

ABSTRACT

The first novel by Pearl S. Buck' *East Wind: West Wind* has the spirit of telling a lot about the social condition of Chinese society in the early of twentieth century when there is changing of China's government from dynasty to republic. Taking Nanking, South China, in 1910s, as its setting, the novel shows the meeting of two different cultures, which are past Chinese and West.

In order to get the meaning of a literary work we need not to look at the outside element of the work. Therefore, the New Criticism is applied to analyze the intrinsic elements of the play such as characterization and conflict. The support of China's history in the late of nineteenth century until twentieth century and Chinese ways of life in the beginning of twentieth century, as supporting information, are also used to gain more understanding of the society and situation portrayed in the novel.

This thesis is concerned about the decision taken by Yang Kwei-lan, a Chinese daughter from a wealthy family. She marries to a Chinese man whose culture is different that is West culture. The Western culture, at that time, becomes problem among Chinese people since the nasty Western action of attacking China's territory and Chinese people are still praising and maintaining their thousand years of civilization and customs even though the China's system of government is change.

In the meantime, Chinese customs regard its woman who can please as well as submissive to her husband. Since her husband follows West culture hence,