

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This final chapter of the study is presented to bring the conclusion of the writer's research. The conclusion is made from the findings that the writer earns in analyzing cultural and generational gaps in Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club".

Living as the minority in this life is never easy to bear. But if we can manage to find the power within ourselves, it will be much more easier to get used to it. By conducting this study the writer would like to appreciate how human being struggles to overcome the difficulties one is faced as he can learn from Jing-mei's story in "The Joy Luck Club".

The background that sets up the decay in the mother-daughter bond experienced by Jing-mei and her mother is the lack of understanding between each generations. Jing-mei's mother has a completely different vision from Jing-mei, because she still holds the traditional heritage of the mothers in China. For many years, Jing-mei's mother does not explain her complete stories to her daughter until she is sure that her daughter would listen, and by then, it is almost too late

to make Jing-mei understand her heritage that Jing-mei's mother left behind, long ago when she left China.

On the other side, the lack of understanding in Jing-mei's version departs from the difficulties in growing up as a Chinese-American and the problems assimilating into modern society. Here Jing-mei as the second generation of Chinese immigrants try her best to become Americanized and at the same time losing her heritage. Social pressure to become like everyone else and not to be different are the things that motivate Jing-mei to resent her nationality. The pressure also comes from her family, especially from her mother. Her mother constantly demanding more from her when her best is not enough for her mother.

This lack of understanding grows stronger when her mother died and Jing-mei has to see her two lost sisters from her mother's first marriage. She feels that she does not know her mother, and she also feels that she is not Chinese enough.

In order to be succeeded in the struggle to maintain the mother-daughter bond across cultural and generational gaps, Jing-mei Woo explores the possibilities and the qualities within herself. This is a little complicated process, since her mother has already dead.

As the resolution, Jing-mei Woo starts to manifest or to reflect her mother's story in her self and explores what her mother's story is

meant for. In doing so, Jing-mei sorting out her feelings about the past she and her mother had shared, and about the legacy that her mother had passed down to her. She finds out that the stress of adapting to a new culture and learning a new language distracts her mother from the plan to share her story with her daughter.

More over, Jing-mei is a product of this new culture, and the mother has to translate her story into American terms. Such translation is more than a matter of difference in language, it is a difference in experience and culture. After Jing-mei explores those condition of the lack of understanding, Jing-mei takes her mother's heritage and translates it to fit her particular circumstances.

In her self exploration, she understand what part of her is Chinese, and Jing-mei accept the reality in being a Chinese-American. Then Jing-mei realizes that she can only maintain the mother-daughter bond by overcoming the fears in her mind. She chooses to defeat the fears by facing it. Jing-mei encourages her self to see her two lost sisters in China.

The appreciation on Jing-mei's struggle to maintain the mother-daughter bond has brought several valuable meanings. Jing-mei's struggle represents the struggle of human being to understand the state of one self. It requires all of the senses to bring the consciousness to discover our personal qualities and lacknesses. More over, Jing-mei's

struggle also represents human's great effort to find the power in his or her self. It is important to find this power inside for it can be used to overcome the burden or the obstacles in the journey of our lives.

In a more specific focus, Jing-mei's struggle represents the effort to find her own identity, including to understand the mentalities of both mother and daughter. Here Jing-mei is succeeded in achieving the understanding by reflecting her mother into herself. By doing that, she can explore the difficulties and analyze the best way to resolve it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY