

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

This chapter will be divided into:

1. The Four Basic Nature of Personality Represent by the Characters (Mama Hager, Harriet, Tempy, and Annjee) in the novel *Not without Laughter*.
2. Conflicts that happen between the characters and the similarity between them in the novel *Not without Laughter*.

#### **4.1. The Four Basic Nature of Personality Represented by the Characters in the novel *Not without Laughter*.**

In Langston Hughes' *Not without Laughter* there are four basic natures of human personality that can be found represented by the characters: Mama Hager, Harriet, Tempy, and Annjee. The writer further will explain each of the representation:

##### **4.1.1 Melancholic Personality represented by the character of Mama Hager.**

As explained before, one of the Melancholic's traits is: he or she demands perfection. Mama Hager also represents this. In the novel, the readers can see the proof below:

“Get out o’ that bed, boy! Here’s Buster waitin’ out in de yard to play with you, an’ you still sleepin’!”

“Stop talkin’ bout that chile’s haid and put yo’ clothes on. Nine o’clock an’ you ain’t up yet! Shame on you!”<sup>28</sup>

The lines above describe to the readers how perfect Mama Hager is. She always asks to her grandson Sandy to be diligent and always doing all things punctually. Mama Hager here is depicted as a responsible woman who always cares about her grandson.

As a perfect melancholic, Mama Hager has a characteristic of woman that is detailed and well organized. She wants to be seen as an orderly person, it can be seen in this quotation:

“Wash yo’ face good, sir, put on yo’ clean waist, an’ polish yo’ shoes,” Aunt Hager said, bright and early, “ ‘cause I don’t want none o’them white teachers sayin’ I sends you to school dirty as a ‘cuse to put you back in de fourth grade. You hear me, sir!”<sup>29</sup>

Here is another line to show that Mama Hager has rule to be obey by Sandy, her only grand children.

Mama Hager as a representation of Melancholic nature also shows that she is a type of religious and kind woman; it can be seen from the quotation below:

“Honey, don’t talk that way,” broken in Hager.” It ain’t Christian, chile. If you don’t like ‘em, pray for ‘em, but don’t evil against ‘em. I was in slavery, Harrie, an’ I been knowin’ white folks all ma life, an’ they’s good as far as they can see-but when it come to po’ niggers, they just can’t see far, that’s all.”<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Hughes, Langston. *Not Without Laughter*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction. p.30.1995

<sup>29</sup> Hughes, Langston. *Not Without Laughter*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction. p.130.1995

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, p.82

This conversation happens between Mama Hager and her daughter Harriete. Mama Hager tells her daughter not to hate white people. She acts as a wise mother here by advising Harriett not to talk a bad thing about White people.

#### 4.1.2 Sanguine Personality represented by the character of Harriet

It is clear enough to say that Sanguine personality a heart on partying; they are a person with outgoing and friendly traits. This characteristic also can be found in Harriett, one of Mama Hager's daughters. Harriett likes to dance and sing. She also likes parties.

Then Harriett, standing under the ripening apple-tree, in the back yard, chiming in:  
Now, I see that you don't want me,  
So it's fare thee, fare thee well!  
Lawd, I see that you don't want me,  
So it's fare-three-well!  
I can still get plenty lovin',  
An' you can go to-kansas City!  
"O, play it, sweet daddy Jimboy!" She began to dance."<sup>31</sup>

As a Sanguine Harriet known as an outgoing woman, it is shown in her social life with her surrounding include her family. Harriet's relationship with her brother in-law, Jimbo is close. Both of them love to sing and dance. Jimbo love to spend his time with Harriet because as it has been discussed that Sanguine is a type of nature

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid,p. 61

that always nice and enthusiastic. Other proof shows to the readers that Harriett is a Sanguine is can be seen from these lines:

“Off and on for nine years, ever since he had married Anjee, Jimboy and Harriett had been singing together in the evenings. When they started, Harriett was a little girl with braided hair, and each time that her roving brother-in-law stopped in Stanton, he would amuse himself by teaching her the old Southern songs, the popular rang-time ditties, and the hundreds of varying verses of the blues that he would pick up in the big dirty cities of the South. The child, with her strong sweet voice (colored folks called it alto) and her racial sense of rhythm, soon learned to sing the song as well as Jimboy. He taught her the *parse me la*, too, and few other movements peculiar to Southern Negro dancing, and sometimes together they went though the buck and wing and a few taps. It was all great fun, and innocent fun except when one stopped to think, as white folks did, that some of the blues lines had, not only double, but triple meanings, and some of the dance steps required very definite movements of the hips. However, neither Harriett nor Jimboy soiled their minds y thinking. It was music, good exercise – and they loved it.”<sup>32</sup>

As explained before Sanguine people enjoy being the center of attention, and this characteristic can be found in Harriett:

“Two big colored boys in red uniforms were patting time, while another girl sat on a box, her back towards the peeping youngsters staring up from under the edge of the tent. As the girl who was dancing whirled about, Sandy saw that it was Harriett.”<sup>33</sup>

This line describes to the readers the situation when Sandy (Harriett’s nephew) sees her auntie Harriett in a party one, and there Sandy see by his own eyes Harriett becomes the center of the attention in that party.

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<sup>32</sup> Hughes, Langston. *Not Without Laughter*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction. p.63.1995.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*, p.113

Harriett is also described as a person that likes to say everything what is in her mind and too domination in conversation; it can be seen from this evidence:

“I don’t care if he does hear me, mama! You and Annjee are too easy. You just take whatever white folks give you-coon to your face, and nigger behind your backs- and don’t say nothing. You run to some white person’s back door for every job you get, and then they pay you one dollar for five dollars’ worth of work, and fine you whenever they get ready.”<sup>34</sup>

Harriett is also known as a woman that talks too much so sometimes she does not realize that her words probably offend someone, in other words Harriett is a typical woman that always straight forward:

Harriett cried, so fiercely that Sandy was afraid. “I hate white folks!” she said to everybody on the porch in the darkness.” You can pray for ‘em if you want to, mama, but I hate ‘em! ... I hate white folks! ... I hate ‘em all!”<sup>35</sup>

Here is the situation when Harriett has a disagreement with Mama Hager because Harriett hates White people. While On the contrary Mama Hager seems to be all right with all this matter.

Besides being dominant in the conversation and talk too much, Harriett here is also described as a person that is naturally emotional and demonstrative. This evidence is taken when Harriett gives advice to her sister Annjee about her son’s education:

But Harriett ignored Billy’s interjection as well as her sister’s open mouth. “Running an elevator for fourteen dollars a week and losing your education!” she cried. “Good Lord! Annjee, you

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid,p.86

<sup>35</sup> Ibid,p.90

ought to be ashamed, wanting him to keep that up. This boy's gotta get ahead – all of us niggers are too far back in this white man's country to let any brains go to waste! Don't you realize that?... you and me was foolish all right, breaking mama's heart, leaving school, but Sandy can't do like us. He's gotta be what his grandma Hager wanted him to be – able to help the black race, Annjee! You hear me? Help the whole race!"<sup>36</sup>

In these lines, readers can understand that Harriett wants her nephew Sandy to have a better future by having high education that is why she disagrees when Annjee wants Sandy to help her by make his own money.

#### **4.1.3 Choleric Personality represented by the character of Tempy**

One characteristic of Choleric people is that they have high pride. Tempy as the representation of Choleric personality also has this characteristic. Tempy likes to show people that she is not inferior to white people. It can be seen as follows:

“You needn't say ‘yes’ m' in this house. We are not used to slavery talk here. If you like milk, I'll get it for you... Now, how are your clothes? I see your stocking has a hole in it, and one pants-leg is hanging.”<sup>37</sup>

“I want white people to know that Negroes have a little taste, that's why I always trade at good shops... And if you're going to live with me, you'll have to learn to do things right, too.”<sup>38</sup>

The lines shows the readers that Tempy wants to show to other people that actually she has a high taste and she does not differ far away from the white people.

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<sup>36</sup> Hughes, Langston. *Not Without Laughter*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction. p.298.1995

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, p.235

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, p.235

As a choleric, Tempy has a strong will and she likes to command, it can be seen in this quotation:

“I won’t permit,” said Tempy. “I won’t stand for it. You’ll have to mend your ways, young man! Spending your evenings in Windsor’s poll parlor and running the streets with a gang of common boys that have had no raising, that Jimmy lane among them. I won’t stand for it while you stay in my house... but that’s not the worst of it. Mr. Prentiss tells me you’ve been getting to work late after school three times this week. And what have you been doing? O, don’t think I don’t know! I saw you with my own eyes yesterday walking home with that girl Pansetta Young!... Well, I want you to understand that I won’t have it!”<sup>39</sup>

This line depicts the situation when Tempy gets angry with her nephew, Sandy. Sandy lives with his auntie (Tempy) after Mama Hager (his grandma) died. Tempy has own rule in her house and she insists Sandy to obey the entire rule. Tempy demands him to act politely and behave as she always wished.

#### **4.1.4 Phlegmatic Personality represented by the character of Annjee**

In the previous chapter the writer already explain that Phlegmatic Personality is a type of person who is calm, relax, easy going and humble. These characteristics can be found in the character of Annjee. Here is the proof:

“We ain’t had no word yet from your father since he left. I know he goes away and stays away like this and don’t write, but I’m sure worried. Hope the cyclone ain’t passed nowhere near wherever he is, and I hope ain’t nothin’ hurt him.... I’m gonna pray for him, Sandy. I’m gonna ask God right now to take care o’ Jimboy.... The Lawd knows, I wants him to come back!... I

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid,p.262

loves him.... We both loves him, don't we child? And we want him to come on back!"<sup>40</sup>

This conversation occurs when Annjee and her child pray for her husband and their father, because they do not get any news for him for a long time. It can be seen that Annjee is a patient woman. Annjee, as plegm, never hurt others, as can be seen below when she loves Jimboy so much but it is also impossible for her to bring Sandy with her because no one will accompany Sandy's grandmother.

Sandy wished Annjee would take him with her when she went to join Jimboy – but then Aunt Hager would be all by herself, and grandma was so nice to him he would hate to leave her alone."<sup>41</sup>

Annjee is a type of woman that does not like to have arguments and has a strong emotional stability:

"Well, we won't argue, daddy." Annjee smiled. "Come on and walk a piece with me, sweetness. Here 'tis nearly nine and I should a been at the hall at eight, but colored folks are always behind the clock. Come on, Jimboy."<sup>42</sup>

This conversation happens between Anjee and Jimbo. Here Annjee try to make him comfort and calm the situation. From the proof above the readers can understand that actually Phlegmatic Personality is a basic nature that peaceful.

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid, p.29

<sup>41</sup> Ibid,p.175

<sup>42</sup> Ibid,p.82



## 4.2. Conflicts and similarities between the characteristics in the novel

The differences of the basic nature personality that is owned by each characteristic in the novel arises some conflicts among Mama Hager and her three daughters.

### 4.2.1. Conflict between Mama Hager and Harriett

Mama Hager is a type of melancholic personality who has good interest with others and is sensitive with others. Mama Hager does not mind with the white people. She does not really care with their treatments towards her kind. On the contrary, Harriett hates white people. She often talks bad things about them and so in here arises a conflict between Mama Hager and Harriett. Here is the evidence:

“Jimboy’s right,” said Harriett. “Darkies do like the church too much, but white folks don’t care nothing about it at all. They’re to busy getting theirs out of this world, not from God...”  
“Honey, don’t talk that way,” broke in Hager.”It ain’t Christian, chile. If you don’t like ‘em, pray for ‘em, but don’t feel against ‘em...”<sup>43</sup>

This explanation above show another reason why Harriett hates White people she thinks that White people is not a religious person compare to the Black people.

Harriett, who is a sanguine, does not want to be commanded. As discussed before a Sanguine is a type of person that extrovert and has a free will. In addition, Hager who commands Harriett has conflicts with Harriett. It can be seen below:

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<sup>43</sup> Hughes, Langston. *Not Without Laughter*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction. p.82.1995

“O, no?” said Harriett coolly, in a tone that cut like knives. “You’re the one that says I’m not going – *but I am!*” ..... Then suddenly something happened in the room – the anger fell like a veil from Hager’s face, disclosing aged, helpless eyes full of fear and pain.<sup>44</sup>

#### 4.2.2. Conflict between Mama Hager and Tempy

Tempy is the oldest daughter of Mama Hager. Even though they never had a bad quarrel actually Mama Hager disagrees with Tempy’s behavior towards her own family. Tempy marries to a quite wealthy black man named Mr. Siles and this makes Tempy acts differently to her family, she feels that she is too good for her family now. Tempy becomes arrogant and rarely visits her mother. Below are the evidences:

Now, my Tempy, she’s married and doin’ well. Got a fine house, an’ her husband’s a mail clerck in de civil service makin’ good money. They don’t ‘sociate no mo’ with none but de high-toned colored folks, like Dr. Mitchell, an’ Mis’ Ada Walls, an’ Madam C. Frances Smith. Course Tempy don’t come to see me much ‘cause I still earns ma livin’ with ma arms in de tub.<sup>45</sup>

From the quotation, it can be concluded that actually Mama Hager feels upset because of Tempy’s attitude. While Tempy herself has a high pride to admit her family’s background.

Tempy hugged Annjee too. Before she sat down, stiffly, as though the house she was in had never been her home. To little Willie-Mae she said nothing. “I’m sorry I couldn’t invite you for Christmas dinner today, but you know how Mr. Siles is....<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid, p.58

<sup>45</sup> Hughes, Langston. *Not Without Laughter*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction. p.37.1995

<sup>46</sup> Ibid, p.158

This conversation happens in the house of Mama Hager when Tempy visits her mother in a Christmas day. From this conversation, it can be seen that Tempy acts as a stranger with her own family because she has a high pride of her position now in the society.

#### **4.2.3. Conflicts between Annjee and Harriett**

As a peaceful Phlegmatic, Annjee is a pessimist in her life and it is contrary to her sister Harriett. Harriett is a popular Sanguine which is always optimist and enthusiastic. One time they argue about the future of Annjee's boy Sandy. Annjee thinks that it will be better for them to make Sandy get his own job rather to continue his education. In this matter, Harriett disagrees because she thinks that Sandy has to finish his education in order to get a better life in the future.

“Make his own living!” Harriett exclaimed, looking at Annjee in astonishment. “You mean you want Sandy to stay out of school to help you? What good is his little money to you?”  
“Well, he helps with the room rent,” his mother said.<sup>47</sup>

#### **4.2.4. Conflicts between Annjee and Tempy**

Actually, there is not much quarreling between Annjee and Tempy, but since Tempy is getting married and has a wealthy husband; they are not too close as sisters, because Tempy rarely visit her sister Annjee and Mama Hager. Annjee as a Phlegmatic who is always care about some one else, has a disagreement with Tempy

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<sup>47</sup> Ibid,p.297

who is a Choleric person that always has a strong will. Furthermore Tempy's behavior toward her family arise some objection from her sister especially, Annjee.

Annjee thought that Tempy ought to help them a little, but she was too proud to ask her. Besides, Tempy had never been very affectionate towards her sisters even when they were all girls together –but she ought to help look out for their mother<sup>48</sup>

### **4.3. The similarity between the Characters in the novel**

#### **4.3.1. Similarity between Mama Hager and Annjee**

Mama Hager as a melancholic is known to be a religious person and this character can be found in Annjee. “But de Lawd was with us! He held us back! Praise His name! We ain’t harmed, none of us.”<sup>49</sup> While the religiosity of Mama Hager can be seen from this quotation:

“Honey, don’t talk that way,” broke in Hager. “It ain’t Christian, chile. If you don’t like ‘em, pray for ‘em, but don’t feel evil against ‘em. I was in slavery, Harrie, an’ I been knowin’ white folks all ma life. An’ they’s good as far as they can see -<sup>50</sup>

#### **4.3.2. Similarity between Harriet and Tempy**

Even though Harriet hates her sister Tempy because she thinks that Tempy is arrogant, actually both of them have a similarity. Both of them have a strong will and always talk in a straightforward way, it can be seen below:

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid,p.161-162

<sup>49</sup> Ibid,p.29

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, p.82

“I don’t care if he does hear me, mama! You and Annjee are too easy. You just take whatever white folks give you-coon to your face, and nigger behind your backs- and don’t say nothing. You run to some white person’s back door for every job you get, and then they pay you one dollar for five dollars’ worth of work, and fine you whenever they get ready.”<sup>51</sup>

This is a conversation between Harriett and Mama Hager when they argue about the white people and their unfair treatment toward black people, it is clearly seen here the tone of Harriett when she speak out her opinion. The readers can find the similarity in Tempy’s word:

“I won’t permit,” said Tempy. “I won’t stand for it. You’ll have to mend your ways, young man! Spending your evenings in Windsor’s poll parlor and running the streets with a gang of common boys that have had no raising, that Jimmy lane among them. I won’t stand for it while you stay in my house... but that’s not the worst of it. Mr. Prentiss tells me you’ve been getting to work late after school three times this week. And what have you been doing? O, don’t think I don’t know! I saw you with my own eyes yesterday walking home with that girl Pansetta Young!... Well, I want you to understand that I won’t have it!”<sup>52</sup>

In this chapter, the writer elaborately explains the four basic natures of personality proposed by Littauer, which are represented by the characters of: Mama Hager, Annjee, Harriett, and Tempy. Moreover the writer also discusses the conflicts which are happening between them and the last thing is to analyze the similarity of the temperament which is owned by each characters mentioned above. After finding the result of the analysis, it will lead the writer to write the conclusion of the study in the next chapte

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid, p.86

<sup>52</sup> Ibid,p.262