

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter intends to analyze Darling's effort as the main character in *We Need New Names*. To analyze Darling's effort, the writer analyzes the formal elements of the novel by using New Criticism. In the beginning of the analysis the writer will analyze Darling's characterization in order to know how different Darling from the other characters in the novel. In order to know more about her effort, the writer will analyze the point of view. In this novel, the point of view is first person point of view which comes from Darling. In this novel, Darling becomes the narrator and also the major character. Analyzing the point of view will lead the writer into Darling's perspective toward the city, Paradise, Zimbabwe, as her hometown, and America as her dream. Besides, the writer will know about the socio-economic condition around Darling. The socio-economic condition around Darling, especially in Paradise, can be the reason why Darling makes an effort in her life. The analysis of point of view will lead the writer into the real effort conducted by Darling. After analyzing those two formal elements, the writer will analyze the linguistic device that is irony. This irony comes from the differences between Darling's perspective about America and the truth about America itself.

3.1. Darling's Characterization Revealed from Her Socio-Economic Condition

Darling is the major character in *We Need New Names* who becomes the protagonist. In this novel, Darling plays an important role because she is not only becoming the major character but also the narrator. Because Darling becomes the narrator, it makes Darling's characterization able to be revealed from her thought, behaviour, feeling, action and the way she interacts with the other characters. In order to show Darling's characterization combined with the influence of point of view and setting which point out to the operation of organic unity of those formal elements. According to Griffith, direct method occurs when the author of the novel tells to readers what the character is like (61).

According to Roberts and Jacobs, there are three kinds of point of views, one of them is first person point of view. In first person point of view, the author of the novel uses one of the characters in the novel to tell the story and it is portrayed when the story uses "I" to tell the story (201). Analyzing the point of view in *We Need New Names* will lead the writer into the deeper understanding and analysis about how hard Darling's effort to reach a better life, because this novel uses Darling's point of view to tell the story. Darling's point of view also lead the writer into the unproper socio-economic condition in Paradise which become. Darling's motivation to move to America and live in that country.

In analyzing the novel which uses first person point of view, the writer only needs to take a look to what Darling says to herself or to the other characters, because the presentation of the character in first person point of view has similarity

to the real life. In first person point of view, the narrator that also becomes the character, tells the reader who she is and what she thinks. It is like the real people in the real life (Griffith 62). Using first person point of view, where the main character is also the narrator, give a significant meaning in shaping the story's theme, because according to Roberts and Jacobs, first person point of view is when the author is more restricted. It means that one of the character is telling the story to the reader and this character does not include the author as the narrator. In this novel, Darling's appearance can be seen from the description that Darling states about herself.

In the beginning of the story, Darling is a ten-year-old-girl. She lives in a small and undeveloped city name Paradise in Zimbabwe. Darling has best friends named Sbho, Bastard, Chipo, Stina and Godknows. In Paradise, Darling lives with her mother and grandmother. Before Darling was born, her father went to South Africa for working, but until Darling grew up, he never sent her and her mother money even a letter. It makes Darling just pretend that her father does not exist anymore (25). Everyday, Darling and her friends are only playing and doing something together. They are always playing because they do not come to school anymore; it is because the government closed their school. There is no part in the novel that states why the government closed their school. Because they do not go to school, their daily lives are only playing. Darling lives in an area which has unproper socio-economic condition. In the novel, almost all of the people who live in Paradise are poor and do not have proper life condition. The people who live in

Paradise also have a simple thought. It also happens to Darling and her family. Although Darling's mother is working, it can make their life better and make them out of poverty, but Darling does not have a simple thought as the other people there.

According to Gill, in order to analyze the characters and know about the main character better, the writer should take a look to the name of the character because there is a meaning behind character's name (Gill 102). This meaning can support the characterization of the character. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary 7th edition, the word "Darling" means "A person who is very friendly and kind; a person who is especially liked and very popular" (386). The meaning of Darling's name matches with her character. In this novel, Darling is a character who is loved and liked by her family and friends.

We Need New Names narrated by Darling as the major character in the story, can be categorized as the novel using first person point of view. It is portrayed in the use of the word "I" referring to Darling as the narrator of the story. Everything which happen in this story told by Darling seen as through Darling's point of view. Using first person point of view makes the effort which done by Darling as if it is real. From point of view, especially from Darling's point of view, it makes her background such as why she makes an effort in her life, the real socio-economic condition in her hometown, the condition in America, her problems, what she feels and what she thinks are described clearly.

Darling has a dream to move to America and to reach a better life, it is because of the unproper socio-economic condition in Paradise, Zimbabwe, as her hometown. After reading the story from Darling's point of view, the writer knows that Paradise is a little and undeveloped city in Zimbabwe. It is described clearly in the statement below when Darling and her friends went to Budapest to steal guavas:

“We just eat a lot of guavas because it’s the only way to kill our hunger, and when it comes to defecating, we get in so much pain it becomes an almost impossible task, like you are trying to give birth to a country” (18).

From the two statements above, it can be assumed that Paradise is a place which has an unproper condition. The children who live in Paradise are hungry and it is because of the economic condition in Zimbabwe that brings a big and serious impact to the people in Paradise. Darling and her friends do not have food to eat, and because of that condition they steal guavas to kill their hunger. Guava is like a medicine for them because guava can make them happy and forget about the condition around them that they should face.

Beside that statements, there are so many statements which become the proof that Paradise have an unproper economic condition. It is described in the situation below, when Darling's grandmother talk to her about how the Zimbabwe money that she has cannot buy even a grain of salt.

“It’s old money, Mother of Bones, it’s useless now, don’t you even get it? You just have to throw it away or use it to make fire like

everybody else. Now they say we'll start using American money, I say, but to myself so Mother of Bones doesn't hear" (26-27).

The condition above describes clearly that Paradise does not have a power in their economic condition. Their economic as in the lowest condition. It is because Paradise which is a part of Zimbabwe starting to use the American money and not their own money. This condition can happen because of the inflation which appears in Zimbabwe and this condition gives a big impact to the people. This inflation makes the government decides to start using American money or dollar and stop using their own money. Inflation which happens to a country brings a big impact because the price of the things will increase. Paradise has already felt the impact and it makes the people who live in that place, especially Darling, live in poverty.

"I'm not wearing shoes because they are too small now, and the other made-in-China ones that Mother brought me from the border just fell apart, so I walk carefully and make sure to lift my feet to avoid things on the dusty red path..."(28).

The statement above shows that Darling lives in poverty. She does not have shoes or even a sandals to cover her feet.

The unproper economic condition and the poverty around them, make the people in Paradise work hard to earn money so they can live. This condition is also portrayed in Darling's family. Her mother, father, cousin, should work hard to earn

money so their live can be better. How hard they work is presented in the way Makhosi, Darling's cousin, works in Madante Mine to dig for diamonds.

“He told us about Madante between bad bouts of raw, painful coughs, how when he was under the earth he forgot everything. He said all he knew inside that mine was the terrible pounding of the hammer around him, sometimes even inside him, like he had swallowed it” (25).

It is portrayed how hard Makoshi who becomes the portrayal of the Paradise people, who is working on Madante Mine to earn money. He should face the risk that sometimes someone can die inside the Mine. He and also the other people in Paradise do that risky work because they should fulfill their daily needs and they should continue their life although the economic condition in Paradise is not proper.

Darling's mother also should work hard. Although Darling's father works in South Africa, he never sent money to Darling and her mother. This condition makes Darling's mother work hard so they can live without father's help.

“She went to the border to sell things so I have to stay with Mother of Bones until she returns. Sometimes Mother comes back after only a few days, sometimes after a week; sometimes she comes back when I don't even know when she is coming” (23).

Paradise not only has the economic problem that the people who live in that place, especially Darling, should face. Paradise also has the social problem. The people who live in Paradise do not have a good thoughts. Their thoughts are retarded. This social problem can be the effect of the economic problem in Paradise. Because people live in poverty and they do not have enough money, the people in Paradise never come to school and they never receive a good education. It is portrayed in many scenes in the story. This social problem also brings a big impact to the people in Paradise and it becomes so hard to make Paradise move forward and become the conducive place because it is not easy to change the people's thoughts. This statement shows that people in Paradise have a retarded thoughts:

“When we pass the people standing in line outside Vodloza’s shack, Mother of Bones only waves; here she cannot shout because it’s a healer’s place. A few of the people wave back unsurely, like they don’t even want to, looking worn out from the sickness or troubles. They are waiting for Vodloza to divine with their ancestors because that’s his job” (29).

The fact about the healer's place in Paradise describes that the people in Paradise believe about the thing which the mind cannot accept. They believe that Vodloza can connect to the ancestor and if the people pass the Vodloza's sack, they should show a good behavior. If people do not show a good behavior, they will get something bad. This fact describes that although in the modern life, the people in Paradise still believe this kind of thing. They believe in something which cannot

be proven whether it is wrong or right. The people in Paradise also use the healer's place to heal their sickness. Vodloza is not a doctor or even a medical doctor. He also does not receive a medical education, but he claimed that he can heal HIV-Aids and epilepsy. It is written in the sign outside his shack. Besides, Vodloza also claimed that he can fix all the people's problem such as bad luck, curses, poverty, joblessness, and bad luck in getting a visas to America and Britain (29).

From Vodloza's description about himself, the writer assumes that it is a nonsense. Darling, as the narrator of this story, tells about Vodloza and his job because she wants to show that it is a kind of nonsense and it is different from her thoughts. Although Darling does not show her opinion about Vodloza and she does not give a comment in the way she tells about Vodloza, it can be assumed that Darling wants to show that she does not believe in what Vodloza does. She has a different thought and it is different from the other people who live in Paradise which believe in Vodloza. It can be concluded that the people in Paradise have a retarded thoughts because they believe about this kind of nonsense, about the thing that the mind cannot accept.

The social condition in Paradise is also not conducive, it is because of the political issue which appears. This social condition appears in the way people demonstrate to change their future. It may be to change the future in their society to make their life better. The people who always demonstrate are Bornfree and Messenger. When Darling and Mother of Bones walk to church, they meet Bornfree and Messenger. They wear the matching T-shirts with the little white hearts in front of the shirts and there is a word *Change*. They say to Mother of

Bones and Darling: "We're demonstrating tomorrow, on Main Street, come and walk for change! Be the future!" (31). Bornfree and Messenger are the representation of the people in Paradise who want to change the condition in Paradise. They shout their opinion to the government by conducting a demonstration. It is because they do not feel that the government already gives their best to the people in Paradise. Bornfree and Messenger, through Darling's point of view, have already given the explanation that the social condition in Paradise is not proper.

In Paradise and also the other places near Paradise included Zimbabwe appear the condition when the black people or, in this novel, the African people who live in Zimbabwe, make a rebellion against the white people who live in Zimbabwe. They do not want the white people to live in Zimbabwe, or in any other places around Zimbabwe. The people who make this rebellion are anarchist group which do the rebellion with their anarchist way. It is presented in the part when

Darling and her friends come to Julius Street in Budapest to steal guavas. When they hang on the trees and eat guavas, they hear a noise comes from many people who scream, run and they bring many weapons such as knives and sticks and they also bring their country flags. They say:

"Kill the Boer, the farmer, the khiwa! Strike fear in the heart of the white man! White man, you have no place here, go back, go home! Africa for Africans, Africa for Africans! Kill the Boer, the farmer, the khiwa!" (113).

After those white people say that thing, they come to the big and a nice house near Darling and friends trees and those people kidnap the white people who live in that house. The man known as Assistant Police Commissioner Obey Marima, who claimed that he is the boss of that group, says to the white people and his family that:

“Know this, you bloody colonist, from now on the black man is done listening, you hear? This is black-man country and the black man is in charge now. Africa for Africans...” (120).

From those two statements, it can be seen that the condition around Zimbabwe is not conducive. It is because the black people resist the white people who live in Africa. According to the novel, it can be seen that the white people who live in Africa especially in Zimbabwe, as the setting in this novel, live in a more than proper condition. The white people live in luxury. They are rich, and everything that the white people need is always available. It is portrayed in the white people house which is always big and it has many facilities, they use nice and elegant clothes, they eat everyday and they do never feel hungry. All of those description about the white people is portrayed in the way Darling describes them along in every journeys that she does with her friends to steal guavas in Budapest.

It is different from the black people condition who live in Zimbabwe and also the place around Zimbabwe. The black people live in unproper condition. They live in a shack, not a big house, they do not have any facilities to support their activities, they do not have enough money to buy even a food. That makes

they live in hunger. The black people feel that this contradictory condition between the white people and the black people is not fair. The white people which is the immigrant from other countries, come to the Zimbabwe and their life full of luxury. The white people do not need to work hard but their life is better than the black people, which is the origin from Zimbabwe. The black people should work hard to earn money so that they can live, but is not enough because their life never be better. This unfair condition makes the black people making a rebellion against the white people, because the black people think that the white people colonized their country. The violence, which held by some groups like the group from the statement above, makes the condition in Zimbabwe is not conducive.

The uncondusive social situation in Zimbabwe as the country which the Paradise is placed, does not only caused by the unfair condition between the black people and the white people. There is a political condition which becomes the background of the uncondusive situation in Zimbabwe. The government in Zimbabwe does not give their best services, like what the government should do to their people. If they give their best services to the people, Darling and also the people around her would not need to face such unproper condition. The people in Zimbabwe, especially Paradise, receive the impact of the political condition around the government. And the impact is clearly stated in the analysis above. They live in poverty and hunger, the economic condition in Zimbabwe and especially in Paradise is unproper and the inflation starts to kill Zimbabwe's money.

Because of this condition, when Zimbabwe started the election day, the people in Paradise are so excited. It seems that they have already waited for that moment. It is shown in Darling's point of view when she sees the adults in Paradise are preparing to vote. They look so happy and their appearance is not like their appearance in everyday life. "They have their shirts on and have combed their hair and just like a real people again" (60). It is portrayed that the people in Paradise are very happy with this election. They smile, and it is portrayed that they are so excited. Smile symbolizes happiness and hope. It can be seen that along with the election, the people in Paradise hang on their dream to the new government, especially the new president. They hope that there will be a change in their life because they do not want to live in the unproper condition for their entire life. Their hope is portrayed in the statement below when Darling sees the people singing after they come from the election:

"Get ready, get ready for a new country, no more of this Paradise
anymore, they say when they steady us on our feet. They say
Paradise like they will never say it again..."(73).

It shows that Paradise does not have a proper condition, from any other aspects especially from the social and economic aspects. This condition makes the people who live in Paradise want to change their life as soon as possible by participating in the election day. After the election day, the government is already chosen, but people in Paradise know that what they hope from the new government is useless.

The new government is the same as the old government. The poverty and hunger in Paradise are still the same and it never decreases.

Darling lives in the society, in the place which does not have a proper condition. She lives in Paradise, and the description about Paradise is already mentioned above. Before living in Paradise, Darling has a proper condition. She lived in Budapest, she had a house, not a shack like what she has in Paradise. Her life in Budapest was better than her life in Paradise. It shows when Darling tell about her house in Budapest which already destroyed by the government. Darling say that she had a home which is made from bricks with living room, bedroom. She had a TV, she had everything (64-65).

This condition totally changed when the bulldozer came to the place where Darling and the other people lived in Budapest and destroyed all of the house, including Darling's house. The people who drove the bulldozer could be the government's servant. It was because when they flattened all of the buildings, the police with sticks and guns along with them to safe the ground from the people so that the bulldozer could flatten it clearly. Because her house in Budapest was flattened, Darling and her mother moved to Paradise and starting their life in that place with all of the limitation.

The difference between Darling's life in Paradise and Budapest comes from the condition of the house. In Budapest, Darling had a good house with the proper facilities, but now after she moves to Paradise she does not have a home, she only has a shack without any proper facility.

“Now all we have is this small bed that sits on some bricks and poles. Mother made the bed herself, with the help of Mother of Bones. The inside of the mattress is made of plastic and chicken’s and duck’s feathers and old pieces of cloth and all sorts of things” (65).

It is clearly described that Darling’s home in Paradise is far from proper. The bed she uses portraying that she lives in unproper condition. It is different from her condition in Budapest. She live in a good condition and although Darling did not always get what she want, at least Darling should not live in hunger and she did not need to steal guavas to kill her hunger.

In Paradise, Darling did not receive a good education. It was because the government closed the only school in Paradise. It made the people in Paradise, especially the children, could not have a good education. Darling had ever come to school, she had ever received education. In the novel, it is not clearly described when Darling receive an education. In Paradise before the government closed the school or in Budapest, before the government flattened her home and she moved to Paradise. It is portrayed when Darling spoke to white people in telephone:

“I also remember that I haven’t been using the word ma’am like we were taught to at school and I almost want to start the conversation over just so I can do it right” (130).

The statement above shows that Darling had already received education. She could receive the lesson and she applied that lesson in her activity. But after the

government closed the school, Darling and her friends could not get the education. To spend their time, Darling and her friends only played and came to Budapest to steal guavas.

It shows that Paradise have an unproper socio-economic condition. There are so many poverty, the people life in hunger, the children in Paradise do not receive a good education. It is also happen to Darling. She live in poverty and she does not receive a good education. The people who live in Paradise and it is also including Darling's family, should work hard to earn money so that they can continue their life. They should sacrificed their life, their family, in order to earn money. The people in Paradise already work hard to earn money, but their work hard do not change their economic condition. They still live in suffer.

Living in a society which has unproper socio-economic condition around her pushes Darling to make an effort in her life. It makes her become a person who has a different characterization from the other characters. The condition in Paradise makes her become a future thinker and a dreamer.

Darling wants a better life, she wants to have a good education and she wants her life more than when she lived in Paradise. Darling has an aunt, not her biological aunt but they are like family, named Aunt Fostalina. Now Aunt Fostalina has been living in America and working there. Working in America makes Aunt

Fostalina can fix her economic problems, she also can give money to Mother of

Bones. The money that aunt Fostalina gives to Mother of Bones is the result of her working in America. Aunt Fostalina also can have her own home in America. She lives happily with her husband and her children.

Because of Aunt Fostalina's condition after she move to America and because of the condition in Paradise which did not have a proper condition, since Darling was child, she has had a dream that someday she will move to America and follow aunt Fostalina. Darling sees that America can give her a bright future than Paradise can. It can be seen that Darling get an American Dream. Darling always sees America as the best country in this world, everything that she needs is available in America. It is represented in her characterization that she is an American Dreamer.

Like what other people who become immigrants in America, Darling also wants her life better, so she decided to move and reach her dream. It is stated in Del Cid's journal article entitled *The American Dream: An Illusion or Reality for Latino Immigrant* "Each individuals might have different circumstances leading to his/her immigration to the United States, but most immigrants have the same general purpose--to make better life for themselves and their families" (4). It happened to

Darling since she was child, she made a decision that one day she will move to America and reach a better life. She will leave Paradise and all of her family and friends to reach her dream.

Darling as the future thinker is portrayed in the beginning of the story when she and her friends, Shbo, Bastard, Godknows, Stina and Chipo come to Budapest to steal guavas. Darling lives in a small and undeveloped place. When she comes to Budapest, a big and develop city, she feels that this place is amazing and it is different from Paradise. Everything called as modern appears in this city.

In this part of the story, Darling is still ten years old. Budapest is a city near Paradise but it is different from Paradise. Budapest is a city which is big, modern and developed. During their way to find a guava tree and to cross Chimurenga Street, Darling and her friends meet a white woman from London. She lives in a house near the street and she greets Darling and friends. They are so amazed by this woman. When Godknows said how old she is, the woman says that she is thirty, Godknows does not believe her words because in Godknows's mind this woman looks like fifteen years old. The woman feels surprised and says that it is because she is on diet. This woman says this and runs her hand in her hair which is matted and looks a mess. Darling, when she sees that thing, says in her mind that: "If I lived in Budapest I would wash my whole body every day and comb my hair nicely to show I was a real person living in a real place" (10).

From the statement above, it is portrayed that Darling is a future thinker. Although she still a ten years old, she has an idea to live in a proper condition. Darling as a future thinker is the effect of the socio-economic condition in Paradise and also because of the economic condition in her family that makes her life is far from sufficient. Because of those conditions, Darling has future idea to live in a place which has proper socio-economic condition which can bring an impact to

her life. She wants to let herself free from poverty and she wants her life better rather than when she lives in Paradise. Darling knows about the condition in her society and family very well, she can feel the effect of the unproper condition in her society. Although Darling does not come to school and her activity is only playing with her friends, she can feel that the conditions around her will place her into unpleasant position. She wants to change her life, it makes her become a future thinker although she is still a child.

Darling is a dreamer, especially an American dreamer, this statement is portrayed as the effect of Darling as a future thinker. Becoming a thinker makes Darling build her dream very well. Along with her activity which is playing with her friends, she still thinks about her future and finally the result of her thinking becomes her dream. Darling already thinks about her future and has a vision of it. She wants her life better and she wants to let herself free from the unproper socio-economic condition around her, she also wants to let herself free from the poverty which happens to her and her family. This vision about her future makes Darling think that the best place to go to make her dream come true is America. She has this idea because Darling has an aunt name Fostalina who has already moved and worked in a nursing home in America (17). In Darling's mind, now Aunt Fostalina has a better economic condition because she can move to America and leaves Paradise and all of the unproper things. America brings a new hope for Darling to change her life. In her mind, America is a big country which gives what Darling needs such as better socio-economic condition in the society, prosperity and the most important thing that is a better life. Darling's dream is portrayed in the

statement below when Darling and her friends talk about what they will do when they grow up:

“When that time comes, I’ll not even be here; I’ll be living in America with Aunt Fostalina, eating real food and doing better things than stealing” (12).

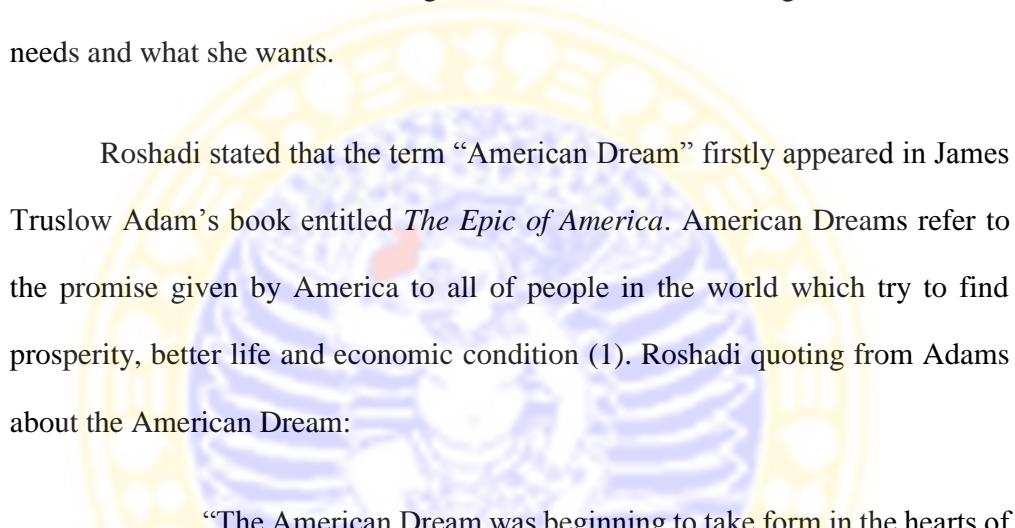
From the statement above it is portrayed that Darling has already put her hope in America. It is presented in her word ‘eating real food and doing better thing than stealing’. It can point out to better life and better economic condition. In Darling’s mind, America is better than Paradise from any other side. The other Darling’s statement that represents her as an American dreamer is when Darling and her friends play a “country-country” game. Darling says:

“If I’m lucky, like today, I get to be the U.S.A., which is a country-country; who doesn’t know that the U.S.A. is the big baboon of the world? I feel like it’s my own country now because my aunt Fostalina lives there, in Destroyedmichygen” (51).

It shows that Darling has already considered America as her own country because her aunt already live there and moving to America is her biggest dream. From Darling’s statement above, it also portrays that Darling has already known that America is a big and rich country and it makes Darling hang her dream into that country.

The action when Darling and her friends come to Budapest to steal also represents that Darling has a big hope about America. During their activity of

stealing guavas from the trees, they see a Lamborghini Reventón across the street and Darling say: “That’s the kind of car I’ll drive... I just know, because of this feeling in my bones, that the car is waiting for me in America” (113). From that statement, it shows that Darling has a big expectation about America. In her mind, moving to America and living in that country will make her life and her economic condition better rather than living in Paradise. America can give her what she needs and what she wants.



Roshadi stated that the term “American Dream” firstly appeared in James Truslow Adam’s book entitled *The Epic of America*. American Dreams refer to the promise given by America to all of people in the world which try to find prosperity, better life and economic condition (1). Roshadi quoting from Adams about the American Dream:

“The American Dream was beginning to take form in the hearts of men. The economic motive was unquestionably powerful, often dominant, in the mind of those who took part in the great migration, but mixed with this was also frequently present the hope a better and freer life, a life in which a man might think as he would and developed as he willed” (Adams in Roshadi 31).

From this definition above, it can portray that Darling is an American Dreamer. Because what Darling thinks and what she hopes about America is the same as the statement of Adams about American Dream.

It is ironic, the name of the city is ‘Paradise’ which means heaven, and people know that everything related to heaven are usually something that can make us happy, do not suffer, and anything which can make people happy, but it is different from the reality in Paradise where Darling life. The people who live in that city suffer and hungry. They do not have enough money to buy a food, they should work hard to earn money, the government do not care with their condition, and anything which related to the socio-economic condition in Paradise are unproper. The people who live in that city do not feel happy like they are in heaven It is different from the meaning of the word ‘Paradise’ itself.

3.2 Darling’s Effort to Reach a Better Life

In reaching her dream to reach a better life and become a successful person, Darling should face many conflicts and problems. She should face that her friends underestimate her dreams. They say that it is impossible for Darling to move to America and reach a better life in that country. They say that America is far from Paradise and something can happen in Darling’s plane when she in it. They also say that what if Darling get there and find that America is not nice as what Darling expect and she stuck in that country and cannot come back (16). Her friend, Bastard, also say that Darling cannot reach a better life because in America, Aunt Fostalina is working on nursing home. Bastard say that Darling will become like Aunt Fostalina (17). Although her friends underestimate her dream, Darling does

not care. She still believe in herself and she still believe in her dream that one day she will reach a better life by moving to America.

After Darling grow up, she can move to America and follow Aunt Fostalina. Darling leave Paradise, her friends and family to start her new life in America. After Darling moves to America and lives with Aunt Fostalina, Darling's life is much better than when she lived in Paradise. Darling shows this condition explicitly. It is portrayed in the statement below:

“I am relieved as well, and I start thinking maybe I should run upstairs and grab my MacBook for Aunt Fostalina to use” (198).

“I am sitting on my bed and staring at the wall, just thinking about how I will begin to tell Aunt Fostalina this, when my new BlackBerry starts to vibrate” (277).

From those two statements, it can be concluded that Darling has already reached a better life when she lives in America. It can be seen from the gadget that she has.

She has MacBook, a laptop which was produced by Apple and she has a BlackBerry which is a smart phone. When Darling lived in Paradise, she did not have those luxury things, she did not have money to buy food to kill her hunger.

Darling describes those things because she wants to show that now, after moving to America her life changes to be better. Beside having a luxury thing, after she moves to America, Darling can continue her education until she finished high school.

The case before she moved to America, after Darling graduate from high school, Darling cannot continue her education to the college. It was because Aunt Fostalina said that to continue study to college needs much money because the college costs for foreign students are so expensive. If Darling wants to continue her education, she should work to earn money. This condition forced Darling to work.

She worked on mini market and in Aunt Fostalina's boss home. In mini market Darling was cleaning up the toilets, bagging groceries, bending over a big cart, and sorting bottles and cans.

When Darling does not work to mini market, she should come to Eliot's home to clean up his home. Elliot is Aunt Fostalina's boss. Eliot has a daughter called Kate. Eliot and Kate come from a rich family. It is portrayed in their big house,in their pet, a cute dog which is expensive and all of the luxury things around.

All of the jobs that Darling should do is Darling's commitment to reach a better education. Darling is smart, it become useless if she does not continue her education to college because continuing her education to the higher level is Darling's dream before she moved to America. Darling does not mind what kind of jobs are to do because she should earn money. She will do the job, although it is hard for her because she never works before. It is because Darling wants to have better life by taking a higher education.

There is an event which happened to Darling and after that event she asked herself why it happened. It is when Darling found Kate's diary under her bed when Darling cleaned up her room. Darling knew that two weeks ago Kate tried to kill herself because she broke up with her boyfriend. Kate's boyfriend said to her that she was not sexy enough. It makes Kate feel so depressed and when she looked into the mirror it was like she saw an ugly fat cow, it made Kate hate her body.

After reading Kate's diary and what Kate did to make her body sexier by hurting herself, Darling thought how it could happen. Because Darling knew that Kate should have not done that. It can be seen that Darling has a different perspective about it. After she knows about Kate's problem, Darling knows that although people have much money and they are rich, it cannot be said that they are happy with their life. It makes Darling be grateful for what she has, although she should work hard to reach her dream.

3.2.1. The Irony Between Darling's Dream and The Reality

Reaching a better life in America is not easy for Darling. She should face many problems related to her dream which different from her expectation. It becomes an irony, because Darling expect America as the best country in this world. As Griffith says, irony is a complex form and cannot be defined in short sentences. In general, irony is the statement which occurs in the text containing an opposite meaning between appearance and reality (Griffith 48). In *We Need New Names*, there are several conditions which can be analyzed as the irony. All of the conditions are around Darling's dream about America and the reality after she

moves and lives in America. Darling is an American Dreamer, she only sees America from her perspective. Darling sees America as a perfect and developed country and becomes the biggest country in this world and it comes not only from Darling's perspective. It is the fact about America. Because America is the biggest country in this world, Darling thinks that she can get a better life by moving to that country. She knows it because Aunt Fostalina lives in America and has a better life. Since she was child Darling has already dream about America and told all of her friends that she would leave Paradise to follow Aunt Fostalina and living in America. All of her dreams about America have already portrayed in Darling's characterization that she is an American Dreamer.

After Darling moved to America, she feels so surprised because what she has thought about America in her entire childhood is different from reality. It shows when Darling saw and felt the winter session in America:

“As for the coldness, I have never seen it like this. I mean, coldness that makes like it wants to kill you, like it’s telling you, with its snow, that you should go back to where you came from” (150).

Darling never thought it before. She does not know that America has a snow. In Darling's mind she has never known that America has four seasons. It is different from Zimbabwe which has only two seasons. Darling's beautiful dream about America is broken with the reality that in fact America has four seasons. Because of this seasons Darling should make herself become well prepared when the snow is coming. She also should adapt to this new environment.

This kind of condition is hard for Darling because Darling has never felt it before in Paradise. It also different from her expectation about America. She does not ever think about this weather before she came to America. It makes Darling feel disappointed because she knows that her expectation and the reality is different and she should adapt with the condition. It is portrayed in the statements below:

“With all this snow, with the sun not there, with the cold and dreariness, this place doesn’t look like my America, doesn’t even look real...”(152).

Darling moves to America because she knows that social condition in Paradise is not conducive. That makes Darling decide to move to America. In Darling’s dream, she does not know that although America is the biggest country in this world, the social situation and condition in the society are not always without any disturbing. Darling feels surprise when she know that sometimes near her house in Detroit, because Aunt Fostalina’s home is in Detroit, there is a gun fight and she never think it before. She does not know that in America she will find a cruel life and the people who live in America can have their own gun.

“I didn’t tell them how in the summer nights there sometimes was the bang-bang-bang of gunshots in the neighborhood and I had to stays indoors, afraid to go out...

...I left out these things, and a lot more, because they embarrassed me, because they made America not feel like My America, that one I had always dreamed of back in Paradise" (190).

The last statement from Darling clearly shows that it is the irony between what Darling dreams about America and the reality after she lives in that country. She knows that it is so ironic, Darling who always says a good thing about America and always says that she will leave Paradise because of the unproper condition in Paradise, should get a bitter reality that America is not like what she thinks before.

Sometimes the condition in America is worst rather than the condition in Paradise.

It is not always about the social condition in America which makes Darling get a bitter reality, the house that Aunt Fostalina's has is far from her expectation. When Darling still lives in Paradise, she imagines that Aunt Fostalina has a big house like what the white people who live in Budapest. But after she arrives in

America and she knows about Aunt Fostalina's home, she should get truth that Aunt Fostalina's home is made of planks, not from bricks.

"That the house we lived in wasn't even like the ones we'd seen on TV when we were little, how it wasn't made of bricks but planks, a house made of planks in America, and how when it rained those planks got mold and smelled" (189).

Those unexpected situation in Darling's life in America makes Darling does not have courage to tell her friends and also family in Paradise that what she

expects from America is different from the reality. Darling is so shy if they know that what she dreamed about America since she was child is very different from the reality.

Because when Darling still lived in Paradise, she always told the other people that America is a big country with all of the dreams that the country gives to Darling.

When Darling should live in America with all of the situation which is different from her expectation, there is a part which becomes the ironical part from all of the ironic events. It is when Darling knows that after she leaves Paradise,

Aunt Fostalina works hard so she can finish paying for the house that she bought for Mother and Mother of Bones. The house that Aunt Fostalina bought for them is a big house.

“It’s a nice big house with a pool, just like the other houses we used to hit for guavas. The house is even nicer than this one we live here in America, which I find strange because when I was at home I heard that everything in America was better” (191).

Darling’s statement stated that there is a little regret from Darling. Why she should move to America, when she knew that America was not as nice as she thought before. She know the reality that her house in America is not good and it is far from her expectation, and the worst part is when she has lived in America, her family in

Paradise has a new house which is better than her house in America. Darling should face this bitter reality by herself, she does not want the other people know about what she is thinking about.

The irony which Darling should face makes Darling realize although Paradise does not have a proper social and economic condition, it is better than in America. This condition makes Darling miss her family and her friends so much. She wants to go home but she cannot, because it will need an expensive cost. She and also Aunt Fostalina do not have enough money to pay for the ticket. Although Darling feels sad because of the condition around her that is full of ironic especially her dream about America and the reality, but she knows that she still has many things in America and be grateful about what she has. It is portrayed in this statement:

“But then we wouldn’t be having enough food, which is why I will stand being in America dealing with the snow; there is food to eat here, all of types and types of food. There are times, though, that no matter how much food I eat, I find the food does nothing for me, like I am hungry for my country and nothing is going to fix that” (155).

This above statement shows the contradictory between what Darling thought about America and what is the reality that she should face. After she moves to America and faces the truth about the condition, Darling wants to come back to Paradise. No matter what the condition in America, although she knows that she can get

everything she needs, Darling still wants to come back to Paradise. She knows that Paradise is better than America although the social condition in Paradise is far from America.

This ironical condition makes Darling so disappointed and become worst when she knows if her Aunt's little family is not close enough and does not give Darling warmth as a new family member. It is not like what she felt when she was in Paradise with her mother, Mother of Bones and her friends. Uncle Kojo, Aunt Fostalina's husband and also TK, her cousin and Aunt's children are always busy with their activity. Darling does not have family member that can accompany her when she misses her home.

The irony in Darling's dream and the reality can be classified as the situational and attitudinal irony. The **situational irony** occurs in the socio-economic condition in Paradise, Zimbabwe. The African government does injustice to the people. It should be a good government for the people, but it does not work as what the people who live in Paradise want. There are so many poverty around Zimbabwe, especially in Paradise. It is not fair for the people. Beside that the inflation occurs in Zimbabwe and it makes people use the American dollar for every business transaction. The government in this case represents an injustice to the people.

The **attitudinal irony** shows Darling's high expectation about America. Darling thinks that every single thing that comes from America must be luxurious and modern, it is because America is considered as the most developed country in

this world. Darling also thinks that if she lives in America, she will get all off the luxurious things like what she saw in Budapest from the white people. It is so different when Darling arrives in America and sees the reality about that country. Everything that she thinks real in America, such as a big house made of bricks, the socio-economic problem, and all of that she already thought, when she arrives she knows that it is far from her expectation.

Face so many problems in her life makes Darling become a real fighter. Darling as the major character in *We Need New Names* shows the real effort which the other characters do not do. She is the representation of the real fighter who makes hard effort to move to America, leaves her home, family and friends to reach a better life. Her journey is not straight enough. She should face some problems along with her effort to reach what she wants. It is not easy for Darling. In her earlier teenage life, she should face many problems which become the part of her effort. After moving to America, in her first arrival, she should face that the American people are looking at her because she has different hair and all of her physical appearance and also her accent. Darling is good in speaking English, but because she is from Africa, her accent is different from the American people. Because Darling wants her new society in America to accept her, she does many ways to make her English accent better. It is presented in the action below:

“I have decided the best way to deal with it all is to sound American, and the TV has taught me just how to do it. It’s pretty easy; all you have to do is watch Dora the Explorer, The Simpsons,

SpongeBob, Scooby-Doo, and then you move on to the listening and imitating the accents" (196).

It shows that Darling has already dealt with her ability in speaking English. Because she is from Africa, it makes her accent different from people around her. Although

Darling's ability in speaking English is good, but American people feel that Darling's accent is strange. Darling, who wants to live in America and to continue her life in that country, makes a deal with herself. She wants her new society to accept her and she does not want to face any problem in the future because of her strange accent. It makes Darling try so hard to improve her accent so that she can speak English with the right accent.

The other problem which Darling should face in America is about the weather which is so different from Paradise. In America, Darling should face the winter session with all of the snow and the coldness around her.

"As for the coldness, I have never seen it like this. I mean, coldness that makes like it wants to kill you, with its snow, that you should go back to where you came from" (150).

The statement above shows that Darling should adapt with the new weather. It is hard for Darling because she does not know that America has winter session along with snow and the coldness. But along with her experiences in America, she can deal with the weather.

Darling does not only deal with those things, she also has to face the culture differences between America and Africa. It is hard for Darling, because what is right in Africa becomes wrong in America. And what becomes the culture in Africa, the American people see it as something strange. It can be seen when Darling, Aunt Fostalina, Uncle Kojo and their son TK, come to American people wedding and there is a little boy named Mandla throwing a ball at Darling's face. Darling forgets that she is in America and all around her is American people. In her reflects, Darling slaps that boy and raps his head with Darling's knuckles twice. The people around Darling, most of them are American people, who see that incident, are gasped and shocked. It is because they consider that thing as an abuse against children. Darling does not mean to hurt that boy, it is the culture that Zimbabwe's people do when they handle the unruly children.

It can be seen that Darling should face the judgment from the American people because she hit a little boy although that hit do not hurt the boy. In Paradise, slapping is a culture to give a lesson for unruly children, but American people see this as a violence against child and they cannot accept this easily. It makes Darling shock because she does not know about this, she is reflect because that is what African people always do when there is an unruly child. Because of this incident, Darling promises to herself that she will not hit a kid again. It is because Darling does not want her society having a bad opinion about her. She wants her new society to accept her.

Moving to America brings new many problems for Darling. She never taught it before. There are many other problems which Darling should face beside the problems above. It is about her education in America. Darling wants to continue her school to college but Aunt Fostalina says that she needs much money to pay for Darling's education in college. She says that Darling should pay by herself if she wants to continue her school to college. It brings a new problem for Darling because she never works before and now she should work to earn money. This condition forces Darling to become a hard worker. After she graduated from high school, Darling works on mini market and she also works at Aunt Fostalina's boss home.

Living in America for a long time and never coming home, makes Darling think about her identity. It is portrayed when Darling and Chipo are talking in Skype. Chipo asks Darling some questions which Darling cannot answer. "Why did you run off to America, Darling Nonkululeko Nkala, huh? Why did you just leave? If it's your country, you have to love it to live in it and not leave it. You have to fight for it no matter what, to make it right" (288).

Chipo's questions make Darling think again about her identity and her decision to move to America. Chipo asks this question because she knows that Darling never came home and Darling infrequently sent her friends and family a letter and infrequently called them and it can be seen that Chipo is afraid that Darling will forget all of her memories about Paradise and all the things she has left. After she get the answer from Chipo, Darling feels that she is mad but along with her mind she can calm again. She listens to Chipo's question but she cannot answer it. In

her deepest heart, Darling wants to come back home and sees her family, but she should wait because it needs an expensive cost. She has already asked Aunt Fostalina and her that is her answer. After Chipo asks Darling that questions, Darling feels that Paradise, especially her beloved friends, do not accept her anymore.

From those many problems which should be faced by Darling, when she still lived in Paradise until she moves to America, and how she could face those problems, it shows that Darling is a real fighter. She is different from the other characters, she has a good motivation for herself because she wants to reach a better life. Darling knows that if she wants to have a better life, she should make an effort and it should be a hard effort. That makes Darling face all of her problems. Darling does not give up because of the problems that come to her, she chooses to face them and make a deal. It makes Darling's life in America easier although that is not enough. Darling shows that she has a strong characterization, she is still young but she can face the life and all of the problems by herself.

After know all of the condition in Paradise and all of the ironic condition that Darling should face, it can be seen that the book title which is *We Need New Names* shows the irony. *New Names* here means new identity and new life. The word *New* here means America, but Darling does not reach a 'new' thing from America. After she knows the reality in America, Darling feel that Paradise is better than America. Although Paradise have an unproper socio-economic condition, Darling feels that her real home is Paradise. It can be seen that the theme

of this novel is “raining stones in our country is better than raining stones in other country”.

