



**Racial Segregation In Jim Crow Era As Depicted In**

**Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin In The Sun***

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fullfilment of the Requirements for**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer would like to pronounce that this thesis entitled Racial Segregation in Jim Crow Era as Depicted in *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry is compiled by herself without taking any results of other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any universities. The writer also ascertains that there are none of illegal quotations from any material of other publications except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, May 2019

Ulfauziyyah Awalia Ramadhani

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*“I’m here to build something for the long-term. Anything else is a distraction.”*

—Mark Zuckerberg

*“It doesn’t matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop.”*

—Confucius

*This thesis is dedicated to*

*Myself, my beloved family, and everyone*

*Who helped and supported me to accomplish this thesis*

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Semarang, May 2019

The writer

Ulfauziyyah Awalia Ramadhani

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## ABSTRACT

Jim Crow laws regulate racial discrimination between white and black people. This issue is also brought by Lorraine Hansberry in her play entitled *A Raisin in the Sun*. This play is set in Southside of Chicago addressing a poor black family called The Youngers who fight their right to leave the slum and move into a better neighborhood. This has got the writer's attention to analyze this play deeper. Theme, character, and setting are three intrinsic elements being analyzed in this writing, while the extrinsic elements follows the Jim Crow laws theory by Fremon and racial segregation theory by Burch. The methods used in this study are close reading and contextual methods supported by the theories mentioned before. The writer finds out that white community does not want to live with The Youngers and puts some strategies on them to surrender the house they have bought to the white community.

Keywords: Racial Segregation, Jim Crow laws, Civil Rights Act, White Neighborhood

## ABSTRACT

Hukum Jim Crow mengatur diskriminasi ras antara orang kulit putih dan kulit hitam. Permasalahan ini pun diangkat oleh Lorraine Hansberry dalam dramanya yang berjudul *A Raisin in the Sun*. Drama ini berlatar di Southside of Chicago mengisahkan keluarga kulit hitam miskin bernama *The Youngers* yang memperjuangkan hak mereka untuk meninggalkan daerah kumuh dan pindah ke lingkungan yang lebih baik. Itulah yang menarik perhatian penulis untuk menganalisis drama ini lebih dalam. Tema, karakter, dan latar adalah tiga elemen intrinsik yang dianalisis dalam tulisan ini, sementara elemen ekstrinsik mengikuti teori hukum Jim Crow oleh Fremon dan teori segregasi ras oleh Burch. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah *close-reading* dan metode kontekstual yang didukung oleh teori-teori yang disebutkan sebelumnya. Penulis menemukan bahwa komunitas kulit putih menolak tinggal bersama *The Youngers* dan menerapkan berbagai strategi terhadap mereka agar menyerahkan rumah yang telah mereka beli kepada komunitas kulit putih.

Kata kunci: Segregasi Ras, Hukum Jim Crow, Undang-Undang Hak Sipil, Perumahan Kulit Putih

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The United States despite known as a multicultural country for a long time has provided the issues of racial discrimination even until today. In middle 2018 reported by the NBC News a poll called “Survey Monkey” came up with the result showing that 72 percent of Americans agree that racial discrimination against African-American people remains a serious problem in the country.

Speaking of racial discrimination in the United States, history has remembered the term “Jim Crow Laws” that happened back in late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. These laws required the separation of races between white and colored people in some public facilities and areas/residents which then was known more specifically as racial segregation. It has caused a problem that was none other than high poverty that had to be faced by most of African-Americans in the United States.

In 1959 one of the African-American writers known as Lorraine Hansberry wrote a play entitled *A Raisin in the Sun* that portrays a colored family who is living under poverty and racial segregation in Southside of Chicago as the results of the Jim Crow laws.

The writer found three previous studies which brought up the same topic of racial discrimination/segregation using the same play as the object. Ghani (2011) states that both discrimination and segregation have long pervaded much

of American life. White society specifically is deeply involved in the ghetto, the slum area in the United States where the minority of race live. It is white institutions who created and maintained it while white society condoned it. Jose (2014) mentions that white people are the settlers of America while black people were brought into the States as slaves. The white never wanted to live together in the same area with the black; they consider Black people as untouchables. Last but not least, Mhayyal (2018) in her study states that *A Raisin in the Sun* was a play addressing an African-American family who struggles for self-improvement in order to get happiness. Their struggles are withered as they had to focus more on surviving their life in the racist neighborhood in Southside of Chicago instead of thinking about their happiness.

Although some studies with racial discrimination/segregation as the topic have been done to date, more studies focusing on the effects of Jim Crow Laws towards African-Americans especially in Chicago still need to be conducted. Thus, the purpose of this study is to show how the Youngers, an African-American family in the play, fight against racial segregation and how they survive living in racist neighborhood in South Side of Chicago based on the story presented in *A Raisin in the Sun* written by Lorraine Hansberry. This topic is identified as being important to understand how bad the effects of racial segregation towards colored people are and for people to be able to erase the racial segregation in the future.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

1. What are the effects of racial segregation in Jim Crow Era to the main characters in the play?
2. How do the main characters fight against racial segregation in Jim Crow Era in the play?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To analyze how racial segregation in Jim Crow Era affects the main characters in the play
2. To analyze how the main characters fight against racial segregation in Jim Crow Era

## **1.4 Methods of the Study**

The writer uses the close-reading and contextual methods that will be supported by some related theories of Jim Crow Laws, racial segregation, and civil rights movement.

## **1.5 Organization of the Thesis**

The thesis contains five chapters to which each chapter is divided into sub-chapters: The five chapters are as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION contains the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, methods of the study, and organization of the study.

2. **AUTHOR AND HER WORK** contains the biography of the author and his work that is analyzed in this paper; it also where the synopsis of the object is written.
3. **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK** contains the theories that the writer uses to analyze the play.
4. **ANALYSIS** that is the main part of the writing where the analysis of each research question written.
5. **CONCLUSION** contains the writer's conclusion of the writing.

## CHAPTER 2

### AUTHOR AND HER WORK

#### 2.1 Biography of Lorraine Hansberry

Lorraine Hansberry was born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 19<sup>th</sup> 1990. She is the daughter of Carl Augustus Hansberry and Nannie Perry Hansberry. Both of her parents were intellectuals and activists. Hansberry spent her childhood in a middle-class family who lived in South Side of Chicago. When she was eight years old, her family moved to a white neighborhood. They had to deal with enormous racial discrimination to the point where her father had to be involved in a legal battle against racist white community that forbided African-Americans from buying houses in particular neighborhood which they claimed as a white neighborhood.

Hansberry went to University of Winsconsin-Madison after high school. She decided to take courses at Roosevelt College in Chicago and the University of Guadalajara in Mexico afterwards. In 1950, she left college and moved to New York City. She lived in Greenwich Village and took writing classes at the New School for Social Research. In 1953, she married Robert Nemiroff whom she met on a demonstration event at New York University.

In 1959, Hansberry finished writing *A Raisin in the Sun*. It brought her into fame making her to be the first African-American to win the prestigious award. This succes also gave her a chance to become an influencer in the American civil rights movement.

In 1961, the play was adapted into a successful film, starring Sidney Poitier. The success of *A Raisin in the Sun* also gave Hansberry a chance to become a more influential voice in the American civil rights movement. Her promising career had to be cut short due to her pancreatic cancer that caused her death on January 12, 1965 in New York.

Summarized from:

Bloom, Harold. 2009. *Bloom's Guide: Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun, Introduction by Harold Bloom*. New York: Infobase Publishing

## **2.2 Summary of the Play**

*A Raisin in the Sun* is a play about a poor Black family called the Youngers who lived together in a tiny one-bedroom house. There are five people in the family and three of them are adults who work for white people. The rest members are a seventeen year old girl and a ten year old child. The Youngers have to deal with living in racist neighborhood in South Side of Chicago. Things go rough when Mama buy a house in the Clybourne Park. This specific place was known to be white people area only and by that being said it means that none of Black people have ever lived there. The rest of adults in the family completely against Mama's decision. They argue that it is not a good idea to a Black family like them to move to the Clybourne Park. What the rest of the family concern about then becomes a reality. White people who live in the Clybourne Park completely reject them to move there as they do not want to live with any Black people at all. The Clybourne Park Improvement Assosiation then send a man whose job is to offer the Youngers some amount of money as an exchange for the house they have

bought in the neighborhood. The Youngers get very offended with the rejection. They think that they deserve a better place to live. They finally fight back and tell Karl Lindner that they will not surrender the house to the white community. Even though they know the road ahead is not going to be easy, they choose to fight for their pride as Black people and will accept all the consequences that may come to them in the future.

This play is known as a reflection of its author's life. When Lorraine Hansberry was only eight years old, her family had to experience an intense racial segregation after they moved into a white neighborhood. The local Chicago government was willing to expel the Hansberrys from their new house. Hansberry's father, Carl Hansberry, brought their case to court. He managed to win the right to stay with the help of the NAACP. This problem which the Hansberrys experienced is then written in *A Raisin in the Sun* which Hansberry herself finished writing in 1959.

## CHAPTER 3

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 3.1 Intrinsic Elements

This chapter contains the theoretical framework that the writer use to answer the research questions. These theoretical frameworks include the intrinsic element and the extrinsic element. The intrinsic elements are setting, character, and conflict, while the extrinsic element are Jim Crow laws, racial segregation, and civil rights movement.

##### 3.1.1 Setting

Holman (1960: 413) defines settings as either physical or spiritual background against where a narrative takes place. It is explained in the book that the elements which build up a setting are as follows: (1) The actual location, topography, scenery, and such physical arrangement, (2) The occupations and daily manner of living of the characters, (3) The time or period in which the action takes place, and (4) The general environment of the characters, e.g. religious, mental, moral, social, and emotional conditions of the characters.

##### 3.1.2 Character

There are two types of characters that are going to discuss in this analysis, which are protagonist and antagonist characters. The protagonist is the main character whose story is being told. The term “protagonist” derives from classical Greek drama which means “first actor.” There are four types of protagonists, namely:

1. A Heroic protagonist is the one and only person who can stop the antagonists.
2. Group Hero protagonists which are made of multiple people pulling together to accomplish a single goal.
3. An Antihero is the opposite form of heroic protagonist. They are usually bitter, sarcastic, and less-than-heroic.
4. Inanimate objects can also be protagonists which are usually found in fables and animated movies.

Moving on to the next type of character, the antagonist character is a character that the protagonist needs to overcome. The term derives from Greek: *anti*, meaning “against,” and *agonist*, meaning actor. Like the protagonist, the antagonist is also divided into four types, which are as follows:

1. The Villain antagonist is the one and only person whose goals oppose the protagonist's and who causes the main conflict in the story.
2. The Group Villain antagonist are multiple antagonists representing political and social values which clash from the protagonist's.
3. Intrinsic Force antagonist is something inside the protagonist's mind and heart which keeps them from achieving their goals.
4. Inanimate Forces antagonist is a type of antagonist that is usually found in science-fiction stories. It could be such nature, technology, and even the supernatural, which can create conflicts the protagonist needs to overcome.

### **3.1.3 Conflict**

According to Holman in *“A Handbook To Literature” based on the original edition of William Flint Thrall and Addison Hibbard*, a conflict provides the elements of suspense and interest whether in short story, novel, drama or film (1980: 98). Conflict itself is the struggle which is faced by the protagonist due to some opposing forces. The opposing forces is usually known as an antagonist. It usually is a person and when it is not a person such as animal or an inanimate object, it has to be treated as if it were a person. There are four different kinds of conflicts that a protagonist has to be involved, which are as follows: (1) a conflict with the force of nature; (2) a conflict with another person, usually the antagonists; (3) a conflict with society; and (4) a conflict from within the person themselves.

## **3.2 Extrinsic Elements**

### **3.2.1 Jim Crow Laws**

According to Fremon in *The Jim Crow Laws and Racism in United States History*, the term “Jim Crow” laws has been a part of America’s vocabulary ever since Thomas “Daddy” Rice’s act happened back in 1820s. Rice’s act was said to be a racist mockery of African-Americans (2014: 43-44). “Jim Crow” laws began in early 1865 that basically legalize the racial segregation towards Colored people in the United States. This laws exist for a hundred years from the Civil War era until around the year of 1968. Additionally, Fremon mentioned in the book that the “Jim Crow” laws extremely blocked African-American’s freedom. As the time by,

the term “Jim Crow” became more than just a set of laws but a way of life. It was full of humiliations and total limitation for African-Americans which was as bad as slavery (2014:44).

The most recognizable sign that existed in Jim Crow era was the signs of “white only” or “colored only” in almost every facility in public. These signs showed up in washrooms, parks, busses, hotels, and even restaurants. Fremont then mentioned that in some places such as whites and blacks shared facilities; whites were always be the first priority. Black had to wait and could only be served after the white has been served (2014: 45). They even had different kind of churches; white churches and black churches. The water fountains were also divided into two; which are colored water fountains and white water fountains (2014: 46).

In a social position, a black person’s position is below the white one. Blacks had to address whites as “missus”, “miss”, and “mister”. Meanwhile, blacks were called both “boy” and “girl” and older blacks were usually called “uncle” if they were a man or “auntie” if they were a woman. Due to this different social position, Blacks were also not allowed to start a conversation with whites. (2014: 50). Furthermore, Blacks were a necessity to whites in Jim Crow era. The whites needed blacks to do the backbreaking and low paying work (2014: 102).

Furthermore, Tischauser in *Jim Crow Laws* explains that one of “Jim Crow” laws rule is that an illegal interracial marriage. It is prohibited for anyone to marry someone from another race and gave a dead penalty to people who broke that rule. The worst idea of Jim Crow laws was that African-Americans were not

considered as human beings. They tended to receive abusive and inhuman treatments from white people. They did not have “human rights” because they were not seen as part of humanity. They were called cannibals, savages, aliens, or some strange creatures from the jungle. They were recognized as biologically closed to gorillas and apes rather than human beings (2012, xi).

Tischauer also quoted Thomas Pearce Bailey from his book entitled *Race Orthodoxy in the South, and Other Aspects of Negro Questions* published in 1914 which provided the racial thinking of whites during the era of Jim Crow and some of them were: 1) The white race must dominate, 2) The black race is inferior and will remain so, 3) There will never be social equality, and 4) There will never be political equality. It is then said that if they want peace those rules had to be abided, if broken, violence usually followed (2012: 62).

### **3.2.2 Racial Segregation**

Racial segregation is known as a practice of restricting people from certain race or alleged race to some residences or to some institutions (schools and churches), and some facilities (restaurants, restrooms, water fountains, and parks). The racial segregation between White people and African-Americans was legal in United States from the late of 19<sup>th</sup> century until the 1950s due to the effects of Jim Crow laws.

According to Burch in *The Old Jim Crow: Racial Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Imprisonment*, racial segregation has brought the effects to colored people’s life, especially in economic and residential. It also caused high

poverty within colored people due to their low income levels as they did the “lower-class” jobs, such as a chauffeur and a maid (2008:10).

According to Martin and Varner in *Race, Residential Segregation, and the Death of Democracy*, there were many ways to segregate blacks and whites. Specifically in Chicago, blacks and whites could not attend the same beaches. Black teenager called Eugene Williams went to white beaches and what he got was some white people throwing stones at him (2017: 3-4).

### **3.2.3 The Civil Rights Movement**

The Civil Rights Movement is a fight for equality and justice for colored people in the United States which took place in the 1950s and 1960s. Through nonviolence protest, the civil right movements aimed to end the racial segregation. Following the chronology of the Civil Right Movement, the most famous event was back in December 1955, when NAACP activist, Rosa Parks, refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a public bus in Montgomery. Parks was reported under arrest after what she did resulting in Montgomery Bus Boycott afterwards. News about what happened with the Montgomery quickly spread and had been a signal to Blacks throughout United States that a new chapter of living in equality had just begun. Many Black families move to white neighborhood afterwards (Tischauser, 2012: 44).

## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Intrinsic Elements

##### 4.1.1 Setting

###### 4.1.1.1 Setting of Time

The exact year when *A Raisin in the Sun* was written is never specified but the play itself takes place in 1950s. The 1950s despite being the beginning of the civil rights movement, was a strange time in the United States. This is known as a period of race issues. The issues of racial segregation caused by the Jim Crow laws was used by politicians from other government to convince people that United States was inferior to other nations. Southern United States government then fought them by releasing the Supreme Court decision claiming the “Separate but Equal” doctrine between Whites and Blacks. They claimed that their Constitution was color blind and respects the civil rights. Thus, all citizens were equal under the law. Nevertheless, what truly happened back then was that the Southern governments strictly enforced the “separate” but they surely ignored the “equal” part (Fremon, 2014:63-77).

The Youngers’ story is set in 1950s which was the exact time when the Jim Crow laws existed. Here where Hansberry successfully showed the failure of “Separate but Equal” as it was promised by the U.S. governments. In the play, while white people live in the downtown side of the city, The Youngers live in the slum area of the city. It can be argued that Walter is an example of a Black man in

1950s who craves for the life like white men have. He is consumed with jealousy because of the differences that existed between black and white people since white men have so much more privileges than Black ones. In 1950s, it was also very uncommon for women in the United States to work but Ruth and Mama are the exception. In 1950s, while the women were generally supposed to be in charge of taking care of both the house and the children, both of them have to do some cooking and cleaning the houses of the white people in the neighborhood to support the family needs.

#### **4.1.1.2 Setting of Place**

*A Raisin in the Sun*, intentionally set in Chicago—the North part of the United States— is a clever act of the author. If we look back to American history, in 1910s, half a million Black Southerners left the South and moved to the North looking for freedom that they never had before in the South. Chicago was one of the big cities in the North which became their destination. They expected a paradise in the North, in fact, what they found was a real disappointment. Mostly in job recruitments, Black people were always be the last hired and the first fired in the North. Most labor unions closed their doors to Black workers and if they did, they offered the most low-paying jobs for them. (Fremon, 2014:109-113).

Here where the author successfully displayed the most relatable condition of Black people's life after that big move through The Youngers' story. The Youngers live in an apartment in the slums of Chicago's Southside. This specific place is known as a poor neighborhood in North part of United States mostly

inhabited by African-Americans after migrating from the South back in 1950s. The apartment is very small for five people in the family. It has only two tiny bedrooms where each bedroom has to be shared for two people as it is narrated in the play.

The only living room in the apartment also has to be served as a dining room and as well as a bedroom for Travis. In the play it is narrated, “*At rise: It is morning dark in the living room, TRAVIS is asleep on the make-down bed at center*” (Hansberry, 1959:52). The only bathroom the Youngers have is out in the hall and has to be shared with their neighbor, The Johnson. They have to get in a queue to use the bathroom every morning due to their similar time to leave the house for job and schools. This condition frustrates nearly everybody in the apartment, especially Ruth. Ruth is really concerned about Walter who is going to be late and is going to fush like a mad man if he does not want to get up early in the morning just in case Mr. Johnson will be there in the bathroom as well because she understands that the bathroom is supposed to be shared (Hansberry, 1959:54-55).

#### **4.1.1.3 Social Setting**

Referring back to Fremon’s statement that back in 1950s African–Americans were offered only “the most low-paying jobs”, in the play, Hansberry shows that all three adults in the apartment work for white people. Their jobs are none other than low-paying jobs; Walter is only a chauffeur while Ruth and Mama do domestic

work in people's kitchens as it is mentioned in the play. Walter addresses he and his family as plain people (Hansberry, 1959:319).

From the writer's point of view, the fact that Hansberry centering the play mostly at The Youngers' small apartment is not without a reason. Logically, the condition of the apartment as mentioned above, where five people live together under its roof is not considered ideal. Such small place has a major effect regarding to the daily manner of living of the characters in the play. The family members argue constantly over foods, schools, jobs, and money. It also arises an important problem in the play as to when Ruth knows she is pregnant, she considers to have an abortion as she thinks there will be no enough space for a newborn baby. This also makes Mama decides to buy a new house for the sake of the newborn baby and all the family in the apartment. Mama's decision then leads to the main conflict in the play that will be further explained later in the writing.

#### **4.1.2 Characters**

The characters that are analyzed in this writing are the protagonist and antagonist characters. The analysis of each type of characters is as follows:

##### **4.1.2.1 The Protagonist**

###### **4.1.2.1.1 The Youngers**

The Youngers are a Black family made up of five people namely Mama, Walter Younger, Ruth Younger, Beneatha Younger, and Travis Younger. They can be argued as a group-hero protagonist as they consist of multiple people who share the same goal to fight against the white segregator.

Mama is a woman around her 60s and is the mother of Walter and Beneatha. She is pictured as a strong independent woman. She is also a woman with faith. Mama plays quite important roles in the play. She struggles herself to understand her two children who have a very different perspective in life. She notices the confusion and ambition of both of them. She worries if they change to the worse and if the family is falling apart. She has a big role in keeping the family from falling apart.

Walter is the only male adult in the family. He is a man around his 30s and is married to Ruth. There is not much explanation of Walter's appearance in the play yet according to Mama, Walter is a good-looking guy. He works as a chauffeur for a rich white man. Walter is pictured as a very emotional and outspoken man in the play. Walter's wife, Ruth Younger, is a woman in her 30s and is described as a good-looking and weary woman. Ruth also plays a big role in the play. Even though she often seems furious towards Walter, she does her best to protect their marriage and to give Travis, their one and only son, a good life as she could.

The last member of the Younger family is Walter's younger sister, Beneatha. Beneatha is an educated seventeen-year-old teenager. She is smart and very critical. Since Beneatha has a higher education than everyone in the apartment, she often has a very different perspective from everyone in the play but it is not strong enough to turn her to be an antagonist.

It can be argued that The Youngers deserve a protagonist character in the play as they struggle in life living under the racial segregation in Southside of Chicago. They face some difficulties in achieving their dreams due to their status as Black people. They also have to deal with the Jim Crow laws which block them to have a better life and face some threats coming from the white community after they buy a new house in specific neighborhood called The Clybourne Park which is claimed to be a “white only” neighborhood.

#### **4.1.2.2 The Antagonists**

##### **4.1.2.2.1 Karl Lindner**

Karl Lindner is the only white guy in the play. He is described as "a gentle man; thoughtful and somewhat labored in his manner" (Hansberry, 1959:248). He happens to be a white representative of the Clybourne Park Association which is an organization of white people who live in the Clybourne Park neighborhood. The Clybourne Park Association sends him to Walter and family's apartment to persuade them to surrender the house they have bought in Clybourne Park neighborhood back to white community. Lindner is also a racist where he says that Black people are not equal to White people. Due to this fact, it can be argued that he is an antagonist character in the play. He causes conflict with Walter and family that will be explained in the other conflict section.

##### **4.1.2.2.2 Mrs. Johnson**

Mrs. Johnson is Walter's neighbor who is also a Black woman. She is narrated as a “rather squeaky wide-eyed lady with no particular age” (Hansberry, 1959:212).

She shares the only bathroom down the hall in the apartment with Walter and family. Mrs. Johnson is considered an antagonist character in the story because she is very unkind and just as racist as Karl Lindner. She is filled by jealousy to Walter and family who are able to buy a house in the Clybourne Park. She is very noisy about Walter and family's decision to move into the new neighborhood. At one point, she practically hopes that Walter and family's new house will be bombed by white people which the writer finds very offensive and cruel. However, it is very unusual for Mrs. Johnson to be a racist to her own race considering the fact that she is a Black person herself.

### **4.1.3 Conflict**

#### **4.1.3.1 The Youngers VS. Mrs. Johnson**

The conflict between The Youngers and Mrs. Johnson appears when Mrs. Johnson out of nowhere started insulting Walter's job in front of Mama and Ruth. It is narrated in the play, "I mean sometimes He works in mysterious ways ... but He works, don't He!" (Hansberry, 1959:214). From the writer's point of view, it is very rude and unnecessary to say such thing about Walter's job in front of Mama and Ruth. Mrs. Johnson clearly knows that Walter is a chauffeur, it obviously makes him sometimes "mysterious" as his job is to drive his white boss from one place to another. Furthermore, she is supposed to understand Walter's condition either as she is a Black person herself. Clearly, being Black in Jim Crow era is a tough condition. It is almost impossible for people like them to have a high-paying jobs like white people have.

“JOHNSON (...) Lookathere! I’m telling you the Youngers are really getting ready to “move on up a little higher!”—Bless God!

MAMA (A little drily, doubting the total sincerity of the Blessor) Bless God.

JOHNSON He’s good, ain’t He?

MAMA Oh yes, He’s good.

As if insulting Walter’s job is not enough, she also insults Beneatha’s personality. When Beneatha knows what Mrs. Johnson intends to, she becomes very cold when Mrs. Johnson greets her. Mrs Johnson then claims that Beneatha does not know how to talk to people and hardly believe that Beneatha is able to go to college with that kind of personality. She says that Beneatha “act like ain’t got time to pass the time of day with nobody ain’t been to college” (Hansberry, 1959:221).

Mrs. Johnson then fakes being excited about the Youngers’ plan to move into the Clybourne Park by saying “I’m telling you the Youngers are really getting ready to “move on up a little higher” (Hansberry, 1959:214). From those insults, it can be argued that Mrs. Johnson’s sudden attitude towards The Youngers are as a result of her jealousy knowing the fact that the Youngers are one step ahead than her and her family, in this case by getting a better place to live. This is displayed by her intentionally coming to The Youngers’ place to show them a newspaper’s highlight about Black people recently being bombed by White people. She also openly hopes that the white community will bomb the Youngers’ new house. She says,

“Lord—I bet this time next month y’all’s names will have been in the papers lately—(Holding up her hands to mark off each word of the headline she can see in front of her) “NEGROES INVADE CLYBOURNE PARK—BOMBED!” (Hansberry, 1959:219).

To that remark, Mama who is already uneasy casually replies by saying that they do not plan to move out there to get bombed. Mrs. Johnson then keeps humiliating them by explaining that even though she prays to God every single day for such bad thing not to happen, it still could be happen every now and then in Chicago. Of this, from the writer's point of view what Mrs. Johnson says is not all wrong since they live in Jim Crow era where everything was hard for Black people and the issues of Black people getting bombed happened several times back in the day. What Mrs. Johnson says is not completely wrong, however she should have not out of nowhere started humiliating the Youngers' plan to move into other neighborhood like it is her business since it is clearly not. To this remark, Ruth who at first does not say anything at all finally says, "If ignorant was gold..." (Hansberry, 1959:223) that emerges almost like a sarcasm towards Mrs. Johnson's attitude.

#### **4.1.3.2 The Youngers VS. Karl Lindner**

Moving on to the next point, the conflict between The Youngers and Karl Lindner occurs when Lindner comes to The Youngers' apartment while Mama is not home. Lindner says that he is a representative of the Clybourne Park Improvement Association. He also informs that his job as a chairman of New Neighbors Orientation Committee is to "go around and see the new people who move into the neighborhood" (Hansberry, 1959:249). He continues telling the Youngers about some incidents that have happened to Black people who have moved into certain area. The certain area in this case is the white neighborhood. He also

mentions that Black families like the Youngers have better live in their “own communities” for happiness concern. To this remark, from the writer’s point of view, he implicitly means that the Clybourne Park is not suitable for Black family like the Youngers. Lindner then explains that people in Clybourne Park “feel that people get along better, take more of a common interest in the life of the community” (Hansberry, 1959:254). Lindner then offers, according to him, “a very generous offer” to Walter and the rest of the family to surrender the house that Mama has bought in the four o six Clybourne Park back to the white community saying, “Our association is prepared, through the collective effort of our people, to buy the house from you at a financial gain to your family” (Hansberry, 1959:256). Everyone in the house feels insulted and humiliated by Lindner when he says that he wants to give the Youngers the exact terms of the financial arrangement. Walter becomes furious and opposes the offer saying that he and the rest of the family do not want to hear exact terms of no arrangements. Feeling insulted, he tells Lindner to get out of his house saying, “Never mind how I feel—you got any more to say about people ought to sit down and talk to each other? ... Get out of my house, man” (Hansberry, 1959:256).

## **4.2 Extrinsic Elements**

### **4.2.1 The Portrayals of Jim Crow Laws**

#### **4.2.1.1 Segregated Restaurants**

Following some theories used to support this analysis, back in 1950s the Jim Crow Laws strictly segregated some public facilities. In the play, it is displayed by

the existence of the segregated restaurants and the neighborhoods where The Youngers live.

First of all, it is implied that there are two kinds of restaurants in the play, which are White restaurants and Black restaurants. When Walter is having a conversation with Mama, he says that sometimes when he is downtown, he passes white people's restaurants and he says that the restaurants are quiet-looking (Hansberry, 1959:160). Of this, it can be argued that Walter is trying to give some visions to Mama and the readers of how different white restaurants are in compared to the black ones. While he says that the white restaurants are cool and quiet-looking, then it can be argued that the Black restaurants must be the opposite.

The fact that Walter mentions "where them white boys" explains the segregation itself. Due to the segregation, the White restaurants back in Jim Crow era was only suitable for White people that means Black people could not make their way in to the restaurants. It then makes sense that Black people like Walter never experiences such a good restaurant atmosphere like White people do. All he can do is watching them from the outside of the restaurants.

#### **4.2.1.2 Segregated Neighborhood**

Moving on to the next point, Jim Crow laws also segregates some areas/residents, specifically, in Chicago, where the play is set. Walter and his family live in Southside Chicago that is known to be black neighborhood. The black neighborhoods are mostly slums. While on the other side, white neighborhoods

are in the downtown and are very neat. Moreover, there is an area called Clybourne Park that is claimed to be white neighborhood only. It can be seen from Ruth and Mama's conversation about this neighborhood and Ruth is shocked by Mama's decision knowing that there is none of Black people living there saying "Clybourne Park? Mama, there ain't no colored people living in Clybourne Park" to which Mama just casually replies, "Well, I guess there's going to be some now" (Hansberry, 1959: 201).

The irony in this racial resident segregation is that the land lord who are obviously White people sell decent houses in Black neighborhood way more expensive than in the White neighborhood. Of this, if the Black people want to get out from the slums, they either choose to move into the black ones by spending a lot of money or move to the white neighborhood and apparently be the only black people who live there. In the play, Mama decides to move into the white neighborhood instead of the black ones. Of course it is clear that her reason is because she knows very well that she does not have enough money to afford a decent house in the black neighborhood that is far more expensive than the ones in the white neighborhood.

Mama's decision to move into the white neighborhood of course leaves everyone in the house shocked. They complain if Mama should have just bought a house in Black neighborhood instead, Mama explains that "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" (Hansberry, 1959: 2012).

#### 4.2.1.3 Inequality between Black Children and White Children

The Jim Crow laws not only do segregate some public facilities but also the children life based on their race. History says that back in Jim Crow era the black children do not get to be children. They are seen as unworthy of being alive and they are not even seen as children at all. In fact, they are seen as a threat for whites. Back in 1950s, the United States did not give such an equality of childhood to black girls and boys. They were inferior to the society. Black children were not seen as innocence as white children. To white people they were labelled as “dangerous”. Thus, the life of Black children back in Jim Crow era was far from peace.

The black neighborhood where The Youngers live is also full of danger especially for Black children. Speaking about Black children in Jim Crow era, one must have been familiar with a term known as “lynching” which means a mob of killing a person suspected of a crime, usually by hanging that is done outside the law. This sadist and inhuman activity did exist in Jim Crow era. As a result, there were a lot of Black children who got lynched for a crime that they did not even commit back in the day. Most of the cases happen due to the perspective of white people who see the appearance of Black children as too big for their age. Thus, the second they pass by a black boy or girl in the street, they see her or him as a threat. In the play how dangerous the neighborhood where the Youngers live for black children is symbolized by a scene when Beneatha sees that Travis and his friends are looking at a rat being caught and killed in the street. She says, “TRAVIS! TRAVIS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE? (*She sees*) Oh

Lord, they're chasing a rat! (Hansberry, 1959:126). Mama then adds "tell that youngun to get himself up here, at once!" (Hansberry, 1959:127). From those remarks, there is definitely a very tense situation where Beneatha and Mama are worried and panicked as they know that Travis is getting involved in this kind of situation. Moreover, Travis then explains how the rat is killed saying,

"Mama, you should of seen the rat ... Big as cat, honest! (*He shows an exaggerated size with his hands*) Gaaleee, that rat was really cuttin' and Bubber caught him with his heel and the janitor, mr. Barnett, got him with a stick—and then they got him in a corner and—BAM! BAM! BAM!—and he was still jumping around and bleeding like everything too—there's rat blood all over the street—" (Hansberry, 1959:128).

Thus, it very much shows how dangerous it is for Black children to run around the neighborhood as they can get in any trouble with white people anytime. They could be caught and/or killed like the rat mentioned above. It also can be argued that anything bad could happen to Black children anywhere outside the house without Black adults keep an eye on them. That explains why Mama and Beneatha are shouting and getting angry when they know that the only child in their family is out there in a very dangerous situation.

## **4.2.2 The Effects of Racial Segregation in Jim Crow Era**

### **4.2.2.1 Black People's Poverty**

The racial segregation caused by the Jim Crow laws causes high poverty for Black people. The poverty is very much displayed in the play from the beginning until the end of the story. First of all, from the setting itself the author chooses a slum in Southside of Chicago. This specific place has more than 750.000 population

where 93% of the population are poor Black people and the Youngers are one of them.

If we look back to the American history, in 1910s, half a million Black Southerners left the South and moved to the North looking for freedom that they never had before in the South. Chicago was one of the big cities in the North which became their destination. They expected a paradise in the North, in fact, what they found was a real disappointment. Mostly in job recruitments, Black people were always be the last hired and the first fired in the North. Most labor unions closed their doors to Black workers and if they did, they offered the most low-paying jobs for them. (Fremon, 2014:109-113).

The Youngers, as a family who is poor and Black, they do not have a high-paying job like White people have. Walter is only a chauffeur, while Ruth and Mama do domestic work in some white people's kitchens. All of them work for rich white people. Furthermore, the fact that Mama is in her 60s and still has to do the working is terrible. Even though all three adults in the play work every day, they still cannot manage to provide themselves a good life. They can only rely on the \$10,000 insurance money from Mama's husband's death which we already know more than half of the money is lost afterwards. The display of how they rely on the insurance money is depicted by Walter who nearly asks if the check has come for three times in a day and when they finally receive the check. All of them are very excited about the money as Ruth claims that they never had such a lot of money before (Hansberry, 1959:149).

Moving on to the next point, the poverty is also clearly displayed from Walter's condition as a Black man in 1950s. Walter wants so many things in life but he seems to never achieve them as he does not think that he has a decent job. When Mama says that Walter has a job, he replies unbelievably saying that what he has is not a job as he only open and close car doors for rich white people and has nothing to say other than "Yes, sir; no, sir; very good sir; shall I take the Drive, sir?" (Hansberry, 1959:159-160).

After the death of Walter's father, he then obviously becomes the man of the house. Unfortunately, the family has no money and he cannot give a better life for them either. He feels he is not acting as he should be. It can be seen when he complains to his wife, Ruth saying that he has been married to her for eleven years yet all he does is telling their son stories about how rich white people live. He says to Ruth, "I am thirty five years old; I been married eleven years and I got a boy who sleeps in the living room-- and all I got to give him is stories about how rich white people live" (Hansberry, 1959:74). This knowledge very much causes him to be bitter and feel disgust of himself. These feelings towards himself also affect his relationship with each member in the family. Moreover, the fact that Mama and Ruth still have to work makes him look cowardly even more. He believes that both of them should not work but he cannot do anything about it either as he is only a chauffeur with low-paying salary.

Seen from another aspect, the poverty in this play is also displayed by some scenes regarding to money issues. One of the most significant example is when Travis asks Ruth for fifty cents and she says that she does not have it. When

Travis says that he has to bring fifty cents to school, Ruth keep arguing that she does not have money.

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

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

TRAVIS Teacher say we have to.

RUTH I don't care what teacher say. I ain't got it. Eat your breakfast, Travis. (Hansberry, 1959:61).

From the quotation above, the writer assumes that money has a strong hold to The Youngers' psyche, in this case, Ruth. It shows that due to their poverty, even a little amount of money matters to this family and the situation they have force them to be more careful in spending their money. Furthermore, the poverty also shapes such a mindset for Walter, that money is what they need and the only way to save them from the poverty. It can be proven by one scene in the play where Walter who occurs with an idea that he is going to accept Lindner's money as a replace to their house that Mama has bought in Clybourne Park. He surprises the rest of the family by saying that he invites Lindner to come over to the house do a business. Ruth is the first person who gets what in Walter's mind after Walter's long explanation.

RUTH (*Coming toward him slowly*) You talking 'bout taking them people's money to keep us from moving in that house?

WALTER I ain't just talking 'bout it, baby—I'm telling you that's what's going to happen! (Hansberry, 1959:3017)

Walter's decision of course upset everyone as they have dreamed to have a new house for a long time but Walter is willing to surrender the house instead.

In addition, The Youngers' poverty is also depicted by Ruth's second pregnancy. When Ruth is pregnant with her second baby, Beneatha is the first one who throws such a mean statement to her. She asks if Ruth even plans for having another baby to which Ruth replies to Beneatha to mind her own business (Hansberry, 1959:125). A stronger statement then comes again from Beneatha's mouth saying the fact that Ruth is expecting another baby is also her business as well. She is concerned where the newborn baby is going to live. The only thing she can think of is on the roof. She shouts the word roof so loud until she realizes that it comes out wrong and is probably a bit too harsh, so she apologizes to Ruth saying that she does not mean it. She says,

“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” (Hansberry, 1959:126).

Here, from the writer's point of view, even though Beneatha does not mean to say such mean things, we can sense that it only comes out naturally from her due to her concern of their life condition. Since it is very hard for them already to provide the life of five people in the family, logically it is going to be harder if there is a new born baby. There is neither space nor enough money to provide another human being.

Moving on to the next point, when Mama knows that Ruth is pregnant she can be argued as happy and worried at the same time. Sometime in the play after Ruth has just got back from a doctor, Mama asks,

“MAMA Doctor say everything going to be all right?

RUTH (*Far away*) Yes—she says everything is going to be fine ...  
 MAMA (*Immediately suspicious*) “She”—What doctor you went to?”  
 (Hansberry, 1959:127).

From what Mama says it is obvious that she suspects that Ruth has gone to a doctor who specializes in abortion not a regular doctor. This also shows that Ruth is conflicted by the pregnancy up to the point where she wants to surrender the baby.

Thus, it can be concluded that the poverty caused by the Jim Crow laws has caused the life of Black people who are already hard getting a lot harder in which often force them to make a decision they do not want.

#### **4.2.2.2 Black People’s Low Status in Social Life**

The racial segregation in Jim Crow era has caused many problems for Black people especially in social life. It is mentioned before that in a social position a black person’s position is below the white one. Referring back to Fremon statement that in 1950s, the U.S. government released the Supreme Court claiming “Separate but Equal” doctrine between Whites and Blacks. They claimed that their Constitution was color blind and respects the civil rights. Thus, all citizens were equal under the law. Nevertheless, what truly happened back then was that the Southern governments strictly enforced the “separate” but they surely ignored the “equal” part (Fremon, 2014:63-77).

Here where Hansberry successfully showed the failure of “Separate but Equal” as it was promised by the U.S. governments. First of all, Jim Crow laws regulates the rule that Black people are not allowed to address white people by

their names. They either address them as Mister or Sir if he is a man and Missus or Madam if she is a woman. It is considered rude if they do not address them as one of those mentioned. In this play, it is said that what Walter does every single day is driving his white boss around wherever he asks him to and addresses him as 'Sir'. He also does not allow to start the conversation with his boss. All he is supposed to say is "Yes, Sir" or "No, Sir".

"WALTER (...) drive a man around his limousine and I say, "Yes, sir; no, sir; very good, sir; shall I take the Drive, sir?" Mama, that ain't no kind of job ... that ain't nothing at all. (*Very quietly*) Mama, I don't know if I can make you understand" (Hansberry, 1959:160-161).

The existence of Jim Crow laws back in 1950s also causes Black people to feel disgust towards their own race. It is represented by how Walter sees himself as a Black person, one of the "*stinking niggers*" (Hansberry, 1959:311). Walter also sees Black women as not supportive enough for their Black men. It can be recognized by the way Walter thinks of Ruth as a black woman.

While Walter thinks that Ruth is an unsupportive black woman, Ruth also thinks that Walter is a black man who does not do things, in this case, a decent job. She claims that if Walter would rather be Mr. Arnold than be his chauffeur, so she would rather be living a very good place such as Buckingham Palace" (Hansberry, 1959:75).

Walter on the other side has a vision that it is black woman's fault that her black partner is not able to "do things". He also sees black women as women with small minds as he says, "*We one group of men tied to a race of women with small minds*" (Hansberry, 1959:76). To Walter, black women cannot understand how to

build their man up and making them feel like they are somebody who is capable to do something. It then can be concluded that the Jim Crow laws which see the white race is beyond above the black race indirectly makes such a huge impact in how black people see their own race as something that is frustrating and incapable to do things.

#### **4.2.2.3 Blocking Black People to Achieve Their Dreams**

The racial segregation in Jim Crow era also causes some struggles of Black people to live their American Dreams. It can be argued that they do not even have a chance to do so due to the racial segregation. Mama also says to Ruth that her husband, Big Walter, used to say “Seem like God didn’t see fit to give the black man nothing but dreams—but He did give us children to make them dreams seem worth while” (Hansberry, 1959:100). This is such an ironic statement regarding to The Youngers’ condition in the play since even after Big Walter and Mama got children, their children also feel the same struggles in their life, in this case, Walter and Beneatha.

In the play, everyone in the house has their own dream. Walter basically wants to be wealthy by being a businessman, Ruth wants a new house so that Travis does not need to sleep in the living room anymore, Beneatha wants to be a doctor, and Mama wants a house with a garden in the backside of the house. Meanwhile, thing goes a little bit different with Travis. While everyone in the house has their own big dreams, Travis occurs with a very simple idea that he

wants to be a bus driver someday. Of course, it takes Walter by surprise as he thinks his son's dream is not big enough.

From the writer's point of view, Travis who is only ten years old he is still clueless on the situation. He might not understand and not aware of the reality of life between Black and White people in the outside world. Thus, it then makes sense that to Travis, being a bus driver is big enough which can be argued as logical as it is since he has never known such big professions around him. He is surrounded by one man who is a chauffeur and two women who cook and clean someone else's house.

The blocking in Black people to achieve their dreams is also depicted by Walter who has had enough of the condition he and his family has. He has a lot of dreams that he has not achieved yet and it frustrates him very much. He feels like the world is unfair, while white people can get everything they want and he as a Black person cannot. He says that he wants some yachts and desires to hang some pearls around his wife's neck. He believes that his wife, Ruth, is supposed to wear some pearls. He says,

“I didn't make this world! It was give to me this way! Hell, yes I want me some yachts someday! Yes, I want to hang some pearls 'round my wife's neck. Ain't she supposed to wear no pearls? Somebody tell me—tell me, who decides which women is suppose to wear pearls in this world. I tell you I am a *man*—and I think my wife should wear some pearls in this world!” (Hansberry, 1959:310).

The frustration kills him inside up to the point where he decides to accept Lindner's offer to sell their house in Clybourne Park that Mama has bought for them, so that they manage to get whatever they have dreamt of with the money

from Lindner. From this, as if to sum it up, Beneatha says, “Well—we are dead now. All the talk about dreams and sunlight that goes on in this house. It’s all dead now” (Hansberry, 1959:309).

#### **4.2.2.4 Blocking Black People to Have a Higher Education**

Jim Crow laws also make a big impact towards Black education. It is commonly known that before the Civil War, most African-Americans were slaves. Back in the day when White masters had a right to force their slaves to know only how to do their job, Blacks learnt how to act humble, how to hide the pain and emotions when they felt insulted, and how to do their job right so they could survive. They had neither power nor freedom. Such things existed until Freedmen’s Bureau opened schools for Black people. There were approximately more than four thousands public schools appeared. The bureau then was banned by the government in 1872. Fortunately, many schools has survived so that Black people could get their education ever since (Fremon, 2012:119-120).

In the play, by locating the Younger family in Chicago’s South Side, the author must have clearly understood that she directly engages restricted educational access. In the Younger family, Beneatha is the only one told to have such educational background. It can be seen from the way she talks which is way more different from the rest of the family, especially her structure of sentences and her proper grammar. Beneatha also uses a lot of slang words that the rest of the family do not understand, such as the word “flip” to describe her brother which the other family members do not catch. She says, “Brother is a flip—let’s face it”

to which Mama replies, “What’s a flip?” showing that Mama does not know that the word means. Ruth then tries to tell Mama that it means “crazy” to which Beneatha replies, “Not crazy. Brother isn’t really crazy yet—he—he’s an elaborate neurotic” (Hansberry, 1959:107).

From the writer’s point of view, although it can be argued that Beneatha is a symbol of hope of Black teenager who has a chance to achieve her dream by having such high education, of course this such thing does not come to reality as she is Black and lives in Jim Crow era. Even when she has a good education she could never be in the same level with the Whites.

When Beneatha tells everyone that she wants to be a doctor, they think it is funny, especially to Walter. He thinks that she can just be a nurse rather than a doctor, which of course the tuition is predicted to be a lot cheaper. Walter then is very upset that Mama is willing to give Beneatha some college money to become a doctor. He thinks that Beneatha should have more a realistic goals. He says, “Who the hell told you you had to be a doctor? If you so crazy ‘bout messing ‘round with sick people—then go be a nurse like other women—or just get married and be quiet...” (Hansberry, 1959:83). Beneatha does not respect Walter at all and she thinks that he is a loser by replying to him, “Well—you finally got it said ... It took you three years but you finally got it said. Walter, give up; leave me alone—it’s Mama money” (Hansberry, 1959:83). From the writer’s point of view what Walter says might not be fully wrong as he only speaks the truth regarding their condition.

In Jim Crow era it is very common for white people to be a doctor or other high paying jobs but not to Black people. Their lack of education makes them to never be in a high position as white people. This situation of Beneatha Younger can be argued as an example of how Black people are the actual victims of educational discrimination caused by the Jim Crow laws.

#### **4.2.3 The Civil Rights Act as a Fight against Jim Crow Laws**

The existence of Jim Crow and its racial segregation laws based on race has created the condition of neither justice nor equality for Black people. The obedience against the laws only brought more desperation and misery. A lot of Black people then became a victim of the Jim Crow laws sometimes for something they did that may be considered normal if it happens nowadays.

It is said that if someone is Black and live in the South, the Jim Crow laws are just a part of everyday life. Chicago is one of the area known to be very affected by the Jim Crow laws. In 1950, a Chicago resident called Emmett Till was brutally murdered in Mississippi by two white men only because he whistled at a white woman. Both of the white suspects then said as *not guilty* by the jury. This incident then became a wakening for some Black people to fight the Jim Crow laws.

In December 1955, a Black woman known as Rosa Parks did not want to surrender her front seat in a bus to a white passenger in Montgomery and the polices came to her afterwards. When Parks was asked by the police if she did not want to surrender her seat she said yes. Parks then got arrested for not obeying the

Alabama's segregation ordinance for city buses. Parks says, "Back then, we didn't have any civil rights. It was just a matter of survival, of existing from one day to the next" (Hasdey, 2007:46). Due to her brave movement in fighting the racial segregation rules, Parks then becomes a figurehead for Civil Rights Act movement that captured the nations. Blacks became united and drew strength to fight racial segregation afterwards.

In the play, the display of the Civil Rights Act is represented by how The Youngers fight the racial segregation to move into a better neighborhood called Clybourne Park. Mama who finally decides to use some of the insurance money to buy a new house in Clybourne Park has to face the fact that her family is not accepted in the new neighborhood. Due to the racial segregation made by Jim Crow laws, the people who live in the Clybourne Park claim that the neighborhood is only suitable for white people.

In the play, the appearance of Karl Lindner shows that The Youngers are not welcomed in the new neighborhood. Lindner who offers some amount of money for The Youngers to not moving to the neighborhood has to deal with Mama who neither is affected nor interested on his money. Mama has a really big pride for her race and chooses to have a better house and neighborhood in the Clybourne Park no matter what happens. She does not care if there is none of Black families living there. Even though Mama knows that she was born black it does not mean that she cannot get a good life like what the White people have. Basically, Mama only wants the best for her family and moving in a better neighborhood is the best choice. If white people belong to a good neighborhood,

so do black people. Mama thinks that every human is equal under the laws and they fight for it. Mama's pride towards her race is bigger than anything. Thus, when she knows that Walter is going to surrender the house to white people communities, she says that she comes from five generations of Black people who were all slaves but she highlights that it has never made her dead inside craving for money. She says,

“Son—I come from five generations of people who was slaves and sharecroppers—but ain't nobody in my family never let nobody pay 'em no money that was a way to telling we wasn't fit to walk on the earth. We ain't never been that poor. (*Raising her eyes and looking at him*) We ain't never been that—dead inside” (Hansberry, 1959:309).

Thus, the quotation very much shows that Mama will never let anybody in the house being so low because of money. She implies that even though she is poor, she will never let anyone from high social class underestimate her pride. It can be said that she fights for equality by moving to Clybourne Park. Mama's pride successfully makes Walter realizes that money is not everything. Walter who at first is willing to accept Lindner's offer to sell the house back to the Clybourne Park Communities finally turns down the offer and becomes solid standing up for his pride and his family.

“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 roking 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 cause, 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*)” (Hansberry, 1959:321).

Walter very clearly explains the reason why they never will surrender the house because the money that Mama uses to pay the house is from his father's hard work when he was still alive. He makes sure Lindner understands that his father earns the money for the family brick by brick with sweat. He also speaks out a little bit sarcastically that he and his family will try to be good neighbors to the white people in Clybourne.

From the writer's point of view, Lindner who happens to be a white representative— according to the Jim Crow laws—has more power than The Youngers. Thus, by turning down Lindner's offer to surrender the house back to the white communities, The Youngers more or less has made themselves as a Black family who does not obey the Jim Crow laws about the racial segregation. Moreover, The Jim Crow laws clearly declare that if Black does not obey the rules made by the White communities, they will be punished to death.

Some of the punishments for Black people who did not obey the rules made by White communities back in Jim Crow era usually were death sentences or neighborhood bombing. In the play, the punishment is depicted by some scenes about the bombing. Some scenes show that a lot of Black people's houses in Chicago have been bombed by White people and tragically whenever this kind of tragedy happens and becomes a headline in the front page of a newspaper, this is considered as a normal thing. If we look back to the previous analysis before this, even Mrs. Johnson either tries to humiliate or to warn The Youngers about it by showing the bombing news from a random newspaper knowing that the family will move to the white neighborhood. Thus, from the writer's point of view, it is

clear that by turning down Lindner's offer and deciding to move to the new white neighborhood, The Youngers are aware of what is possibly going to happen as Lindner says, "I sure hope you people know what you're getting into" (Hansberry, 1959:322). What Lindner says can be argued as quite intimidating and almost sounds like a threat, nevertheless it does not change The Youngers' decision at all.

The last scene of the play shows that The Youngers are getting ready to move in to the new neighborhood and place all their belongings in to the truck. Mama is the last person who exits from their small apartment. It is narrated, "The lights dim down. The door opens and she comes back in, grabs her plant, and goes out for the last time" (Hansberry, 1959:328).

From the writer's point of view, the fact that Lindner who is a white representative cannot even persuade The Youngers with his money until the last time very much shows the power of The Youngers' movement, which the writer believes as a display of the Civil Rights Act movement. Thus, it can be fairly said that the Civil Rights Act is a very powerful movement to fight the racial segregation which can finally give them freedom, justice, and equal rights. It is then clear that if The Youngers did not have the spirit to fight, they would not be able to move into the new neighborhood and the story would end up the opposite.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

This thesis discusses the racial segregation between Black and White people in the United States during Jim Crow era that is depicted in Lorraine Hansberry's play entitled *A Raisin in the Sun*. The writer uses contextual method supporting by Jim Crow laws theory by Fremon and Tsautcher and racial segregation theory by Burch. The writer analyzes both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the play since it is necessary to completely understand the portrayal of Jim Crow laws and its racial segregation rule through the settings, characters, and conflicts.

The writer finds that the portrayal of Jim Crow laws is depicted by the segregated restaurants and neighborhoods between White and Black people where The Youngers live. The segregation leads to inequality in life between Black and White. While White restaurants and neighborhood are neat, what the Black ones have are the opposite. Not only in restaurants and neighborhoods, this inequality also appears in between Black and White children's life. Black children are seen as unworthy human beings. They are also seen as a threat and Black children's lives are in danger at that time. Additionally, this racial segregation then affects the lives of Black people in many aspects. It creates poverty, a lack of education, and a low social status for Black people in society. This low social status results in them to be restricted to move into certain neighborhood. In the play, when The Youngers manage to buy a new house in Clybourne Park that is known as a white neighborhood, they are all rejected by White people who live there as they do not want to live with Black people in their neighborhood. The White people even send

the representative to make them surrender the house. The Youngers fight their right by turning down the offer since they think they deserve to live anywhere they want to. What The Youngers do shows the example of The Civil Rights Act. This term has been known as a movement of Black people to end the racial segregation caused by the Jim Crow laws.

In conclusion, the writer thinks that the Civil Right Act is needed to fight the Jim Crow laws. The Civil Right Act can shapes in any forms, while in the story it is depicted by how The Youngers fight their right to move into white neighborhood. From the writer's point of view, The Youngers' movement shows bravery and optimism since they clearly know that the roads ahead would not be easy.

Finally, the writer hopes that this writing regarding the racial segregation will show the readers that nothing will ever touch the success and enormity of what the civil rights act movement has accomplished and also will drive the reader to apply the same movement to any racial problems that may still exist in a daily basis.

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