

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of study**

Culture had been existing since pre-historic time but its development was very slow compared with recent days. Culture, according to Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember is results of learning process (Ihromi, 1980: 18) and an adaptation upon physical as well as social environment and biological needs (1980: 29). Parrillo in *Stranger to These Shores* argued that culture “ is continually changing” (28). Since the nature of culture itself is learnable, it is understandable if supported by “discoveries, inventions, technological advances, innovations, or natural disaster can alter the customs, values, attitudes, and beliefs of a society” (28).

The changing of cultures is through people of different culture encountering one another (Parrillo 29) and, one of the examples is travelling. People from certain areas travel to one place to another place, decide to settle for couple of time as well as transfer their culture to the local people in these new areas, or, when they back to their homeland they bring also the new culture and spread them. Nowadays, we can still see the remaining things contain of two or more cultures such as, buildings, systems, etc. Besides travelling, the other factor, which facilitates the spreading of culture, is marriage.

Pearl S. Buck in her first novel *East Wind: West Wind* concerns about marriage between two different cultures. The novel is based on her article titled

“A Chinese Women Speaks” published in Asia Magazine in 1925. In this book, the main character tells every experience that she faces to a woman whom she called ‘My sister’. This story is set with the background of Nanking, China, in 1910’s, among the community of wealthy Chinese family. The story is also enriched with the culture that exists in past China.

*East Wind: West Wind* tells about a Chinese woman named Yang Kwei-lan who marries with a man whose culture is different from her. Even though he is a Chinese man but his thought, point of view, and attitude are West (American). He has been studying medicine in America for about twelve years and when he comes back to China, he brings also American ideas and institutions. Kwei-lan is in the middle of two different culture—Chinese and American (East and West)—which contrast one another. She is bewildered which culture she would follow, the age-old tradition of her people or American ways of her husband.

## **B. Statement of problem**

Dealing with the preceding discussion, the writer will give an attention to analyse into these following questions:

1. What are the favourable and unfavourable forces during Kwei-lan’s process of making decision?
2. What are the impacts that Kwei-lan will get from her action?

### **C. Objective of the study**

Based on the statement of the problem above, then the writer tries to formulate the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To know the favourable and unfavourable forces during Kwei-lan's process of making decision.
2. To know the impacts that Kwei-lan will get from her action.

### **D. Scope and Limitation**

The analysis discusses the influences of flat character (the main character's parents and the main character's parents in-law) toward the development of the decision taken by the round (main) character (Yang Kwei-lan). To obtain this purpose, the writer limits the focus of attention on the elements of literary work on the characterization and conflict happen between the round and the flat characters.

The conflict that will be discussed is the conflict between main character with flat character and the conflict between main character with herself. The writer believes that they are considered representative enough as the main elements of the structure of this story in which they are interrelated to one another express the wholeness impression.

### **E. Significance of the study**

The study has significant purpose in emerging our interest on the social issues concerning humanity represented in a literary work, which involves the

local or traditional values of the setting. In particular, the study will get additional knowledge on China's society, especially the character of society that exists in centuries ago. The writer would like to know about the main character's process in making her decision to follow her husband's culture and the barriers that she has to face.

### **F. Theoretical Background**

The writer in analysing this novel will use New Criticism. To get broader information about the condition of Chinese society on that period, the writer provides this thesis with some data regarding the political and social situation as supporting information. Hopefully, by using the theory, the writer will get deeper insight to the problems that are going to be discussed.

### **G. Method of the Study**

In working on the thesis, the writer applies the library research to support the analyses of the problems. The research here means, as a process of finding information, which is useful to help the writer to go directly in her research.

The first stage is constructed by collecting information from many books, articles, encyclopaedias, internet with its web site, and other printed materials related to the work of Pearl S. Buck, particularly *East Wind: West Wind*.

The writer also tries to get information any particular book dealing with literature theories and information that will be used in the analysis. However, Pearl S Buck's *East Wind: West Wind* is the main source of this research, while the other sources are used for supporting the study.

The method, which is later used, is a descriptive analysis. It is applied to give descriptive explanation of the problems found in the work through the dialogues, events, and actions of the story itself. This descriptive analysis method is applied based on the work itself and supported by other information concerning the work. The writer will use some quotations from many sources to confirm and support the analysis.

#### **H. Definition of Key Terms**

- Culture: The total pattern of human behaviour and its product embodied in thought, speech, action, and artefacts and dependent upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations through the use of tools, language, and systems of abstract thought
- Dynasty: A family that establishes and maintains predominance in a particular field of endeavour for generations
- Clan: A social unit smaller than a tribe and larger than a family and claiming descent from a common ancestor
- Foreign Devil: A sobriquet for Western people because of their nasty actions toward Chinese people and land at the early of twentieth century

- **Familism: A form of social organization in which all values are determined by reference to the maintenance, continuity, and functions of the family group**  
**(taken from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and *The Family: From Institution to Companionship* ).**

# **CHAPTER II**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**