

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **II.1 The Intrinsic Approach**

The intrinsic approach is applied on this thesis since the writer wants to concentrate or focus on the work itself as Wellek and Warren stated that a study of literary work should had been based on the interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself. The first and the most prominent concentration, this study should be directed toward the work (Wellek and Warren, 1978). This study is made possibly by applying the intrinsic approach, which is the approach used to analyze and interpret a literary work through its intrinsic elements. However, the focus is just on the character. The character of Madame Liang on the story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang*.

##### **II. 1. 1. The Characterization**

Characters are one of the elements of fiction. In a very simple sentence, characters are the people, sometimes are not, in the novel. They are the actors of the story presented by the author in the novel. From their conversations, and their actions, the readers

will comprehend the essence of the story as John Peck and Martin Coyle wrote in their *Literary Term and Criticism*: The people in a novel are referred to as characters. We assess them on the basis of what the author tells us about them and on the basis of what they do and say.

The author put the characters on such a characterization to make the audiences, the readers, understand the story and to get the idea(s). By analyzing characters, the writer hopefully wants to get the closest understanding of Madam Liang's character. It is possible to study her words, feeling, thought and actions by focusing our attention to the characterization of Madam Liang.

## **II. 1. 2. The Plot**

Brooks and Purses stated in their book entitled *An Approach to Literature* that plot stands for a natural development of a particular writer's interpretation of the action (Brooks and Purses, 1936; 12). Plot also consists of sequences of events which are interconnected in a cause and effect relationship. It means that there always be a change(s) in the story. The story goes from the beginning to the end consist of many changes.

The writer aims to see the dynamic aspect of the story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* by Pearl S. Buck. The main Attention is on the conflicts Madam Liang had. Madame Liang had

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of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* based on the true history of China.

The setting of place in the story also given an attention, since the story exists in such a different places, in China and in the United States of America. It is not doubtfully that the place can bring such a characteristic influence(s) to the people live in. Brooks and Purses noted that there is a transference of the sense of reality in scene to a sense of reality in the character (Brooks and Purses, 1963: 24)

## **II. 2. The Feminism Approach**

The spirit of feminism perceives women as in position of a social class, exploited by patriarchy (male domination upon female) at all levels (economics, political, ideological). The female characters are always the object of male gaze. This is the definition of feminism constructed by Raman Selden in his "Practicing Theory and Reading Literature, an Introduction" (Selden, 1989; 145). While Stevi Jackson wrote that feminism is a Marxism in the other field. The relationship between feminism and Marxism is that the two are theory concerned with a social class matters. Marxism is focusing on the relation between the proletariat and the haves, while feminism is focusing on viewing the relation between male and the female as well (Jackson, 1988; 13).

In the story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang*, Madame Liang is the oppressed character. She is facing a problem dealing with the order or rule of the government to call the daughters back to China. The government is represented by the characters of Minister Chao, Madame Liang's friend at college in Paris.

By using the feminism approach, we can study the struggle of Madame Liang, her conflicts against the government, the husband, and even the eldest daughter.

### **II. 3. The Confucius Philosophical Basis**

As stated in *The New Book Of Knowledge*, Confucius (an English writing for K'ung Fu-tzu) was the greatest wise man of China. Because of his wisdom, Confucius has followers even today. Confucianism is not a religion. It does not teach about God, Heaven, and live after death. It is a philosophy that teaches people a way to live on earth wisely (1987; 263). *The Encyclopedia of Americana* also states that he Confucius is revered among the Chinese as their Supreme Sage and Foremost Teacher. He is the greatest China's philosopher (1980; 540).

Pearl S. Buck described Madame Liang as one of loyal Confucius followers. Madame Liang keeps the handbook of Confucianism in her house and read the handbook to keep the

ideas of Confucianism in her mind. This philosophy keeps her wisely and calmly in the behavior.

By studying a little bit of Confucianism philosophical values, we will understand the thought of Madame Liang in her struggle against the problems she faced.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **ANALYSIS**