

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to discuss issues raised from the novel The Bonesetter's Daughter written by Amy Tan. The novel portrays an intercultural relationship between Ruth Young, a Chinese American woman, and Art, an American man. In their relationship, there are contestations due to their cultural differences. The issue that will be discussed in this study is the portrayal of cultural differences between Chinese and American culture that result in the discriminative acts done by Art and his family toward Ruth as a Chinese American woman. Besides, this study also explains about the understanding process that the main character, Ruth, has to undergo to finally understand about her own cultural background. In analyzing the issues, the writer uses a qualitative method by elaborating dialogues, events, and conflicts in the novel and applies the theory which is suitable to the discussion. Therefore, the writer uses the theory of post colonialism, mainly suggested by Homi Bhabha, one of the major post colonialists. By applying the theory, the study finds that the discriminative acts done to Ruth are the result of colonial discourses that the American family articulate in their daily lives. Besides, in the understanding process of her Chinese background, there are back and forth movements in Ruth's cultural identity. Her identity is "in-between" the two cultures, either Chinese or American culture, as Ruth is a Chinese woman who lives in America. In conclusion, the contestations will always happened, both in her intercultural relationship and within her own identity. The influences from American and Chinese culture will always affecting her cultural identity as an individual.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION