

CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*, it can be concluded that the ways employed by the mothers and daughters in dealing with hybrid identity are different. The mothers tend to employ the ways which can remind them to their past origin in China. On the other hand, the daughters tend to employ the ways which can tie them with their present life in the United States. This difference is caused by the difference of cultural background between the mothers and the daughters. That is why the two sides tend to develop cultural clashes.

1. The mothers' ways in dealing with hybrid identity

All mothers in *The Joy Luck Club* were born and raised in China. They were taught in Chinese way by their parents. This makes Chinese culture roots deeply in their mind. Therefore, when they become American citizens, they still cannot erase their Chinese origin. This results in their hybrid identities. In dealing with hybrid identity, their ways are influenced by Chinese culture more. Those ways are maintaining Chinese origin, preserving Chinese values, preserving Chinese beliefs, being different from American people, and being influenced by American culture.

2. The daughters' ways in dealing with hybrid identity

Unlike the mothers, all daughters in *The Joy Luck Club* are American-born. Although their mothers still preserve and teach them Chinese culture at home, they still live inside American society. They receive American education, make friends with American people, and are introduced with American media. Therefore, they are influenced by American culture more in dealing with

hybrid identity. Here, they employ several ways. Those ways are ignoring Chinese values, denying Chinese origin, maintaining American way of thinking, ignoring Chinese language, and accepting Chinese origin.

3. Cultural clash

In this research, there are three fields of cultural clash: rearing system, education and career, and partner selection. In the field of rearing system, there are two cultural clashes. The first is the mother's strict rearing against the daughter's free will which occurs between Suyuan and Jing-Mei. In this clash, the strict rearing system which is considered attentive by Suyuan is regarded as an authoritarian way by Jing-Mei who prefers to follow her own will. The second clash is the mother's overprotective nature against the daughter's ignorance which occurs between Ying-Ying and Lena. Here, Ying-Ying's overprotective nature which is intended for Lena's safety is not understood by Lena who tends to ignore Ying-Ying's protection.

In the field of education and career, there are also two cultural clashes. The first is the mother's involvement against the daughter's individualism which occurs between Lindo and Waverly. The second is the mother's expectation against the daughter's individualism which occurs between Suyuan and Jing-Mei. In Lindo and Waverly's case, the mother is involved much in the daughter's achievement, while in Suyuan and Jing-Mei's case, the mother has more expectation of achievement than that of the daughter. Whether the mother is involved or has more expectation in the daughters' achievement, both actions are done because both mothers want the best for their daughters. However, the

Americanized daughters tend to have the sense of individualism. While Waverly feels that her privacy is disturbed by her mother's involvement, Jing-Mei feels that her mother forces her to be what she does not want.

In the last field, partner selection, the clash is the mothers' approval against the daughters' personal choice. This case occurs between An-Mei and Rose, and between Lindo and Waverly. The mothers often disagree with the daughters' choice because in partner selection, they think about other things besides love. However, the daughters still insist their choice and marry the man they love.

From the descriptions above, it can be concluded that the more dominant culture which influences the mother in dealing with hybrid identity is Chinese culture. This is proven by their effort to maintain Chinese heritage by preserving Chinese culture when they are already in the United States. On the contrary, the daughters' ways in dealing with hybrid identity are influenced by American culture more. Although Chinese culture is still practiced in their families, their thinking is already American way so they often ignore their Chinese heritage. This difference leads to cultural clashes between the mothers' Chinese thinking and the daughters' American thinking, particularly in rearing, education, and marriage.

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