

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The movie “*West Side Story*” (2021) offer the viewers an interesting view of life situations between white people and Puerto Rican immigrants in the 1950s America. The two groups lived side by side, resulting in many conflicts that arises from all the differences. Being native residents of their land, white people believe that they’re superior compared to the immigrants. This superiority has put the immigrants in a hard place, resulting in discrimination, racism, and unfairness for them. On top of that, the immigrants are starting to have differences in their views of their new lives due to different ways in expressing their identities.

The major conflict that comes from the cross-cultural life between white people and immigrants is the racial group conflict represented by the rumble between the Jets and the Sharks. Both groups were fighting over their territory, and both groups resorted to violence in order to win. The Jets believed that they should own the territory by the rights of being born in America, while the Sharks believed that they should be able to have some authority over the area where they reside in.

Being a member of any particular group will develop someone’s social identity. In *West Side Story*, the characters’ social identity as a member of either the Jets or the Sharks automatically gave them a sense of belonging to

their group. Thus, they will always prefer their in-group members and would be influenced by their group's views toward someone who doesn't belong within them. In the movie, this was proven by how the Sharks rejected the idea of Maria being with Tony. On the other hand, there is also a social identity threat that occurs when someone feels the image of their in-group is threatened, which was experienced by Tony, Maria, and Graziella.

From the analysis, we can conclude that social identity indirectly influenced the characters' actions in the group conflict. There are many things to learn about life in 1950s America from the movie "*West Side Story*". As a citizen of a country with various cultures and diversity, it is important to take notes about the conflicts that happened in the movie to ensure that various cultures could live side by side peacefully.