

## ABSTRACT

The main interest of this particular study is the Chinese society, portraying their points of view on divorce in the novel *Waiting*. The author Ha Jin, a Chinese immigrant staying in Boston America, completed this novel in 1999. *Waiting*, won the National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award.

The aims of this study are to describe the life of the Chinese society which is revealed by the life of Lin Kong as the protagonist. The writer wants to know how strong the desires of the protagonist to get divorce and the character's interpretation of the concept of divorce to the protagonist, Lin Kong, and his wife, Shuyu. The government, society, army, hospital, and courthouse will never let a husband divorce his wife. Divorce is taboo and very rare but, Lin Kong is using Commissar's recommendation for divorce. According to the rule in the army hospital established by Commissar Wang in 1958, only after 17 years of separation can an officer end his marriage without his wife's consent. The commissar had died, but for twenty four years the rule had been strictly carried out in the hospital.

Close reading is used as the way or the eyeglass to look up at the literary work, in order to find the answer for the analysis research. The writer would justify the term of close reading according to many sources, an intrinsic approach in analyzing the characters based on the text itself. The technique of collecting data is descriptive method defined as empirical information about the text itself, not in the form of numbers. The data is analyzed by using descriptive method. The analysis is not portraying Chinese society in generally, but only as an analysis based on the novel itself.

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**