going to be a unique type of organization in American community life—not only do we people that kind of thing—but we are trying to do something



about it. (BENEATHA *stops tossing and turns with anew and quizzical to the man*) We feel—(*gaining confidence in his mission because of the interest in the faces of the people he is talking to*)—we feel that most of the trouble in this world, when you come right down to it—(*He hits his knee for emphasis*)—most of the trouble exists because people just don't sit down and talk to each other.

RUTH (*Nodding as she might in church, pleased with the remark*) You can say that again, mister.

LINDNER (*More encourage by such affirmation*) That we don't try hard enough in this world to understand the other fellow's problem. The other guy's point of view. (ARitS 2. 3. 141-220)

Karl Lindner says that he comes from a committee in Clybourne Park. It can be said as welcoming committee for the family moving to the Clybourne Park. He also talks about special community problems and finally, he explains that his coming has a purpose to discuss about the consequence of Younger's moving. He reminds Youngers about the incident which happened in the cities when black people moved into white areas and tells that it would be better if Youngers cancel their moving because white people consider that black people bring a trouble for white people community if they live together in the same place. Mainly, this welcoming committee cannot do its duty to welcome the new inhabitant. On the contrary, they refuse black people who will move into predominantly white people. Shortly, black people, in this case Younger's family, must face the difficulty in getting to live in the Clybourne Park. They must get the

impact of discrimination and unfortunately, in the process of discussion that makes an overcoming, it is finally advantageous only for white people.

The reaction of Lena Younger facing Karl Lindner is defensibility because she still wants to move into Clybourne Park. She does not care about Lindner's saying as the pressure. Lena thinks that as American citizens, her family can stay in the Clybourne Park and they must deserve the right to be accepted as new inhabitants in the new place in the part of America.

Lena Younger thinks that her family moving is a common thing in America and according to Lena; it is not a big problem when her family tries to get a better place for staying like other common American inhabitants. Principally, Lena Younger as a part of black people in America wants to move into the proper place in order to get better life. Absolutely she has money for buying a house and she has right to use that money for her important things including have a house in the predominantly white people area.

“The American people are always on the move—from one part of the country to another, from one city to another, from farm to city, from the city to the suburbs. Seventeen percent of all Americans move to new homes every year, searching for job opportunities, a better climate, or for other reasons. Many industries have scattered their factories far from the parent plant, and many of their workers have decided to try the new locations.” (United States Information Agency: 13)

It can be seen from Lena's statement supporting by her family. She allows Walter Lee to tell Lindner about Younger's family for the last decision that her family still wants to move into Clybourne Park, a predominantly white people place.

MAMA (*Opening her eyes and looking into WALTER's*) No. Travis,  
you stay right here. And you make him understand what you doing,  
Walter Lee. You teach him good. Like Willy Harris taught you.

You show where our five generations done come to. (WALTER looks from her to the boy, who grins at him innocently) Go ahead, son—(She folds her hands and closes her eyes) Go ahead.

WALTER (At last crosses to LINDNER, who is reviewing the contract) Well, Mr. Lindner. (BENEATHA turns away) We called you—(There is a profound, simple groping quality in his speech)—because, well, me and my family (He looks around and shifts from one foot to the other) Well—we are very plain people...

WALTER I mean—I have worked as a chauffeur most of my life—and my wife here, she does domestic work in people's kitchens. So does my mother. I mean—we are plain people...

.....

WALTER (A beat; staring at him) And my father—(With sudden intensity) My father almost beat a man to death once because this man called him a bad name or something, you know what I mean?

LINDNER (Looking up, frozen) No, no, I'm afraid I don't—

WALTER (A beat. The tension hangs; then WALTER steps back from it) Yeah. Well—what I mean is that we come from people who had a lot of pride. I mean—we are very proud people. And that's my sister over there and she's going to be a doctor—and we are very proud—

.....

WALTER And we have decided to move into our house because my father—my father—he earned it for us brick by brick. (MAMA has

*her eyes closed and is rocking back and forth as though she were in church, with her head nodding the Amen yes)* We don't want to make no trouble for nobody or fight no causes, and we will try to be good neighbors. And that's all we got to say about that. *(He looks the man absolutely in the eyes)* We don't want your money. *(He turns and walks away)*

LINDNER *(Looking around at all of them)* I take it then—that you have decided to occupy...

BENEATHA That's what the man said.

LINDNER *(To MAMA in her reverie)* Then I would like to appeal to you, Mrs. Younger. You are older and wiser and understand things better than I am sure...

MAMA I am afraid you don't understand. My son said we was going to move and there ain't nothing left for me to say. *(Briskly)* You know these young folks is nowadays, mister. Can't do a thing with 'em! *(As he opens his mouth, she rises)* Good-bye. (ARitS 3. 1. 492-570)

After the first coming of Karl Lindner in the apartment of Youngers, Lena Younger and her family have thought about it, especially for the last decision. They call Lindner to come to their apartment for the second time. Lena Younger lets Walter Lee to be the spokesman talking to Lindner. Walter tells about the family, the struggles of each member of the family to keep alive and to have money for buying a new house. He and his wife work everyday to get money so that they can keep alive in America and make their dream to have a better life

come true. However, they are very proud of their family, even though they are only plain people. One thing that can make them very proud is Beneatha who will be a doctor. Walter wants to show Lindner that Younger's family cannot be considered as unimportant people. He believes that Younger's family is not a trouble maker and will be a good neighbor although they have different race. He also tells that although they are very plain people, they do not want to accept the collected money and give their new house in Clybourne Park up.

Above all, Younger's family does not want accept the money from the Clybourne Park Improvement Association and they cannot easily permit this committee take their new house back. Finally, Lena Younger talks to Lindner that they have decided to move into Clybourne Park and there is no consideration to cancel their moving anymore.

Lena Younger has a solid standpoint. She struggles for a house in Clybourne Park that has been paid. She hopes that after her family live there; there will be an opportunity for black people especially in having a better place for living. She cannot be taken aback by Lindner's statement. She still keeps her decision and does not change her point of view although she must face the consequence because of her moving. Principally, Lena Younger keeps to struggle for the equality of black community. She still fights for the social status of black people; therefore she tries to avoid white people who try hard forbidding them to live in white people neighborhood. She also hopes that black community can feel the same proper treatment as white people.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

## A. Conclusion

Based on the research, it can be found some points to answer the research question. Those are:

### **How does Lena Younger strive to get the equality of black community in America described by Lorraine Hansberry in 'A Raisin in the Sun'?**

Lena Younger is a black woman living in America in about 1960's. Her husband, Mr. Younger has died and she must live with her son, Walter Lee Younger, her daughter-in-law, Ruth, her daughter, Beneatha, and also her grandson, Travis Younger. She gets insurance money from her husband's death and she must use the money well. Realizing that her family's life is far from prosperity because of their status as minority in America, she tries hard to change the life of her family. Hopefully, black community will get equality in America, although their ancestors originally came from Africa.

As a part of black community that is always considered as the second class after the white people, Lena Younger struggles for her racial community. She has awareness if she does not fight for her racial community; black people will be a community threatened by white people living in America. Therefore, Lena Younger tries to change black people's social status as common American citizen through some efforts. Principally, she wants that black people can get their rights as American people and use their rights properly.

**1. Support her daughter to get the same opportunity in education that is to gain doctor**

Firstly, being a parent who has a smart daughter makes Lena Younger struggle for the equality of her community. She views that education is an important thing because it will influence the others' opinion. It means that educated people will be more respected because of the intellectuality. Her struggles can be seen through her support to Beneatha, her daughter. Lena asks Walter to save a part of the insurance money for preparing Beneatha's medical school fee. She hopes that Beneatha will be a doctor someday and her family will be proud of it. Even, when Lena Younger supports the education of her daughter, she must face an obstacle coming from black people represented by Joseph Asagai who tries to influence her daughter to go to Africa in order to find their original identity. Indirectly, this character can make Lena's support to Beneatha in getting her doctor useful. Nevertheless, Lena Younger hopes that her daughter will continue her study in medical school and become a doctor in America. As a consequence, her family and also black community will be respected because of the progress.

**2. Support her son to get the same chance in having a better profession**



On the other hand, Lena Younger supports her son, Walter Lee Younger to get a better job because it is impossible for Lena to work as she is getting older. Eventhough Lena Younger does not agree if her son invests the money into liquor business, she does not forbid her son or get angry with it. She believes that her son as a young man has an ability to decide his economic interest. She allocates a part of the insurance money for Walter to open a chance in order to change the status of the family. She knows that if black people get proper job, they will be respected as important people who have role and responsibility as people living in America. Unfortunately, because of Walter's frivolous manners, the money was run by Willy Harris. At that time, Walter is considered as family dream's demolisher. However, Lena Younger still gives him a chance to strive for family's social status and also for black community.

**3. Get the same opportunity to get a proper settlement for her family in the white neighborhood as white people as a common American citizen**

Lena Younger also decides to buy a house in the Clybourne Park, a predominantly white people neighborhood, with the insurance money from Mr. Younger's death. She realizes that her family will get the consequence if they move into their new house. She also knows that there are many pressures that can make her cancel their moving, but she still defends her decision because she wants her family live in the proper

house. She believes that it will open an opportunity for black people to have the same facilities as the white people have.

Lena Younger feels that black community is getting more and more inferior because they are under estimated by white people. Even, they must face a difficulty when they use their right as human. There are so many obstacles, not only coming from white people, but also from their fellows, black people who want to separate from white people interference even though they still live in America. However, Lena Younger still considers her group, black people, as the same as white people. She strives for black people status through defending her right to get the facilities as the white.

In the process before their moving into the white neighborhood area, indeed Lena must meet a difficulty. She has to do with the unfair treatment of white people who tries hard to prohibit them in moving into white neighborhood. A representative of Clybourne Park named Karl Lindner comes to Youngers apartment. He tells that white community has discussed about Younger's moving. Mainly, they do not allow black family living between them because black people are considered as the second class who always be called as trouble maker. Nevertheless, Lena Younger keeps running her struggle. She does not change her decision even though she must take the consequence because of her family moving. She still fights for black people right and she tries to go against the obstacles.

Above all, the purpose of Lena Younger's struggle is achieving equality of her community, black people living in America. She wants that her family and also her group get their social status as common American citizen who have rights same as white people and hopes that they will live peacefully in America, obey the governmental regulations, and be treated properly as human being.

## **B. Recommendation**

This research deals with the topic of equality in certain community. It focuses on the black community living in America on 1960's. It discusses about the struggle of a character named Lena Younger who has a great awareness to change the social status of her community from the under estimated group to be the respected group. She struggles in some ways to realize her purpose that black community will be considered as a group who has the same opportunity as white community. Lena's struggles are pushed and motivated by the social condition of black community.

The play 'A Raisin in the Sun' is interesting literary work written by Lorraine Hansberry. It tells about the real condition of black society living in America. Some information can be derived from this work because it shows many aspects of condition especially the life of black American people in about 1960's. The topics that can be discussed from this play are mostly dealing with black American people. In addition, it can be analyzed from many points of view, such as political, economical, and also historical aspects.

The researcher hopes that this research will be useful for the other researchers who have the same topic with the matter of struggle for the equality. Besides, hopefully, this research can inspire the other researchers to discuss about black American people through many aspects and point of view in order to get research findings that are useful for the readers and the society.

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