

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The story of Letter from Peking represents the assembly of two cultures that occur in cross-cultural interaction between Gerald and Elizabeth. It is exactly the assembly of Chinese of Gerald towards American of Elizabeth.

As the story grows, the different cultures of them become salient since their cross-cultural interaction increase to be long term and highly contacted by uniting both of them as husband and wife. This intercultural marriage provides a useful study for intercultural relations generally because the partners must have developed workable strategies for dealing with diversity.

Elizabeth, an American girl, is the one who establishes the relationship with Gerald. She is in love with him and manages to make him to be hers. Finally she succeeds in winning Gerald's heart. Meanwhile Gerald is doubtful with his relationship with her for he is more Chinese. It makes him wonders whether Eliz will accept and love the Chinese part of him.

Motivated by her love, Eliz takes risk and struggles hard to comprehend Gerald's Chinese culture. In doing so, she willingly follows him to Peking. There she struggles to adapt and master the Chinese culture.

Meanwhile, Gerald realises enough for having intercultural interaction with Eliz, but appears not to understand and mindful of his position on two cultures. Adjustment between them means that both have their own wish and need. The spouse's job is to accommodate the wish and need in order to develop the adjustment. Indeed, Gerald's wounded experience of being unwanted of his Chinese part by his father stands to be an obstacle that obstruct their adjustment. No matter how hard Eliz struggles to comprehend Chinese and master the adjustment, Gerald's wound will always make him prefer to be Chinese. The wound produces lack of cultural awareness to him. Together with his unopened attitude, it lurks problem in their adjustment.

As the adjustment runs slowly for Gerald does not fully participate, there is outer factor that stands to be another obstacle. The entering communist to Peking lead the adjustment to less developing. At this point choice is a dilemma and makes the spouse be strongly motivated to forge a viable relationship with his/her partner. Gerald's wounded experience makes him decide to keep stay in China, while Eliz and their son, Rennie, leave for America. During the separation, they keep their love alive by waiting for the day of meeting. Unfortunately they must learn to confront the unwanted happening. Communist in Peking becomes strict and difficult that lead to no hope for the meeting, Gerald must even cut and declare against them for their own safety. Later, love is stronger than country. Gerald finds that he can not manage to live without his family.

Unfortunately, his awareness comes too late. He is shot in his effort to escape.

As a conclusion, cross-cultural interaction requires uphill effort. The initial identification of cultural heritage of people involved is heightened. Then cultural awareness must also be developed to put that knowledge in practice. Above all, in doing so it needs reciprocal action. Otherwise, they are not able to accommodate both need and wish that later lead to lack perspective and outlooks on the nature culture.

In this case Gerald's wounded experience keeps him away from cultural awareness. Thus, he acts less active in the adjustment. Whatever happened he always chooses China and appears unthoughtful enough in his position on two cultures. His unopened attitude also covers Eliz's aid to release his hurt feeling.

Throughout the adjustment, the individual is also presented with complexity that comes from the outer part of people involved. In this story, this occurs by the entering communist together with the strictness and hardness they bring about. That factor can not be ignored, and may distort the adjustment. Because of the communist that makes Gerald and Elizabeth are separated after 15 years of happy marriage. Their strictness also forced them to cut their relation for their own safety even though they still love each other and long for the days of being united again. Later they find out that the hope for being united will never happen.

Furthermore, the story of Gerald and Elizabeth's interaction presents readers with valuable and essential lessons especially about adjustment in cross-cultural interaction. Readers get knowledge also about interpersonal relation; how to understand people and manage an ongoing relationship. Readers also gain lesson about love, faithfulness, loyalty and strive within.

SYNOPSIS