MAYA ANGELOU’S STRUGGLE TO BE AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN AS SEEN IN SINGIN’ AND SWINGIN’ AND GETTIN’ MERRY LIKE CHRISTMAS: A FEMINIST STUDY

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“I’M ONE WITH THE FORCE. THE FORCE IS WITH ME”

- Chirrut Îmwe, 2016 -
I dedicate this work for my parents, my sister, and for all who support me
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ABSTRACT

ADVENTIANA, MARIA YASINTA. MAYA ANGELOU’S STRUGGLE TO BE AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN AS SEEN IN SINGIN’ AND SWINGIN’ AND GETTIN’ MERRY LIKE CHRISTMAS : A FEMINIST STUDY. Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2017.

Singin’ And Swingin’ And Gettin Merry Like Christmas is an autobiography novel which becomes the representation of the woman role. This novel describe how a woman struggles to find her movement as an independent woman. Maya Angelou described herself as a hard worker woman who tried so hard to fulfill their life for herself and her only son, Clyde. Her marriage and her divorced were a start for her to find the true self.

Therefore, there are two problem formulations that become the main discussion of this thesis. The first is to find out the characteristics of Maya Angelou and Tosh, and also their marriage in the Singin’ And Swingin’ And Gettin Merry Like Christmas novel. The second is to find out what triggers Maya Angelou to struggle for being an independent woman. The triggers of Maya Angelou struggle are her divorce, belief, and her economy issues.

In this analysis, the writer uses two kinds of resources, the primary and secondary source. The main resource is the Singin’ And Swingin’ And Gettin Merry Like Christmas novel itself, and secondary source are the references books and sites from internet that support the analysis. In this analysis, the writer uses two theories, there are the theory of character and the theory of feminism. Related to the topic, the approach that is use to analyze the problem formulation is feminist studies.

This study concludes that Maya Angelou is hard-working, strong, religious, smart and talented. Tosh himself is an attractive and lovable person. The marriage of Maya Angelou and Tosh is a bridge for Maya Angelou’s movement to be her trigger as an independent woman in a person and a career.
ABSTRAK


Singin’ And Swingin’ And Gettin Merry Like Christmas adalah novel autobiografi yang menjadi gambaran bagaimana peran wanita sebenarnya. Novel ini menggambarkan bagaimana perjuangan seorang wanita untuk menjadi wanita yang mandiri. Maya Angelou menggambarkan dirinya sebagai wanita pekerja keras yang berusaha untuk memenuhi kebutuhan hidup dirinya dan anak tunggalnya, Clyde. Pernikahan dan perceraian adalah awal dimana dia mencari jati dirinya yang sebenarnya.

Disini, ada dua pokok permasalahan yang menjadi topik utama dalam skripsi ini. Yang pertama, adalah untuk mencari karakteristik Maya Angelou dan Tosh, dan hubungan pernikahan mereka dalam buku Singin’ And Swingin’ And Gettin Merry Like Christmas. Yang kedua adalah untuk mencari hal apa yang memancing perjuangan Maya Angelou menjadi wanita yang mandiri.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan dua macam sumber, sumber utama dan sumber tambahan yang bisa mendukung penulisannya. Sumber utamanya adalah buku Singin’ And Swingin’ And Gettin Merry Like Christmas itu sendiri, sedangkan sumber kedua adalah buku-buku referensi dan situs yang mendukung penulisan. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan dua teori, yaitu teori karakteristik dan teori feminisme. Berkaitan dengan topik utama, pendekatan yang dipakai untuk menganalisa pokok permasalahan ini adalah studi feminisme.

Hasil dari penelitian ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa Maya Angelou adalah seorang wanita yang pekerja keras, kuat, religius, cerdas, dan berbakat. Tosh sendiri adalah seorang yang atraktif dan mudah dicintai. Hubungan pernikahan antara Maya Angelou dan Tosh adalah jembatan pergerakan Maya Angelou untuk menjadi seorang yang mandiri secara pribadi juga karir.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is an art, we can read it, enjoy it, appreciate it, and think about it. The simple definition of literature is “literature as everything in print” (Wellek and Warren, 1992: 20). Literature is the art of evoking in the reader images and feelings similar to those of the writer himself (Laar, 1963: 173). There are no clear answers in literature, all things in the literature written by the author based on the data, information, and experiences of the author. While literature used for educational things, the most important reason for the reader is the pleasure time when read the literature.

Novel is an example of literature work we can easy to find in the library and the bookstore because of the popularity in the society.

“Novel is a work of art in so far as it introduces us into living world: in some respect resembling the world we live in, but with an individuality of its own” (Laar, 1963: 163).

The cognitive value from reading novel is the novel can affect our way of thinking. “The novelist can teach you more about human nature than the psychologist” (Wellek and Warren, 1992: 33). The characteristic of novels are the explanation of “a greater of variety of characters, greater complication of plot (or plots), ampler development of milieu, and more sustained exploration of characters and motives” (Abrams, 1981: 130). A novel as a work of literature is a
writing form that is contains of many elements, such as theme, plot, character, conflict, setting, and symbol.

Autobiography is one of novel terms that present a biography written by the author about herself. According to A Glossary of Literary Terms, autobiography is “a day-to-day record of the events in a person’s life written for his own use and pleasure, with little or no thought of publication” (Abrams, 1981: 15).

A novel entitled Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas by Maya Angelou is a serious but entertaining novel autobiography, and tells about life adventure. Maya Angelou as the main character and a writer success to describe her complicated life to be an entertaining reading. She gave us many inspiring lesson about humanity from her ability to control her life, feelings, attitudes and beliefs.

“Maya Angelou as one of the black people, experiences the oppression directly. She experiences the racist oppression in society, job, and family in the world that is dominated by the whites” (Trisnanti, 2006:56)

Her social experiences make her social oppression as a working single mother is real. Concerning with the issues of feminism, the main character of the novel considered as feminist woman. All issues that happen to her make her strong and she could struggle to the next step of her success stories. Maya Angelou is a young single mother who is smart, strong, and independent with her success and marks her as a feminist character. “I am a feminist. I’ve been a female for a long time now, it’d be stupid not to be on my own side” (Angelou, statepress.com:2015). This study is going to examine how feminist woman in this
novel can survive from the pressure and oppression of a movement as an independent single mother.

Meanwhile, independent crisis becomes a dominant factor in the construction of this feminist main character in this novel. How a social statement and economy problem is the oppression of Maya Angelou’s life. She constructs her identity by struggling from all oppression around her. In this case, her ex-husband, Tosh, is the main concern from our main character to build her struggle. They were marriage from 1948 until 1952.

Tosh is Angelou’s ex-husband. He is her layer in the story that help Angelou build her character as an independent woman. Her divorce makes a big effect to her. When she felt the marriage is not the right place for her she ended. She knows to stop from her safe place and try another things suits her. The differences between Angelou and Tosh make the divorce is the only answer for them to get another chance for their life.

The term of independent and struggle issues could understand as the movement from our main character to life as a part of a responsibility in the family system. As such, housework is inseparable from women’s life, as it has become the responsibility and not only as women’s rights in the structure of the family life. Thus, independent and struggle issues of feminist women in question reflect the spirit of the family problems in the society oppression.

Therefore, feminism perspective that brings a great influence in the main character movement to live according her authorities thought. It seems the main
character has a young traumatic memory from her past, use this event as a platform to make her life movement. How she built herself as an independent women reach her career and get many achievements in her own way. All steps that she had to gets all achievement based on her hard work as a woman. She is trying to do anything alone and with her power she can gets anything that she deserves.

"It was not gender discrimination or sexist oppression that kept privileged women of all races from working outside the home, it was the fact that the jobs that would have been available to them would have been the same low paying unskilled labor open to all working women.” (Hooks, 2000:38)

How the show business make her alive when she is alone without any man with her. Her perspective and experiences becomes the agent of this ideological life. Although it cannot be separate from the consequences of her own son, life with no men authority in the house and many time without her mother make another problem and culture for her son. This is the negative side that she had when she doing anything herself. Although, Angelou is trying so hard to make all thing balance and she can show it in the final chapter. How finally she can handle anything into balance for her work and for her son.

Maya Angelou is a good role model for all women who want to make a simple movement for her, she is a great single mother with a good career and artwork. Her struggle to have independence life based on her experience as wife and a single working mother is the example of a woman who can move on from all pains and all failure that happen in the past. She is an author, historian, poet, performer, singer, producer, director, songwriter and civil right activist. She had
her own way to voicing her feeling and her struggle, Angelou show us what is the
gender equality. How to be a mother and a father at the same time. Her struggle
makes big influences for reader to get much positive energy from her writing.

B. Problem Formulation

Based the aims of the study, the problem formulation are formulated as follows:

1. How are Maya Angelou and Tosh’s characters and their marriage described in
the autobiography novel?

2. What factors trigger off Maya Angelou’s struggle to be an independent
woman?

C. Objectives of Study

The aims of the study are to find how the character of Maya Angelou as
the main character of the novel, and the relationship of Maya Angelou as a single
worker mother and her husband, Tosh, described in this novel. Moreover, to find
how a man can influences all things in her life as an independent woman and
shows how man can distract a woman but also can help to build a new strong
character to a woman.
D. Definition of Terms

There are some terms need to be explained in analyzing Maya Angelou’s *Singin’ and Singin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas* to avoid misunderstanding and give clear explanation.

1. Feminist Study

   Feminism study is interdisciplinary based on the social theory that addresses the board question of how and why women come to be subordinate, and offers analysis of the social and cultural processes through which that subordinated is perpetuated (Jackson, 1993: xv).

2. Struggle

   According to Spicer and Fleming, struggle is the freedom fighting to get the noble of goodies and maintain themselves to survive. In this study, struggle means the efforts of Marguerite to achieve her career and her live as a woman. (Spicer, jbs.cam.ac.uk: 2006)
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Studies

This part contains criticism about the work from the author and the works. The criticism consists of agreement, judgment, comment or criticism of the work. In this section there are some short quotation taken from articles and journals.

According to The Heart of the Matter: Motherhood and Marriage in the Autobiographies of Maya Angelou, Maya Angelou’s autobiography shows the oppression being a black working female to earn a decent living for her little family. “Thus, contrary to the white cult ‘true womanhood’…..-when productive work was seen as incompatible with motherhood-black motherhood always encompassed work” (Koyana, 2009: 69). This essay argues that Maya Angelou’s experiences with her motherhood, her work and the statement of how a family works suppose to be. Maya ideal of a glamorous Hollywood marriage is also a fantasy – she admits was ‘based on a Hollywood film, Circa 1940 (Angelou, 1977: 51) – it is also a fantasy that reflect her mother’s influence on her (Koyana , 2009: 74).

From all series other autobiography Angelou demonstrated how her motherhood movement for working-class black women. “Her rebellious decision to work not only demonstrates how successfully she reclaims her independence,
but also her pragmatism as she faces her reality squarely, instead of perpetuating illusions of grandeur.” (Koyana, 2009: 77).

In this research, the writer aims to reveal the struggle of women based on her action and her characteristics in Singin’ and Singin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas which reflect the ideas of feminist. Since the previous researches that have been mentioned in this chapter focus on the oppression of Maya Angelou working single black women, the writer will concentrate on the step of Maya Angelou achieve her independences as a women. Maya Angelou has been described as hard worker, independent, and rebel in the previous criticism, this is why shows Maya Angelou’s action as the part to reveal her struggle as a women is interesting in this writing.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Character and Characterization

In discussing literature, the term of character is applied to shows the quality of the character, his development, or his attitudes toward others, or his effect upon them. “Characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation” (Bennett, 2004: 60). The terms “character” is commonly used two ways: it designates the individuals who appear in the story and moral principles that makes up each of these individuals (Stanton, 1965: 17). The word ‘character’: just as the word ‘person’ has a double and paradoxical signification, so ‘character’ means
letter and sign, a mark of writing, and the ‘essential’ qualities of a ‘person’ (Bennett, 2004: 63)

Every author wants us as the reader understand his character and the movement of the character, but the author will write it directly to the reader at once. In generally, character is an extended verbal representation of a human being, the inversely that determines thought, speech, and behavior (Roberts, 1965: 143). A character may remain essentially “stable”, or unchanged in his outlook and dispositions, from the beginning to end of a work, or he may go a radical change, either through a gradual development or as the result of an extreme crisis (Abrams, 1981: 20). Story built from many layers of character buildings.

Based on M. J. Murphy, Understanding Unseens: An Introduction to English Poetry and the Novel for Overseas Students, there are nine ways for an author attempts to make the characters understandable and come alive. (Murphy, 1972: 161-173). Those are:

a. Personal Description
   The author can describe a person’s appearance and clothes.

b. Character as seen by another
   The author describes the character directly to the reader through the eyes and opinions of another character. The reader gets, as it were, a reflected image.

c. Speech
   The author can give us an insight into the character of one of the person in the book through what the person says. Whenever a person speaks, whenever
he is in conversation with another, whenever he puts forward an opinion, he is giving us some clue to his character.

d. Past Life

By letting the reader learn, something about a person’s past life the author can give us a clue to events that have helped to shape a person’s character. It can seen by the author, through the person’s thought, through his conversation or through the medium of another person.

e. Conversations of Other

The author can also give us clues to a person’s character through the conversation of other people and the things they say about him.

f. Reaction

The author can also give us a clue to a person’s character by letting us know how that person reacts to various situations and events.

g. Direct Comment

The author can describe or comment on a person’s character directly.

h. Thought

The author can give us direct knowledge of what a person thinking about. In this respect, he is able to do what we cannot do in real life. The reader than is in privilege position to listening in the most thought of a person in the novel.

i. Mannerism

The author can describe a person mannerism, habits or idiosyncrasies which may also tell us something about his character.
2. Feminist Study

According to the *Feminism, A Reader* by Maggie Humm, Feminisms is an interdisciplinary reader containing extracts from a wide range of past and present feminist writers, many of which are collected together for the first time (Humm, 1992: xi). Moreover, feminist literary criticism itself is a study of the direct product of the “woman’s movement”. This movement realized the significance of the images of women promulgated by literature, and saw it as vital to combat them and question their authority and their coherence.

Sara Mills stated that most feminist hold a belief that women as a group are treated oppressively and differently, feminists also believe that society is organized in such a way that it works, in general. Feminist theory has been concerned with analyzing the way that different forms of oppression and/or discrimination may overlap and interact with form of sexism (Mills, 1995:3).

The first movement women are objects, sometime victims of mistaken social knowledge. In the second movement, women are challenging that ‘knowledge’ from the strength of their own experience (Humm, 1992: 11). It’s the sexual politics and roles who contributes the new ideological to make the difference to the social order, it could not come from religion, stated Kate Millett in her article (Humm, 1992: 61). A philosopher assumes that feminist revolution is ‘the demand for justice is a modification of envy’. Sex roles are part of the system of the social community. This is a terms about their fear, enshrine their past and stamp themselves with a sense of ‘people hood’.
“Sex roles must be viewed as an interdependent part of the logic-meaningful system that defines and gives direction to a people’s life. If this system of meaning develops in the absence of forces threatening social survival, women wield economic and political power or authority and the power relationship between the sexes is balance.” (Humm, 1992: 86)

Feminist social theory addresses the board question of how and why women come to be subordinated, and offers analyses of the social and culture processes through which that subordination’ is perpetuated (Jackson, 1993: 3).

The actual expressions of power by women (or by any oppressed group) were significant and produced a different kind of power (Porter, 2005: 3).

According to Beauvoir, the majority of women do not escape from the traditional feminine world; they get from neither society nor their husbands the assistance they would need to become in concrete fact the equals of men (Beauvoir, 1989: 680). The advantage of male support make many women will give up her work and become a kept woman. She often retains both source of income and services, she is really in double servitude: to job and to protector. For the marriage woman who gets the male contributions or for the girl who “makes something on the side”, both of them gains complete independence through her own effort (Beauvoir, 1989: 681).

Women are being treated unequally until now. This is one of the reasons that feminism writing are rising up. From the book of Beginning Theory by Peter Barry, feminism approach builds to represent woman as a part of equality in the social. In feminism criticism in 1970s, the major effort went into exposing what might called the mechanism of patriarchy. This is about to change the perspective
of mind set of the inequality between men and women, or called as ‘mechanism of patriarchy’ (Barry, 2002: 122). Barry also stated in his book, in the history of writing a feminine phase (1940-80), in which women writers imitated dominant male artistic norms and aesthetic standards; then a feminist phase (1980-1920), in which radical and often separatist positions are maintained; and finally a female phase (1920 onwards) which looked particularly at female writing and female experience (Barry, 2002: 123).

Relations between women writer and the feminist movement cannot separate. Their experiences as women thought them to maintain themselves as the part of this movement. This movement was important for the feminist literary approach. The significance of the images of women promulgated by literature, and saw it as vital to combat them and question their authority and their coherence (Barry, 2002: 121). Feminist writing is made to draw any attention from either women or men, and change the way that gender is represented. Women’s writing is not only about the authorial work but also about a new category in the class of writing.

C. Theoretical Framework

One of the theories that writer uses to help her analyze the novel is character and characterization theories. This theory will help the writer to understand the impact of the other character to the main character. The character theory was use for help the writer to analyze more about how anything around the character systematically to represent character’s personality. In addition, the
feminism theory in here will be helping the writer to explain the function of a working mother and the relation of her own life and her son.

When analyzing the problem formulated, which were formulate in chapter I, the writer focused in Maya Angelou and Clyde’s characters and the importance of Clyde as Maya Angelou’s child and the impact from Clyde to Maya Angelou’s life. To answering the problem formulation the writer will uses some theories that will provide clear analysis. In addition, the writer also uses other criticism of the novel, that were obtained from article in internet and book searching that contributes writer’s analysis to get other difference perspectives of the Maya Angelou’s novel.

The most important theory that writer use to analyze the *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas* is feminism theory. This theory used for analyzing the problem of the struggle of Maya Angelou as an independent single mother. It is useful to know how this independent movement values in the society and how the ideas of feminism used to portray this culture.

In conclusion, by applying the related studies and the theories as the base or the writing, the writer assumes that all data in here can help her to solve the questions that formulated in the problem formulation.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

This thesis analyzed the third autobiography of Maya Angelou, *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas*. Maya Angelou is a famous African – American writer. She is also a poet, dancer, singer, actress, producer, director, and scriptwriter. Angelou received several honors and awards for her outstanding literary work, one of her big event is in 1992, just the day after Bill Clinton was elected as president of United States of America, she got a request to wrote a poet for his inauguration January and read it at the ceremony. Then in 2010, President Barack Obama named her a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honors.

She gets her name as Maya Angelou after her debut performance in Purple Onion as a dancer. Her born name is Marguirite Annie Johnson. She born on April 4, 1928 and died on Mei 28, 2014. Angelou graduated with top honors from the Lafayette County Training School in 1940. Maya Angelou is a single mother from the South who goes to California and performing for a living.

In this research, the writer will analyzed Angelou’s third book *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas* by Maya Angelou. The book that the writer uses is the first edition printed by A Bantam Book. This book consists of 242 pages that are divides by 30 chapters. The writer put the summary and the
explanation about the book *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas* by Maya Angelou in the Appendix chapter.

**B. Approach of the Study**

In analyzing *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas*, the writer applies feminist literary approach, as the basis of the analysis. Feminist approach is used in this study for provide the analysis from the theories were chosen. It is the most suitable one since the writer focuses on the idea from the feminist study. Feminist study is used to explain how position of women experiences the oppression of the social, status, and economy based on their experiences. This approach leads us to questioning women’s emancipations as an object to challenges that knowledge from the strength of their own experience. I use this approach to dig out the main character’s personality, life pattern, thought, and behavior. That is why I apply the feminist approach to find out how Angelou’s personality and her movement to reach her movement to gets her independent.

By using this approach, writer finds out how feminist literary approach is the most suitable approach for the study, because this book clearly describes how Maya Angelou struggle to get her independent live for her little family with her own way to gets any opportunity that suit her. In this analysis, the writer is also able to analyze Maya Angelou’s life experience through her actions and activity step by step to gets her independent life for her little family, Clyde and herself.
Thus, feminist approach help this analysis to reveal the ideas of feminism reflected through the main character and all character that built her up.

**C. Method of the Study**

The sources of this study are books, journals, and articles in printed materials or no printed source from library and internet. The data combined to the complete the study to analyze than finally written into a thesis. The analysis writing consisted of V chapters. The primary source of the study is the autobiography novel entitled *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas* written by Maya Angelou herself.

The first step in this analysis was reading this autobiography novel as the primary object of the study for several times to understand the story very well and to find the main data that related with the research. In analyzing the problem of the study, the writer focused in Maya Angelou’s and Tosh character, in their experiences as husband and wife. Then, the writer formulated some question based on the part of the writer interested most. To help provide to answer the problem formulation, the writer used some theories from several books after collecting the data from the primary novel.

The next step was answer the first problem formulation, how are Maya Angelou and Tosh character as the primary character of the novel by using the theory of character. In addition, in addition in the first problem formulation, the writer will focused to describe the marriage of Maya Angelou and Tosh as a marriage couple.
Then, from the evidences from all data that writer had to answer the first problem formulation, the writer found the key point to answer the last problem formulation. The writer analyzed how Maya Angelou’s marriage trigger her struggle for being an independent woman and combined with the feminism study ideas. Last step of the analysis, the writer made a conclusion based on the result of the research from the chapter one until chapter four.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas tells about the life of African American single mother who struggle with her independence in her career as an traveler entertainer. This chapter divided into two parts which are the answer from the problem formulations in chapter one. The first part analyzes about the characteristics and the marriage of the two main characters in the novel, Maya Angelou and Tosh. The last part discusses the practices of Maya Angelou struggles and motivation being an independent woman.

Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas is an autobiography novel, and of course because it has written by Maya Angelou herself. It makes Angelou is the main character in this book. She shows the reader how different she is with other characters in the book. She is capable make herself as the main attention for the reader. From the theory of character that are mentioned in the related theory chapter, Maya Angelou is the round character of the book. She represents herself in the wholeness in her difference aspect, and her higher achieving is difference with other character that mentioned on her book.

Through Maya Angelou and Tosh personal contact and through other character in the novel, we can get many things about these two characters. Based on the M.J Murphy theory of character, the writer analyze this two
character based on their action, opinion, conversations, thought and anything that they did written in the novel.

**A. Maya Angelou and Tosh Characters and Their Relationship**

This part is divide into three two subchapters. The first subchapter aims to answer the descriptions of Maya Angelou (Marguerite) and Tosh as the main characters. In the second part, the writer will describe the marriage of our main character. It consists of the general description of Marguerite and Tosh specifically their husband and wife’s relationship as husband and wife.

**1. Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelo as a main character and the writer in this novel autobiography could describe herself as someone unique and different with other character identities in the book. From her real life, she tries to describe herself character in her own way and the character will be adopted by the reader. She creates her character in the book based on her memory, and sends it to the reader as a unique, vibrant and memorable character. This is why the writer chooses Maya Angelou as a unique character to represent something big and different from other character in the book. She is hard-working, strong, dreamer, religious, and smart.

**a. Hard-working and Strong**

In *Singin’ and Singin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas*, Maya Angelou is the major character of her own autobiography novel. She is present as a hard-working and strong woman. Her hard work shows us her power as a woman. Her
hard work shows the reader how hard her life is, “I had done many things to make a living, but I drew a line at cleaning white folks’ houses.” (Angelou, 1977: 5). She is doing anything for her needs. She needs money, she needs to have a life, and she must go to work. Her background as a black woman who always be in the second working class does not make her to stop trying to make her life. Her hard-working characteristic is show through her one job to another job. Her hard work is to supply her son’s daily need, like food, school, proper home and a baby sitter.

“My son was born when I was sixteen, and determined to raise him, I had worked as a shake dancer in night clubs, fry cook in hamburger joints, dinner cook in a Creole restaurant and one had a job in a mechanic’s shop, taking paint off cars in my hands” (Angelou, 1977: 25).

In her teenager’s life, she tries anything to raise her son. Working in the many places is her world. She is a mother but also a father for her only son. She could work as a man. She did the labor work as a sexy dancer, cook, and a mechanic. The dirty work she did in her young age, make her survive as a woman and as a mother. “My life was an assemblage of strivings and my energies were directed toward acquiring more than basic needs” (Angelou, 1977: 13). She did not have the security of her need in her age. The poverty is not only a theory for her, but also the reality that she face it. “The tough texture of poverty in my life had been more real than sand wedged in my teeth” (Angelou, 1977: 15).

Having a new start of living as a new wife makes her trying so hard to make everything in the right place. She shows to the reader that she try to make balance to her family, she devote all her time and her intelligence for her family. She is surrendering more from her territory and her independence; she was lay aside her fight as a black people. Angelou try to ignore the physical appearances
of her, she just doing anything good and right to be a good, obedient, dutiful wife.

The most important things in that happy time for Angelou are her family.

After the divorce, Angelou focused her life only for her son and her career. All things that she did based on the needs for their living. Her power to doing anything that she thinks possible for her, all based from her son. Her responsible as a single mother is not only about her appearance of her to her son, but also to fulfill their needs for living. “I have a son at home. I have to send money to his keep” (Angelou, 1977: 157). She needs money after Tosh leave, when her saving almost empty she knows she needs a job. Angelou first job after Tosh is dancer and LC (Lady Escort) in the nightclub in San Francisco, Garden of Allah, for 75 dollar a week and ten until fifteen bucks a night for every bottle that she sell every night. She is not a drinker, but to get the job she did not say anything, “If I told the man I didn’t drink, I lose the job.” (Angelou, 1977: 50)

b. Optimistic

Angelou also is an optimistic. She believed that she would have a better life for her son and herself. She believed “that marriage would give me a world free from danger, disease and want (Angelou, 1977: 14). Her believe and her dream make her an optimistic person, her confident to expecting the best is a power for her to achieve anything that she want. Young single mother, Angelou who dreams about a good structure of a family. She lived in the fantasy of the structure of a stable family. “That was my house and it was vacant. If Mr. Right would come along right now, soon we could move in and truly begin to live” (Angelou 1977: 14). The hope to find her Mr. Right she kept it inside of her
without any effort to get the dream that she wants. For Angelou, Mr. Right is an impossibility that she could get it. The things that she could do is dreaming to reach it, “dreamed of being ‘one man’s woman’,-- In the record store, I lived fantasy lives through the maudlin melodies of the forties and fifties” (Angelou, 1977: 13-14).

Angelou’s opinion about the reality of the race relationship is the reason why marriage is a big dream for her, “as far as I knew, white women were never lonely, except in books. White men adored them, black men desired them and black women worked for them” (Angelou, 1977: 3). In this condition of the sexual position for the black women did not make her stop to have her own complete family.

When she reaches her dream as a part of the family society, happiness is the word for described her choice to marriage Tosh. Happiness is the simple word that Angelou want for her life. She wants to contribute herself as a member of a social family statement of a good family. “I had a son, a father for him, a husband and a pretty home for us to live in. My life began to resemble a Good Housekeeping advertisement” (Angelou, 1977: 26). Her marriage dream was a simple dream in a society, a kind, intelligent, and reliable husband. The stability of life is a dream for her.

She is also a loveable mother. She understands what the best for her son and she knows what to do. She tries so many things to make something good and right for her son. This is her responsible to make all things was right for her son. This is not only about the daily need but also about the psychology needs of her
son. For the example in the chapter 3, when Clyde shows his feeling and envy about his hair, then compare it with his father’s hair. Her mother said, “My son thought that the white’s straight hair was better than his natural abundant curl (Angelou, 1977: 30), she promised to get her son a close cut on their next visit to the barber to lose his son’s envy. This action was the evidence that Angelou give her concern to her son’s confidence and make him proud to himself.

c. Religious

One of the reasons of Angelou divorces was the differences of their belief. In their first year of marriage, Tosh show Clyde that God did not exist. Because Tosh had been a debater in his university, Angelou did not want to argue him, her things that she has not a same power. She is surrender of the God discussion, yet she believes the existing of God. Her religious background from her slavery great-grand-mother, who told her of praying silently under old wash pots, and of secret meetings deep in the wood to praise God (Angelou, 1977: 28).

Because of her believe and needs, secretly she crawl to the neighbor churches, to avoid his husband. “I changed sites each month, afraid too many repeated visits would familiarize my face and that on some promenade with Tosh...” (Angelou, 1977: 28). The ceremony drove all her heart to the placidity. After the experiences of the joyful emotions, she felt cleansed, purged and new.

Her husband believes cannot handle her religiousness of her to God. Her life after the church makes their home look pale. Like a secret agent, she has two different jobs in her, as a wife who prepare all things in the house as usual and as a churchgoers who love everything that happen in her religiousness. She find
herself needed to God in church, “I felt very much in need of their prayers, because I was sinner, a liar, and a hedonist, using the sacred altar to indulge my sensuality.” (Angelou, 1977: 32). She felt so bad about her atheist husband and Clyde, who follow his footsteps to be no believing to God.

“Soon one morning when death comes walking in my room
Soon one morning when death comes walking in my room
Oh, my Lord,
Oh, my Lord,
What shall I do?” (Angelou, 1977; 33)

This is the song that Angelou mention in her book. This song represents how she feels about all thing that happen in her life. This is for her fatherless son, Clyde, who is growing without a hand of a man. For her loving mother, her brother, and the last for herself “long and loudly”. The song made she come out about who really she is. “I wrote down my real name, address and telephone number” (Angelou, 1977: 34).

d. Smart and Talented

As a single mother, Maya Angelou presents herself as a perfect mother. She tries to put herself in a good side of her to her son. His curious son makes new challenges for her. His curiosity make him ask many question to her, include look up his truly identity, based on his appearance. Clyde loves to shows everybody about something that he interested in, “Clyde becomes a talker. He talked to me, to the family, to stranger .... His discourses ranged over the subject the subject of his life” (Angelou, 1977: 86). To deal with his son’s curiosity Angelou try so many way to make all thing explained well to him, sometimes lie.
“Vainly I tried to explain the difference between lying and making up a story, but decides it was more important that Clyde keep his nonexistent buddy to lessen the loneliness of a only child”. (Angelou, 1977: 86)

She also a talented talker and seller. “Rita, you making more money than other girls – no new girl makes this kind of money” (Angelou, 1977: 63). She is success in her job as a seller of the alcohol drinks. She love to dance, she loves her job in Garden of Allah. The Garden of Allah policy to sell the alcohol as much as she can did not stop her to dance. She work for two month and stopped it because she did not want to sleep with any customer in Garden of Allah, “I’m here because I have to work and because I love to dance” (Angelou, 1977:62).

Angelou can do anything for his son first, she needs the money and she did it well. Her income from Garden of Allah shows us how talented she is in communication of selling.

After she lost her job in Garden of Allah she met Veronica Lake, Jorie, and she impress with Angelou’s dance, “My dear, you dance divinely. Just divine”. Jorie is the woman who brings Angelou to her next job in Purple Onion. In the Jorie’s party another character in the book, called Don, introduced Angelou as an excellent talented entertainer, “Everybody, this is Rita. She’s an artist, a truly tremendous dancer” (Angelou, 1977: 68).

2. Tosh

Tosh is a minor character in the Maya Angelou’s novel autobiography. Based on the Abrams theory about characterization Tosh is the minor character, because he is only appears in some setting in the book. He is appears in the
middle of the chapter two as the introduction of his appearances, than in the beginning of the chapter six his name was written in the book.

This character is less important than Maya Angelou itself as the main character of her book. The importance of Tosh character in the book is to help writer showing Angelou’s character through her marriage. His characterization occurs only when the author shows the character in the action, and to analyze Tosh’s characterization, the reader must interpret the information based on the data from that written in the book.

a. Attractive

The word of attractive itself has many variety based on who see it and classified as an attractive person. These classifications of Tosh as an attractive person are based on Maya Angelou statements in her book. Tosh is a sensual Greek sailor from Portland. “His dark hair and oval, sensual face reminded me of Italian Renaissance painting (Angelou, 1977: 16). His physical appearance is catchy in the eyes of Maya Angelou. His catchy appearance and his music knowledge make single Angelou interest with his identity. He is neither white nor black. His physical appearance is handsome. “He had thick black hair and the slow, sloe eyes of Mediterranean people ... He was handsome” (Angelou, 1977: 22). In Angelou’s statement, she shows the reader that Tosh is a good-looking man in her eyes. His appearance attractiveness makes Angelou like him as a man.

In the real life, physical attractive and unattractive male are seen not only about the appearance but also based on the communication to a subject that he talks to. All messages to the subject indicate that the man is an attractive or
unattractive person. These communications are seeing on both a verbal and behavioral measure that shows to the target of communication. Tosh is smart and he is a smart talker. “He said he liked to talk to me because I didn’t lie” (Angelou, 1977: 21). He could deliver the messages to Angelou that he is attractive based on how he talked. He can tantalize Angelou with his word of compliment. “He told me I was beautiful ... My cooking received his highest praise and he laughed at my wit (Angelou, 1977: 27).

Tosh ability as an effective communicator makes a plus value for a female listener. The opinion about Tosh attractiveness of communication can we find in the Angelou statement about Tosh appearance after the wedding. “He was intelligent, kind and reliable.... Conversation was easy” (Angelou, 1977: 27). He knows how to compliment and react to Angelou, and all things that he did make his as an attractive male for Angelou. His attractiveness as a good communicator make Angelou get the signal of the man value from Tosh. Attractiveness is not only about the physical appearance but also about the way of communication with others.

b. Lovable

This loveable parameter based on Angelou’s statement that she felt and she shows it in her book. Tosh nature people believe into his personality is a gift. How he could make a simple Clyde loves him and accept him as a father for him. “My son and Tosh liked each other” (Angelou, 1977: 22). He said he liked some children but in the book Angelou state that her son liked Tosh as a new man in their life. He can place his loveable personality to Angelou’s son with gentle. No
longer after the marriage, Clyde can accept Tosh as a father for him. “Clyde began calling Tosh ‘Daddy’ ” (Angelou, 1977: 27).

The boundary that order by Tosh is not the main problem of Angelou’s marriage life. She can love Tosh as it is. “I came to love Tosh because he wrapped us in a cocoon of safety, and I made no protest at the bound that were closing around my existence” (Angelou, 1977: 27). Tosh know how to putting himself in the right time and the right place in the Angelou and Clyde heart. Tosh’s boundaries cannot make Angelou’s love distracted.

In the Angelou’s hurt with Tosh for getting tired of being marriage, she still believe that Tosh will look after her son. She left Clyde alone with Tosh when she is hut with Tosh. “Tosh loves Clyde. He will look after him. He loves me too, but I gave up too much and gave in too much” (Angelou, 1977: 41). In her hurt, she still believes that Tosh still loved her and always loved her son too. This is the evidence that Tosh is a lovable man for Angelou. Logically if a woman did not believe that someone does not have any love to his son, she will not leave her son to a man that she did not believe.

3. The Marriage of Maya Angelou and Tosh

Angelou herself stated in her book her feeling about the first impression of the proposal, “since he was addressing me, yet the two words “you” and “marry” had never said to me before” (Angelou, 1977: 24). This is the first proposal that she gets from a man, a white Greek man. Her desire to try new feeling and experiences of marriage make this the strong reason for Angelou to
have a marriage. Marriage is an interesting experience for Angelou, when her mother asked her truly reason for her marriage, she just said, “Because he asked me, mother,” (Angelou, 1977: 25). Angelou seen this marriage as a new experience that she can have in her life. A new man figure for her and her son.

The reason of Angelou’s marriage are based from her responsibilities background. As an independent woman, Maya Angelou expends her energy with many responsibilities to against the world. In her position she must doing all things by herself. Like a male, she needs not only to satisfy her physical desires but also to enjoy the relaxation to provide her to have any sexual adventures. Angelou past as a victim of rape and never marriage before make her want to have this adventures for her own as a new future for herself. Sex and economic is the reason why Angelou want to try the marriage with Tosh.

“At last I was a housewife, legally a member of that enviable tribe of consumers ..., because their husband brought home the bacon.” (Angelou, 1977: 26). The tradition of patriarchal culture in society, make Angelou obsess with this opportunity to try the advantages of masculine support. How Angelou so easy fall into the tradition of husband and wife in the society. This marriage is a new hope for Angelou to try the feeling of safety.

Sexual relationship in the marriage is a step of happiness of a marriage. These relations were found to have positive and significant correlation. This is important for the writer to input this analysis to this analysis. Sex is the factor of their divorced that Angelou’s specify implicitly in the book. Sex is a new fun stuff for Angelou. “He came directly home from work each afternoon and in the
evening after my son was asleep I found as much enjoyment in our marital bed as he” (Angelou, 1977: 34-35). As a victim of rape in her past, marital sex is a new thing that happens in her marriage life. This experience make Angelou’s can feel the process of the marriage like anybody who in the marriage tradition.

Love is interpreting as a feeling or emotion toward a member of opposite sex. This feeling and the emotion interconnected with each other in the relationship. The spiritual value of love is important in the marriage life. When the spirit is only in the one side of the relationship, the foundation of love will go in this marriage relationship. Sex itself is not the based conflict of them, but sex itself is the one of point why they are divorced. Sex is a sharing, not only a responsibility of the marital life, but also the right to gets. Based on the Angelou writing the spirit of their sex relationship is only one-way relation. “The form was there, but the spirit had disappeared” (Angelou, 1977: 35). Marriage sex is an expression of physical passion between a man and a woman. Sexual satisfaction is important in the intimate marriage life. Low sexual satisfaction can even increase the marital instability and be the reason of divorces.

There was no explanation about the two sides of Angelou and Tosh’s sexual behavior and relation. A simple statement from Angelou in her book, about her sexual life before the divorce is interesting. “I was compliant, never offering headaches as excuses for not sharing the marital bed” (Angelou, 1977: 37). This statement shows us how Angelou felt about her sexual relationship in her marital life. Angelou statements show us that she is not getting the relationship satisfaction. Tosh cannot provide the sexual satisfaction that Angelou must have
in their relationship. It was important for Tosh to identify his partner condition to build and maintain their successful intimate relationships. Then, it is important for Angelou to mention anything that she felt about herself to fulfill the stability in their sexual life. She is never complaint and shares her needs to her husband and Tosh himself is an ignorance husband. Tosh incompetence of his wife’s need make Tosh is an irresponsible husband. Tosh commonsense of their marital relationship is the factor of their break up. The missing link of their communication makes another problem in their marital bed.

Angelou did her sexual relation with her husband as a duty to fulfill her work as a dutiful wife. Angelou limitation as a wife who sometimes have a bad condition in her body did not make her sickness as a reason to refuse Tosh’s desire for sex. She is never complaint, never share her feeling about their bed, when Tosh needed, Angelou will do it as her responsibility. This sexual satisfaction is defined as the affective response arising from Angelou’s evaluation about Tosh in the end. The evaluation in the end of their marriage is a negative evaluation. How Angelou respond Tosh’s demand to her about their sexual relation is not fulfill Angelou’s expectation.

B. Maya Angelou is Struggle to be an Independent Woman

After analyzing the characterization of Angelou and Clyde in Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas, this part aims to answer the second formulated question How does Maya Angelou manage herself being an independent women, being who really she is. How her action is the part of her movement as an independent struggle women.
1. Maya Angelou’s Trigger for Being an Independent Women

Maya Angelou’s struggle were divided by three, there are the divorce, belief, and the economic problems.

a. The Divorce

The existence of the male support make Angelou’s character of independent is worn off. Angelou is surrendering more of her territory of independence. Her vow in her marriage is the evidence that marriage can turn people into other character. “I would be an obedient, dutiful wife, restricting our arguments to semantic differences, never contradicting the substance of his view” (Angelou, 1977: 30). The patriarchal tradition make Angelou must always life under the word of the husband. Marriage itself for Maya Angelou is a contract for a wife to provide her husband with the custodial right.

We can conclude for the Angelou crisis of her independence she is agree with Tosh’s order to stop her job and only to be a housewife, “We rented a large flat, and on Tosh’s orders I quit my job.” (Angelou, 1977: 26). The ‘order’ from Tosh is a mantra for Angelou to do the things that her husband wants. Her oppression as a single mother who must make her living by herself make the offer for only is a housewife as a new interesting offer for her life experiences. A new man who come and enter the structure of Angelou’s family. Angelou character who is independent and always doing anything by herself, in her marriage she was push to be a housewife who controlled by a man.
In the Emily J. Miner paper titled Mate Value and Insult, their participants first read statements is “Men sometimes try to hurt their partner’s feeling by saying insulting things to them. The following list includes insulting things that a man might say to his partner”. This statement is suitable with the final case that Angelou break out about her divorced. With his soft and tender voice he said, “I think I’m just tired of being married” (Angelou, 1977: 37). This strike make a quick shock to Angelou. The statement of “tired of getting marriage”, for Angelou is a declaration for divorce. “My marriage was over, since I believed the legal bonds were only as good as the emotional desire to make them good. If a person didn’t want you, he didn’t want you” (Angelou, 1977: 39).

Divorce life is never easy for her. Tosh is a short happiness for her and her son, but their marriage also has taken many things from her. Her territory as religious women is the one of the reason why she tries so hard to struggle by herself and didn’t take any longer help from Tosh, her former husband. Her movements are come systematically. From her divorce Angelou’s personal growth, self-awareness and occupational success make her step as a declaration of her independence. These benefits may be related to their increased sense of freedom and independence to Angelou. The force to gets a new better life for herself and her son is the reason why Angelou trying so hard to push herself from Tosh.

Her decision for divorce is the step of her to be a struggle and independent woman. Her experience of heartbroken makes her reason to have an independent life stronger. “Again a white man had taken a Black woman’s body
and left her hopeless, helpless and alone. But I couldn’t accept their sympathy.” (Angelou, 1977: 38). When his husband statement is the tiredness of getting married, she left him. As she stated in the book, “If a person didn’t want you, he didn’t want you.” (Angelou, 1977: 39). She did not want to throw herself to another pity from Tosh. She knows Tosh will help her and her son. He will tolerate them to life in his house, and fulfill their needs. “But begging had always stuck, resisting, in my throat.” (Angelou, 1977: 39). She shows her power to end her short marriage with Tosh. She is born again as an independent alone mother, no longer a dutiful housewife with any responsibility below a man control.

b. Belief

Before the divorcement, Angelou first movement with Tosh is about her believe dilemma. The difficulty in personal communication is the major problem for Angelou and Tosh. When Tosh told that there was no God, but she believes the existing of God, a conflict happens inside Angelou herself. “I knew I was a child of a God who existed but also the wife of a husband who was angered at my belief”. She lives in the mid sets of a patriarchy world, in the stage she surrendered. In this stage, she felt that she have not power. “He had been a debater at his university and told me that he could have argued either side with the same power...”. The difference of the education status makes her stay in her place and felt she is not equal in the statement and idea of something.

Her step to get her believes is the step of her to get what she wants. This small step is the example of “woman movement” that she does to get the freedom
for herself. A stated by Maggie Humm feminism itself is an interdisciplinary reader containing extracts from a wide range of past and present, so this means every step of all Angelou actions can be the first step in the feminist movement. “Divorce benefits some individuals, leads other to experience temporary decrements in well-being that improve over time, and forces others on a downward cycle from which they might never fully recover” (Amato, 2000: 1282).

c. Economy

A marriage and the housekeeping is a new job for Angelou for a year. Housework is work. Housework is also, of course, unpaid, and performs within social relations very different from those of capitalist production. All the housework that Angelou do based on the responsibilities that she must do because she gets the support from her husband. She stopped all things that she do by herself and for self to make her live under the male support. The economy support make Maya Angelou’s life stable if we see based on the economy, but based on the her career, she is did nothing in that time.

The desire for Angelou to have the perfect family life like other in the society makes her life under the conveniences of male support. She stops her work, her career and limiting herself to achieve the success by her and for her. She loses her possibility to be an independent woman and sacrifices her independent character for the economy steady. Tosh’s economic power within families was reflected in the distribution of household resources for Angelou and her son.
Tosh tired with marriage, this is why Angelou leave him. The separated leave the heartbroken and sadness Clyde with her mother again, life without a figure of a man in their family circles. Being a single mother once again make Clyde is the priority of her. The economy status is the another problem for single Maya Angelou. After she left Tosh, the economy support from him is stopped and she never ask him to help her in her problems.

“... I had worked very hard to impressing Clyde that I was reliable, that in any conflict I was in his side ... I had to make him know he had support” (Angelou, 1977: 98).

Based on Beauvoir stated in the book, there is no doubt that they get economic independence only as members of a class which is economically oppressed; and the other hand, their jobs in the factory do not relieve them of housekeeping burdens (Beauvoir, 2011: 680). “The though texture of poverty in my life had been more real than sand wedged between my teeth” (Angelou, 1977: 15). Her backgrounds as a single working mother who struggle off in the bill makes Angelou have a strong character as a woman. The marriage is the way for Angelou to try a new world. She could solve her economic problem with her marriage.

2. The Independence of Maya Angelou

Angelou receives some piece of the marriage world as property; She takes his husband family name, she must follows Tosh’ belief, integrates into Tosh’s class. All things from Tosh world is hers. In her marriage she seek an expansion, a confirmation about her existence in the house, she felt she is freely to
doing all the charge in their house, but it’s all a work. Her desires to maintain all things in her home, the food and the housework are she destined as a marriage woman.

In the chapter four in the first paragraph Angelou shows us her happy marriage life. She bust keeping the spotless house, learning how to cooks and serve gourmet food, and managing her happy life (Angelou, 1977; 29). Based on the Angelou statement about anything that she does in her marriage, marriage is more than a career than a pleasure of a life. As we looked in the Angelou’s writing about her marriage life, her creativity and her career are stopped when she start her marriage with Tosh. The convenience of masculine support are very tempting for Angelou, she risk her life and her career with the new discipline that implied in the marital world.

“During the first year of marriage I was so enchanted with security and living with a person whose color or lack of it could startle me on an early-morning waking, I was so busy keeping a spotless house, teaching myself to cook and serve gourmet meals and managing a happy rambunctious growing boy that I had little time to notice public relations to us.” (Angelou, 1977: 29).

The benefit that she shows in her book is the character building as an independent woman. The best side of her personal is her way of thinking to solve her problems with anything that she can do at that time. When Maya Angelou told her mother about the divorced, her mother only said, “Well, as I always say, ‘NO matter how good a fellow seems outside, you have to take him home to know him.’ ”. Angelou’s mother shows her how life could be. There is nothing we can do and know before the time is come. All dreams that Angelou have about the
beautiful happy marriage is over, and she never know it, but it come and make her stronger then before as a single working mother.

“My pride had not allowed me to ask Tosh for money, but he had left me the small bank account and it was dwindling fast.” (Angelou, 1977: 43). She had to get a job after Tosh leave her. She needs to afford her son’s baby sitter and also their needs for life. Her confidence is the key to open her new career as an entertainer. “Well, I am a dancer. I might not have a fancy costume, and I may not have a routine, but I can dance. So don’t try to make me look small” (Angelou, 1977: 46). She is a colored girl who tries to be a sexy dancer in the middle of white working space, Garden of Allah. When she gets the job her first caution is about her color issues, “we’ve never had a colored girl here before, so people might say something” (Angelou, 1977: 51). This issue is not a big issue for herself to doing her work as a sexy dancer, but she used it as a pride for her to doing best at work.

Her rebellion movement as an independent woman shows up in the cabaret shows business, The Purple Onion. This is Angelou’s second job as an entertainer. The interesting things when she picks up her exotic stage name, her two names she chooses, based on her past that she had. The first one is from the nickname that her brother give to her, “My brother has always called me Maya for ‘Marguerite’, He used to cal ‘My sister,’ then he called ‘My,’ and finally, ‘Maya’ ” (Angelou, 1977: 84). Then for her second last name, she chose her ex-husband family name ‘Angelos’, “My marriage name is Angelos” (Angelou, 1977: 84).
The idea of her name choice based on her past shows us how Agelou described her character as a result for all past that she had.

She chooses her name and used it until the day of her death. She also used it on all her books that she wrote. She built her character and identity through the past. She did not use it to embarrass herself as widower. She used it as a symbol of herself to show her rebellion as an independent struggle woman who cans life by her own career and her idea about her independent ideal life. Name is an important thing for Angelou herself. She believed that her name is meaningful.

“It’s all right for you, Marguerite, but it doesn’t do anything for her”, said Lloyd (Angelou, 1977: 83). When Lloyd comments her ‘Marguerite’, and he shows his disrespect Angelou’s name because her name is similar with her boss Marguerite Clark and she is white, with her proud Angelou declare her name in her book. “I had been named for my maternal grandmother, who would not have taken kindly to that statement” (Angelou, 1977: 83). This statement shows us that, is not easy for her change her birth name to something else in that time. Naming is important for her, and she know it, when she changed it she has a new opportunity for her life. “I had a job, a drama coach, a pianist who was going to provide me with lead sheets, and I had a new name (I wondered if I’d ever feel it described the me myself of me”. (Angelou, 1977: 85).

“Oh, the holiness of always being the injured party. The historically oppressed can find not only sanctity but safety in the state of victimization. When access to a better life has been denied often enough, and successfully enough, one can use the rejection as an excuse to cease all efforts. After all, one reckons, ‘they’ don’t want me, ‘they’ accept their own mediocrity and refuse my best, ‘they’ don’t deserve me” (Angelou, 1977:75)
In her statement, Angelou shows the reader how she must suppose to be in the society. She knows how to put herself into. When she felt it was not a right place for her she will walk out and embrace her attitude. She has every right to everything she does. She shows her attitude as an independent self. This independence is not about how she get something valuable like money but this is about how she behave to be herself.

In the end of her story in the book, Angelou could find her success as an entertainer. Her dream to have everything for her and her son is getting real. “I could find an apartment and send for Clyde” (Angelou, 1977: 163). It is easy for her in her success to getting anything that they needs. Her struggle to be an independent woman is hard at first, but any hard work that she did could bring her into a success. She could get her hobbies as a job, and she could fulfill her small little family’s needs. “Maya Angelou was a crazy success. A smash hit! The audience thought they had never been better entertained” (Angelou, 1977: 160). She hit her career with her success. All her struggle of being independent is satisfactory result that she gets.

She could stands by herself and did not need man’s support again in her life. “I am not marrying anyone, And surely not another Greeks” (Angelou, 1977: 214). Her denial to another Greek’s man is not because her traumatic past. Her refusal into the Greeks, who propose her, shows us how she could stand by her own and could run her own life. “I knew I would never marry again, nor would I be the cause of a marriage breaking up” (Angelou, 1977: 215).
A woman knows how to put herself into. When Angelou received a letter from her mom about the condition of her son, she try to come back for her son in one month. She still in a contract with Porgy and Bess and this contract make her so hard to go to her son. She needs money to get a replacement for her role. For two month she is not only work in the opera and sang at Bricktop’s but also found daytime employment. She charges them as much as they could afford, because more work for her, more money she could get. “I had left my son to go gallivanting in strange countries and had every minute except the time when I thought about him” (Angelou, 1977: 230). Maya Angelou shows us to be an independent woman is not meaning to life alone without anybody else. Being an independent woman is knows how you can place yourself in the right role and in the right time. She knows when she put herself as an entertainer and when she must to be a mother. “Although I was not a great singer I was his mother, and he was my wonderful, dependently independent son” (Angelou, 1977: 242).
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel autobiography *Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Marry Like Christmas* in the previous chapter, the writer can take conclusions from the analysis. Maya Angelou’s characterizations as the main character in her book are already explained in the chapter IV. By using the theory of characterization M. J. Murphy about the characterization in the aspect of a novel, Angelou’s characteristics are analyzed. It is found that Maya Angelou has strong characteristics in the story. Angelou’s characteristics are observed through her relationships around her. She is present as a hard-working, strong, optimistic, religious, smart and talented.

Tosh characterization also explained in the previous chapters to help writer analyze the character of Maya Angelou herself. The importance of this character is, Tosh is the one of the reason why Angelou work harder and can shows herself as an independent woman through her action. Tosh is attractive and lovable husband for Angelou. Her first impression for Tosh is amazing.

Angelou’s background who is single working mother who must live in the bill make a marriage that she had is unbelievable. She is an obedient, dutiful wife who never contradicting anything in their marriage. The conveniences of masculine support are very tempting for Angelou, compare with the risk of career and with the discipline that she must did in the outside.
Maya Angelou is a single working mother. She always gives her priority for her son above everything. Her marriage for her son is not only about herself, but also to put a father characters in Clyde’s life. She got man value on her marriage but also the limitation as a wife. Having any religion is a mistake in her marriage. Tosh is an atheist but Angelou believed in God. This restriction is the first conflict in their marriage. Her step to pass the religion boundary is evidence that she has the power to gets what she wants. This movement is a simple example that Angelou shows us about her struggle. Based on her action in her life we could seen her struggle being independent.

Her divorce used by Angelou’s herself as a power to have an independent women and life without any help from a man. After the divorce, she never ask any money from Tosh. She believes her struggle to have an independent life from her own way. Her job after her divorce as a sexy dance makes an opportunity as an entertainer open widely. She never depends on husband’s income anymore. Having the name of her ex-husband name in her stage name does not make her life under the control of her ex-husband. She used her experiences as a remander for her independent and take the control of herself.
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The Summary of Singin’ and Swingin’ and Gettin’ Merry Like Christmas

The story was began with Maya Angelou found a new job living. One day, when she had two hours between her jobs, she came to in a record store in San Francisco. She met the owner, Louise Cox and she offered Angelou a job as a sales girl in the record store. At the first time Angelou met her boss she was suspicious with her generosity and the friendship she offered to her. At that time, Angelou had a racial issues going in her about white people. After several month she worked there she could get fun and enjoy her job. The job allowed her to move back with her mother’s house and enjoy her time with her son, Clyde.

While she worked in the store, Angelou met a Greek man sailor, Tosh. The lovable Tosh made Angelou and her son love him and Angelou accepted the marriage proposal from Tosh. Against her mother’s wishes because the race differences between them, Angelou marrying Tosh in 1952. At first, their marriage seems very special for her. The marriage is her successes to fulfill her dreamed being a housewife. After several time of the marriage, Angelou found many conflicts of interest between them. Maya disturbed by Tosh’s atheism and his demand to controled all things that she must do in the house. Angelou herself is a religious person, in her rebel Angelou went to different church every Sunday.

When her marriage finally dissolved, money is another problem for her. Her pride not allowed her to ask Tosh for money, this is why she must found a
new job as soon as possible. She need to paid their need and for the baby-sitter. Garden of Allah is her first place she try being a sexy dancer. At first, she thought she is work as a dance, but in her first week, her boss gave her a last chance to work there. She must sold the drinks to all customers in Garden of Allah. She needs the job and the money, this why she is worked hard in her job. After two month of worked in the strip joint, she is made money more than other girls in the house, but the boss complained her. She must be promised to sleep with the clients if she wants the job. Then she stopped worked there and starts looking to another place.

Next, she got a recommendation from the owner of a famous nightclub in San Francisco, The Purple Onion. She sets a job as a dancer and singer in that place. In her first step as an entertainer worker, she changes her name from Marguerite Johnson to a more exotic name, Maya Angelou. In this new place she had a job, drama coach, a pianist who was going to provide her needs, and a new name. Her debut in at The Purple Onion is a success. She got the popularity and also money for her son. She knows when to stop in one place and go to another place bigger to gets her success more than that.

When her contract expires, Angelou goes to an audition for a part opposite Pearl Bailey, Broadway show in New York City, but she turns the part down and joins Porgy and Bess European tour. She travels to 22 countries with the group. She was left her son with her mother. Clyde is no father and with no mother also because of the job. In her success and her popularity as an entertainer, she quits the tour and returned to her son in San Francisco. She promised her son
she’ll never leave him again. She will go, when her son went, and he will went with her or she’ll go anywhere. Angelou is true to her promised, she accepted a performing job in Hawaii, and she brings Clyde with her. In her last sentence in her book she write “Although I was not a great singer I was his mother, and he was my wonderful, dependently independent son”.