

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

The chapter of analysis is composed by doing research on the elements of fiction of the novel by **Pearl S. Buck** entitled *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang*. Since the major attention is a study of Madame Liang's character, the writer will try to connect the study of elements of fiction and the feminism approach. The writer hopefully wants to get a deeper understanding of Madame Liang's feeling, emotion and actions in the point of view of feminism's spirit. Furthermore, the chapter of analysis is discussing about some values of "Confucianism" hold by Madame Liang, which are contributing her daily activities with strength and wisdom.

In order of such considerations, the chapter of analysis in this thesis is going to be constructed by using a study of elements of fiction majoring or stressing on Madame Liang's character, supported by the study of the sequence of incidents exist in the story (plot), and the setting of the story which is bringing the story is more lively alike. From the plot of the story, we will reveal Madame Liang's conflicts and her actions in solving the problems

happened. While the setting is helping us to get closer to the story, so we are as the audiences, will be able to go into the story, since the setting of the story is using the time of a famous era of China's history and significant places.

It was stated at the title of the thesis and also at the previous chapter that this thesis is a study of feminism which is connecting to the character of Madame Liang, so the following parts of this chapter is a discussion of Madame Liang's character in the eye of feminism's world. This chapter is also including a short discussion of Madame Liang personalities in the Confucianism, which is, hold by Madame Liang as the wise guidance of her activities.

3.1. The Analysis of The Intrinsic Elements of Fiction.

3.1.1 The Plot

Plot is known as one of elements of fiction, which means a set of sequence of events, or incidents from which a story is constructed. By reading the story carefully, the readers will understand the story well. In the same direction, the readers are moving with the story from the beginning to the end. The sequence of events exist in the story is the plot itself.

To get a deeper understanding of the story, and before starting to discuss the character of Madame Liang, the writer will try to set the construction of the plot of the story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang*. The data of the plot is as follows:

After closing her restaurant, Madame Liang thought of many things (memories) while taking a bath in one night. She thought about her past time when she and her husband were joining Dr. Sun Yat Sen in their revolution, memorizing the failure of her marriage. At once Madame Liang agreed to built a marriage with Liang Cheng in such a modern way, different from their parents', until Liang Cheng was about to change.

Madame Liang also thought about her childhood, the happy childhood with her rich parents, about the suffer of her mother concerning that she was broken hearted for the husband, Madame Liang's father, always taking concubines. Realizing her mother felling, Madame Liang decided to built a modern marriage differ from her parents when the time is coming.

The cause of Madame Liang's broken marriage is that her husband was taking concubines, since Madame Liang could not bear any son(s). The marriage cannot be saved, Madame Liang decided to leave the husband, bring the little three daughters with, and settle a permanent life in Shanghai far away from her

husband. At Shanghai, Madame Liang run a high class restaurant to support her family.

Realizing that the daughter should be given a good education that can be used to serve the country in the future, she sent the three daughters to the United States to be educated. Madame Liang has a concern to give the daughter education for she knew that by maintaining a good education the daughter will be able to support their life in the future.

The conflicts begin when Minister Chao told her that she should (read : must) call her three daughters, especially Dr. Grace Liang back to China, to serve the new country. Realizing that the new regime is different from the previous, and since the new government of China is claiming that all American should be banished while her three daughters had been spent their education and time for many years in the U.S., Madame Liang can feel the danger of the government's invitation.

Madame Liang decided to give the daughters warning, that they would be live safely in the U.S. and not to move back to China. When Minister Chao let her knew that the courier was found died, she knew that she was about to challenge the power of the government. She knew that she has not enough power to fight the government's wills. At the miserable moment just like that,

Madame Liang get her spiritual healing by reading the book by Confucius.

Dr. Grace Liang, Madame Liang's eldest daughter, decided to move back to China for the government's invitation impressed her very much. In her opinion, Dr. Grace is going to serve the country with her medical knowledge just like her mother will. When she arrived in her mother home, Dr. Grace had some arguments to be discussed (read : debated) with her mother. As formerly person lived in the U.S. which is merely known as the land of democracy, Dr. Grace Liang had no opinion if there is a danger upon her existence in China. It is differ from Madame Liang that could feel the danger of the new regime (the Communist Party) for she was a republican.

Another fear comes, when Mercy Liang, the second daughter, also on her way back to China with her husband, Dr. John Sung. Dr. John Sung is a nuclear expert that badly needed by the government of China in order to complete a bio-chemical and nuclear weapon systems. The conflict is raising when Dr. John Sung is refusing to join the program of building the weapon systems for the system is going to be used as the weapon to attack the Americans and the U.S. the center of Capitalistic matters. As the punishment Dr. John Sung is sent to the hard labor system in rural farm field. Worried about the condition of her daughter's

family (Mercy's), Madame Liang maintained her self to ask for forgiveness upon her son in law. She dare to challenge the government will in order to make the daughter's life happy. The daughters are the only family members she had. And for the family also, she ask Minister Chao to release Dr. John Sung from hard labor system in the farm and in the mine.

After the death of Dr. John Sung in the nuclear blast test, Mercy Liang decided to set her run away to the U.S. She took her baby with her. Madame Liang agreed to the decision made by Mercy. Even though she will never be able to have opportunity to she her grand son, she feels happy for she believes that her Daughter and her grand son will be safe in the United States. She never sorry for her daughters considered as a traitor by the government.

The end of the story is marked with the sorrowful death of Madame Liang. Madame Liang is attacked by a crowded of Chinese youngster in front of her luxurious restaurant in Shanghai city. The crowd attacked her for she is concerned as capitalist person that should be banish just like the thought of the Chairman of China. In her funeral ceremony, many people saw that she died happily, there is a happy smile upon her lips. She is happy for she can fulfil the things that she considered as the right ones. She keeps her principles until her death.

That was the sequence of incidents of the story entitled *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* by Pearl S. Buck in a chronological order as the story goes from the beginning to the end. The most interesting point in the plot is the conflicts happened. From those existing conflicts, the story is built lively alike. The characters are brought to live by their reactions toward such conflicts. They are acting just like ordinary people at the real world.

Since the subject matter of the thesis is the character of Madame Liang, the writer is focusing his attention to conflicts she had. The most important conflict that contributes the description of Madame Liang's personalities is the conflicts she had toward the government and instantly the conflict she had with the new generation of China. Her idealistic thought is now to be called as a rebellious thought. Her education and experiences in her youngster including her Confucianism's life-guidance values are in the opposite way of the Chairman's thought. This basic differences lead to the existing problems along the story from the beginning until her sorrowful death.

3. 1. 2. The Character of Madame Liang

Character is the person, the actor on the story. He or she is the subject of actions or events in the story. At the previous chapter. The writer wrote that the subject matter of the thesis is not the three daughters, but the subject is merely Madame Liang, the mother character of the story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* by Pearl S. Buck.

By analyzing the character of Madame Liang, the writer will be easier to get an understanding of her way of thinking, her feeling, her life and her actions. The understanding of Madame Liang's character will be supported with feminism approach and study of Confucianism in the following parts of this chapter

Madame Liang here is a portrait of a Chinese woman who is trapped in such a political and economical turbulence situation in China's new-era. Madame Liang with her educated thought, keeps on thinking that her people, the new generation of China is about marching in the wrong direction from the idea which is hold by the former revolutionists. She also rather feels sorry that all this "ruins" was also caused by her action in her youngster by joining Dr. Sun Yat Sen's revolution in order to cut the domination of the emperor. Instead of her upset feeling, she keeps on her proudness of being Chinese, she loves her country. The ironic is that her

death is caused by a crowd of young Chinese who judged her as the bourgeoisie, the capitalist that is the public enemy of China's government at that time.

At her young-age, she her fiancé and hundreds of other Chinese people were Dr. Sun Yat Sen's followers. They succeeded in building new-era by abolishing the imperium of the old dynasty. And now, after time goes and changes, the new generation of Chinese is in the over joy of a new idealistic thought and unfortunately in the opposite side with her own idealistic thought.

The physical appearance of Madame Liang is portrait as a woman in her fifty-four years and still looks beautiful for a woman in that age.

She has a slim and cream-pale body, fine-boned frame, small round breasts and an exquisite delicacy of the nape. In her age, she still has long and still-black hair. Madame Liang always scents her body with gardenia oil through years, thus her skin had absorbed the fragrance of the oil. (p. 10)

She also a very rich woman and known as a very generous lady in Shanghai. She is a rich woman since her father was a very rich noble man and holds a very wide range farm and her husband was a governor in one rural province in China.

Now, Madame Liang is running a luxury restaurant in Shanghai, serving her rich and loyal customers with traditional delicacies such as the tender-fleshed river fish, the specially fed Peking duck, the Chin Kiang ham, the millet soup of the North and the steamed breads stuffed with spiced pork or with dark sugar. She is alone in Shanghai and only accompanied by her loyal servants. She also kept a large amount of gold as the secret deposit in her house.

She herself hoarded gold, not trusting the new times.

Her stewards had orders to bring her gold in secret, gold jewelry from ladies once rich in such things, small gold images from temple and former priests and nuns.

This hoard she kept in a secret chest built in the wall of her bedroom (p. 17)

By running a luxury restaurant, Madame Liang has two ultimate profits. The first profit is the money she got from her customers; her restaurant provides a large amount of money, which she keeps in an American and Switzerland bank. The following benefit is that most of her customers are many of high-rank officers and also some ministers of the government. She serves her consumers in a best way, so she can keep the customers' loyalty to her restaurant. This condition makes her life and her restaurant stays safe. This two benefits, economical and

political protection, makes Madame Liang is able to ease pains in her lonely world.

Her educated mind pursuits Madame Liang to sent her three daughters, Grace, Mercy, and Joyce, to be educated at the United States.

I sent you three abroad with a purpose, I saw our doors closing to the outer world. I saw the old haughty pride of my people reviving and I sent you out, knowing that when you would bring the life of the world with you. Into this stale atmosphere you will bring freshness, a different point of view, a new spirit
(p. 73)

In the U.S. they are under supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Brandon an American banker that formerly lived as Madame Liang neighbor in Shanghai before the hard time and rebelliousness danger made the Brandons left China. Madame Liang is sure that only with education, women are no longer in the place where men are the dominants. This is caused by the pain she had with the experience with her beloved husband. She decided to leave her husband and run her life independently in Shanghai because of her husband keeps on blaming her for she only gave daughters to him and not sons. When her husband, Liang Cheng, decided to take his concubine, who gave him a son, inside the house, Madame Liang

decided to leave her husband without a divorce statement. She can let her husband's habit in taking concubines.

As a Chinese woman, Madame Liang considered as a modern woman. She refused to share her life with her husband's concubines. She also never agreed to be blamed for she can bear a son.

"You have given me no son," he muttered.

" Can I make sons at will?" she had cried (p.13)

Her marriage to Liang Cheng brought only provided sadness for her husband keeps on demanding for son(s). Madame Liang will never forgive Cheng's hobby in taking concubines; thus she brought her marriage bed with her.

" I will not leave my marriage bed for him to sleep in with other women," she had said when she left him (p.12)

She remembers at her childhood, that her mother also sad and broken-hearted when her father takes concubines. She believes that women are always broken-hearted when her beloved husband keeps on taking concubines in front of her eyes, just like her mother.

"... For her father would not travel without his favorite concubines ... Her mother, his wife would not leave her home.

“The winds and waters of foreign places make me ill.”
She always explained, but Madame Liang knew, even when she was a girl, that her mother’s heart was broken because of the concubines. (p. 16)

Madame Liang’s childhood was a happy-years for her, since her father was a rich man in a rich city; he gives anything she wants including her interest need in having educated outside of China, in Paris. The city where she met Liang Cheng and other young-Chinese revolutionists before committing as Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s followers.

At once, the reason of sending her three daughters to America is merely to be educated, for the political situation of China is becoming dangerous, according to Madame Liang’s opinion, she feels that three daughters are now save from he war and revolution and also the troubles of the new-people. The mother’s natural instinct in protecting her children against harms and dangers are the dominant part of the story. Madame Liang rather feels that the daughters are in more save in the U.S. comparing if the daughters are living in China. Thus, she keeps on worrying about the daughters’ return. China is about to change and she is afraid that the change of her country into a new idealism will provide harm ness to the returning daughters from America. She can imagine that as ‘American formerly-persons’, her

daughters will have difficulties with the new-generations of China who are believing that all Americans are the real borjuistic and capitalistic minded persons, that must be bad and should be abolished.

One of Madame Liang's protection to her daughter is shown by the event that Madame Liang has to ask Minister Chao Chung to let Dr. John Sung, her son in-law, free from his hard labor punishment in the farm and mine and live together with his family again.

Even though Madame Liang had done some actions which are confronting the government and the society of China in order to keeps her daughters in save condition, she also realized that it was a confrontation, a war between she and her family against a new government that is powerful and able to do anything to get the aims. It was a conflict of somebody against the ruler, the owner of the country, the country which she loves so much. Madame Liang is holding her idealism and proud of her actions she had done, furthermore she is always proud of being Chinese woman.

The writer will determine Madame Liang's character as a rich, educated woman, also strong and even charming personalities, a good mother and also a very faithful Chinese woman . The writer hopes that this study of character of Madame Liang will open our eyes into a fresh and new

understanding of firstly, Madame Liang's character as the discussion object of the thesis and secondly the understanding of women's development in all matters in this world.

3.1.3. The Setting

The setting of the novel is the background against which the characters live out their lives in the story. It gives a great effect on the story toward the audiences. Setting can give influences upon personalities, actions and way of thinking of the characters. The audiences also can easily "touch" or get connected to the reality alike in the story by reading the story and pay a little bit more attention to the setting.

The setting of the story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* is stated at two different countries, China and the United States. China is the country where Madame Liang lives and America is the country where the daughters got their education before two of them were returning to China. The cities stated in the story are San Francisco, New York and a tropical jungle somewhere in the South of America. While in China, the cities often stated are Shanghai, Canton, Hong Kong, and the Capital City; Peking.

It seems that Pearl S. Buck, the author, gives attention to this story's setting or background based on the history of China itself. The setting of places only as the description in where the

events take places. It is only to make the difference that this event is happening in Shanghai, that that event takes places in art museum in New York. The writer believes that Pearl S. Buck is giving a stress in the setting of time. She wrote this story by using a basic element in the history of China. The most prominent point is that the story is built by the turbulence situation caused by the shift-changes of national ideology in China's governmental development. It is sated in the story, that there is many communes and the presence of the abolishment of personal possessives, and the name of the Chairman: Mao ze-Tung is often said by some characters in the story, thus, the story is taking the setting of time when China is ruled by the communist government.

The history of China's communism's raising era as stated at The Book of Knowledge started by the revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat Sen (1900 - 1912), to built a people government in China, to change the monarchy system into a democracy system. After the revolution, DR. Sun Yat Sen led China with his Nationalist Party (Kuomintang). At 1925 DR. Sun died and Kuomintang was led by the successor Chiang Kai-Sek. As the military man, Chiang Kai-Sek realized that the real enemy of his party and the whole China was the Communist whom DR. Sun had let into the Nationalist Party. The Communist was also working to take over the country too. Realizing this fact, Chiang Kai-Sek as the leader of The

Nationalist, the owner of the country, expelled the Communist from the party. The civil war started. At once, the nationalists won victories over the communists but later the communists whom supported by the poor people controlled all of the mainland of China by 1949 and the nationalists was expelled and set a nationalist government in Taiwan.

That was the very short quotation of China's history that in a coincident with the story of The Three Daughters of Madame Liang. The story also contains some events that are related to the fact of China's history are listed in the following:

- The memories of Madame Liang and her husband when they met DR. Sun Yat Sen.

Madame Liang and her husband joined Dr. Sun's movement in Paris as a young college student. Both of them were very close to Dr. Sun. They tended to built a republic nation upon China by doing a rebellious movement against the monarch of China.

"What would I do without Liang !" Sun had said when later they announced their decision to marry.

"Carry on the revolution," he had commanded them." Whether I live or die, I depend upon you to carry on what I have begun."

He was dead by their wedding day, an old-fashioned wedding.... (p. 10 – 11)

- The hard labor system held by the communist.

Dr. John Sung was punished and sent to a hard labor punishment system in the farm and later in the mines in rural China. This is because of Dr. John Sung's refusal to maintain a nuclear and bio-chemical weapon system.

"You are condemned to hard labor on the land," the minister said. John Sung stirred in his seat. The wooden chair upon which he sat was suddenly intolerably hard. He cleared his throat. (p.158)

"You have not yet known hard labor! You will prepare to go to the mines." (p. 190)

Chao Chung could not but admire him. His eyes shone with unwilling amusement. "I am the eldest son," he said, "and it is I who send to you the mines." (p. 190)

- China's interfere Korean War.

Madame Liang still believes that Korean is a sub-culture people to the Chinese. The Chinese have to help their tribes' member in the Korean War.

Madame Liang was shocked. "We? an aggressor nation?"

“It was because of Korea, M-ma. We sent a volunteer army.” (p.60)

- China's first nuclear bomb detonating test.

China is one of the first country developing nuclear-technology in Asia. Dr. John Sung, Madame Liang's son in law, died in the first nuclear test.

Alas. That final second never came. Without warning, the huge object, trembling with impatient inner energy, burst of itself into a roar so mighty that the earth shook and the whole sky turned into flame. A rain of fire fell upon the desert for miles around, and in that deadly rain all perished. (p. 225)

After examining the similar parts of China's history and the story, the writer believes that Pearl S. Buck adopted some parts of China's history to be the background of her *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang*.

Since, the story never mentioned the exact setting of time precisely, the writer's research in the library proved that the story is happening around 1949 until 1964. The Book of Knowledge stated, in p. 269, some important dates as follows:

- 1937 The Kuomintang led the country.
- 1949 The Civil war
- 1949 Communist gained control of Mainland China.
Nationalists establish themselves in Taiwan.
- 1950 People's Republic enters Korean War.
- 1964 People's Republic detonates nuclear bomb

And now, after connecting the reality in the history of China and the events in the story, it is reasonable for Madame Liang to feel worry or threatened for the ruling party at that time was in the opposite direction of hers. It is reasonable that in every condition, being the enemy of the state is very dangerous condition. For China with it's Communism, they have to abolished any kind of materialism and capitalistic matters. While Madame Liang as a rich republican and also a follower of Confucius, she is merely the enemy of the Communist. It means that Madame Liang is about to fight the government for she is DR. Sun Yat Sen's loyal follower. She never agreed to the new government of China, she thought that the new regime is about to rock the harmony by abolishing social class. The concept of abolishing social classes is the core of Marxism and the Communism as well.

“We are ruled now by the children of peasants. Heaven and earth are upside down. Those who were high are made low – or are dead. Those who were low are raised up and they rule. ... (p. 27)

The setting of the story gives the audience a broad description about Madame Liang's condition in such a difficult position. It needs courage, spirit and patience to live in such a political turbulence in which she herself as the lower-class citizen who had a different point of view toward government's wisdom. The setting here help us, the audiences, to feel the atmosphere exists in the story.

Pearl S. Buck also depicting Madame Liang as a woman that is considered as a woman character equipped with a higher education level. Her education in Paris when she was young gave her a consciousness about the important of her daughters' education and their future. Madame Liang also has awareness concerning her modern marriage, when her husband started to ignore their agreement about their marriage, she knew that it was the end of the marriage.

The American typical also showed on Dr. Grace Liang's character. She is a young Chinese woman doctor who is energetic, independent, and fully spirited to serve the new country. The

decision to serve the country, made her has a little bit 'war' against her mother who always want Dr. Grace Liang and her two sisters to go on their lives in the United States. This difference point of view between mother and daughters or between parents and children is considered as aspect of democracy. The daughters, in this case Dr. Grace Liang, has been maintained the value of democracy which she learned , may be unconsciously, during her education in the U.S.

3. 2. The Spirit of Feminism of Madame Liang

This part of the analysis is going to explore more about Madame Liang through feminists' view, instantly this part is the feminism's approach to know more about Madame Liang. Joanna Kerr wrote on *Ours by Right* :

'Women's rights are human rights' is a proclamation for justice. Women have the right to food, shelter, property, reproductive choice, social security, health-care, and employment. Women have the right to political and religious freedom of expression, freedom from torture or slavery, access to education, and the civil privileges of citizens. Women have the right to a live hood free from all forms of violence. (Kerr, 1993; 3).

As a feminist Joanna Kerr believes that aspects mentioned above are women's privilege rights and instantly human's inherent rights. Women have to realize that they have rights to live safely and in "patriarchy" world. In the same direction, humans that are not female also have to realize this reality. To understand the fact clearly, is a starting step to help the world in reducing women's oppressions that still exist to this

The writer puts the world patriarchy in quotation marks is caused by the reality that patriarchal system is adopted by many countries, tribes and societies existing in this world. What is patriarchy or patriarchal system? Heidi Hartmann wrote in Women's Studies, A Reader under the heading of the unhappy marriage of Marxism and Feminism that is quoted as below:

We define patriarchy as a set of social relation which has a material base and in which there are hierarchical relations between men and solidarity among them which enable them in turn to dominate women. (Hartmann, 1993: p.14)

The major point of patriarchal system is that there is a hierarchical slope or a distance in the position among men and women, where the male is in the prior position than the opposite sex. The most significant evident shows that the patriarchy system exists in a particular society is that there is always a son-preference

phenomenon. Based on the definition above, the writer assumes that Chinese or extremely China has adopted the patriarchal system in their social set of norms (at least, it happened in Chinese society where Madame Liang lives). Pearl S. Buck has portrayed the phenomenon, which is believed as the portrait of reality. The story of *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* mentions some aspects that can be used as indicators to show the readers that China and the society are adopting the patriarchal system in their life.

Madame Liang is a model of Chinese woman to break the male-oppression dealing with polygamous marriage. She never wanted to live with her husband's concubines.

"We agreed, you and I, that our marriage would not be like that of our parents. I said that I would never live as my mother lived, my father taking one concubine after another. (p. 13).

She doesn't want to feel broken hearted because of concubines. She already knew this "hurts" since in her teens for she learnt from her mother's condition.

"The winds and the waters of foreign places make me ill," she always explained, but Madame Liang knew, even when she was a girl, that her mother's heart was broken because of the concubines. It was only if a wife

did not love her husband that her heart did not break
when he brought concubines into the house. (p. 16)

When the husband started to take concubine(s), Madame Liang decided to leave her husband and take the three daughters with her. Madame Liang had already broken the system of the society by refusing to live in the same house with her husband's concubines. She decided to leave the husband, the house, and the sweet marriage's memories and started to run a self-independent life in Shanghai, far away from her husband. She fought the polygamy-marriage system and women's economic dependence on men.

The main reason of Madame Liang's leaving her husband is that she had 3 children who are not boys. In countries where a 'son-preference' system existed, it is common to have concubines or further more to have more wives just to have a son as the family preference. After her third daughter's birth, Madame Liang's husband, Cheng Liang, has no longer any patience in waiting for his son. The story goes on by the birth of Liang Cheng's son from one of his concubines. He decided to put the family name upon the newborn son. The higher place than Madame Liang's does.

Yes, It was the last quarrel, for the woman outside did indeed give him a son, and suddenly all Chinese, he brought her into his house

....She had never made another quarrel with Cheng, not even when she left him. (P.13)

It is such a controversial condition to Madame Liang. Before their wedding day, the couple had agreed to have a marriage that will not be the same with their parents'. Their Marriage is not an ancient or traditional one. They have planned the modern marriage supported with love and a very deep understanding. Unfortunately, Liang Cheng is about to change. His preference is to have a son, and one of his concubines is able to give him the "god's gift" he needed too much, so it just happened that way.

Being disappointed with her husband's change, Madame Liang decided to leave her husband, bring the three daughters with her and starting to run an independent live in Shanghai. The thing we should take a look at Madame Liang's decision to leave the husband is that she felt disappointed to Cheng's change. She loved Cheng very much but she also felt that Cheng does no longer love her with her three daughters out of the existing of the "god's gift". Another point that we should pay attention is Madame Liang's self-independent economically. It is impossible to run a family without any economical supports. Family needs money, in very short words. Madame Liang is a rich woman even before she married Liang Cheng. But Madame Liang decided to run her money by building and running a restaurant that is serving the high-class

citizens. She had chosen the creative decisions out of to save the money and let the money disappear in order to maintain the living. By running the restaurant, the luxurious one, Madame Liang provided herself with many benefits. The money is for sure, the social status, and also a social and safety protection from her ruling class loyal customer, those are advantages Madame Liang can get from her activities in running the restaurant. This self-economical support is in the same way with the opinion stated by Heidi Hartmann in *Women's Studies, A Reader*:

The crucial elements of patriarchy as we currently experience them are: heterosexual marriage, female childrearing and housework, women's economic dependence on men.... (Hartmann, 1993; p. 14)

By running the restaurant, the family's expenditures problem are solved already. She can prove that she herself did not need to be broken hearted or suffer in a very long term of time to live with other women in the same house, sharing a man she loved with other women for she is still in the dominance of her husband and because she, now, can support herself economically.

Madame Liang also showed us that she was an open-minded character by letting her three daughters get the modern education. Not only in China, she sent the daughters to The United States to be educated. Firstly, the three daughters lived with the Brandons,

Madame Liang's best American friends, later the daughters already maintained their lives independently just like their mother.

Madame Liang's character was shaped and maintained since her childhood. She was raised in a very rich family where she was "the princess of the house". Her father loved her very much. He gave her anything she wanted. In such a traditional society, the father can be considered as a modern man. The father that never refused the requests of his daughter. He is a modern and open-minded character in such a way.

"What have I done, my child?" he asked her sadly.

"Did I bind your feet when you were small? Did I insist that you wed the son of my old friend, to whom you were betrothed as soon as you were born? Have I forbidden you to learn to read, although reading is useless for a woman? Have I not said that you need not marry the one I chose for you when you were a child? What now – what now?"

"Let me go to Paris," she had insisted (p. 14)

The father even gave her opportunity to be educated, a modern education for that time. The father has done those things, firstly to make the daughter happy. The love of her father has shaped Madame Liang's personality since her childhood.

The core of feminism itself is concerned with understanding fundamental inequalities between women and men and with analysis of male power over women (Jackson, 1988; p. 12). We are in equal position among sexes. The first step to get the meaning of the same bargaining position understanding among sexes are the education. Madame Liang had already begun the first step in her very young age. Her modern education enabled her to be more aware that she is somebody. Somebody that had desires and dreams to be reached and realized. That is why she had awareness to give her three daughters such a good and modern education as the means to reach their colorful futures.

“ I sent you three abroad with a purpose. I saw our doors closing to the outer world. I saw the old haughty pride of my people reviving and I sent you out, knowing that when you returned you would bring the life of the world with you. Into this stale atmosphere you will bring freshness, a different point of view, a new spirit (p. 73)

The words said by Madame Liang to her eldest daughter, Dr. Grace Liang, is implying that Madame Liang was also thinking about the country, the political matters. She believed that the three daughters would give useful things to build China to be the strong and modern country. By the years which are coming, Madame

Liang realized that China is about to change its political point of view by admitting the communism and starting to held the campaign against The United States of America, the center of capitalistic world. As a democratic and formerly revolutionist, also religious woman, Madame Liang felt that China is about to change into such a dangerous way. She believed that the policies of the new ruling class of China is about to rock the world's harmony and that action is about to bring the disaster to China. As a patriotic Chinese women, she decided to keep on silent and not to break the policies for she realized that it was the conflict between she herself against the owner of the country. She decided to obey the policies and kept on worrying about the three daughters. She felt that the daughters will not be suitable for the country. The country will bring harm to them. She loves the country just like her love to the daughters. Even though many rich people were about to move to Hong Kong, or other countries, Madame Liang decided to stay in China until her death. At the end of the story Madame Liang died in such a terrible way, she was beaten by some crowds of angry Chinese in front of her restaurant.

Her maternal instinct warned her to protect the daughters toward any harm and fear caused by the new-regime in China. She already tried lot of things she could do to pursuit the daughters to

stay still in the U.S. for she felt that the three daughters will be in save condition as long as they stay in the U.S.

“ Then you didn’t send us abroad to escape?” Grace said

“ No,” her mother replied (p. 73).

Finally the two daughters decided to return to China, Madame Liang did not feel any hurt feeling for the two daughters, Grace and Mercy, who did not obey her words. After all, Madame Liang tried to keep the daughters in save and happy condition. When her son in-law, Mercy’s husband, was sent to the farm and mines for hard-labor punishment, Madame Liang bravely asked the Minister Chao Chung to give Dr. John Sung governmental forgiveness, and she succeeds.

Other things we should respect Madame Liang’s character is that she never insisted to pursuit the daughters to obey her words. As a modern and educated woman, Madame Liang has put a democratic basic in setting the family and the lives of her three daughters. The daughters are free to decide any decisions to be chosen.

3.3. The Confucianism as Moral Basis of Madame Liang

One and the greatest wise man of China was Confucius or K'ung Fu-Tzu. Pearl S. Buck admitted that Confucius had influenced China in such a particular way by putting a faithful Confucius' follower character in her novel *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang*. The Chinese had retold the wisdom values of Confucius' thought from generation to generation for centuries. The fact is that Confucius lived between 551 - 479 BC and still the wise thought hold by many Chinese around the world until the present day. Madame Liang, the subject character of this thesis, is described as a loyal follower of Confucianism. She kept the lessons from *The Book of Changes* by Confucius and let herself to be guided by the belief of Confucianism as the guidance in her daily activities.

By the time communism gained control of China, Confucianism is becoming a forbidden lesson for Chinese to be educated. The only written guidance for citizens is the book written by the Chairman. Since Madame Liang was not a communist, she hide the book secretly, she only read the book of Confucianism when she faced the problems. To her, it is just like a spiritual healing in facing any kind of problem. She believed that by getting the deep understanding of Confucianism's values, the Chinese or

at least she herself were/was not walking in the opposite direction toward nature. Actually the values contained in Confucius' words is not a religion but it helps the people to find a way to live in this world in a good set of manners. *The New book of Knowledge* had stated as follows:

It does not teach about God, heaven and life after death. It is a philosophy that teaches people a way to live life on earth wisely. (1987; p. 460).

At nights before she got on to her bed, Madame Liang often took several times to read *The Book of Changes* to keep her awareness toward the problems of life she faced. Living in the country where we are the opposite members of the government give us a threaten feeling. Just like Madame Liang, she did not agree to the communist' propaganda, she was living in a place where there is no place to hide or run. But a Chinese-patriotic woman, she decided to stay in the mainland of China for she had a pride to be a Chinese.

But she would not hide. She had been reared to love her country and to be proud that she was Chinese. (p. 23).

Her decision to stay still in China was taken for she loved the country from the bottom of her heart. Accompanied by her treasures, she could easily escape and go out to other countries or

may be reunited with her three daughters in the United States and start a new life in the “best-friend’s” land, but she did not.

Hearing that the daughter was returning to China, Madame Liang felt that the danger was at her family surrounding. She had nothing to do for everything she did has already been known by the communist leaders. Actually, the government wanted the daughter’s skill in dealing with medicines and the son-in law for his nuclear knowledge. The government insisted to pursuit the daughters to return to China from the United States of America. Madame Liang’s effort in giving warning to Dr. Grace resulted in the murder of her messages courier. Realizing that she is about to face the ambition of the government, it was the conflict between she and the country. It seemed impossible for her to win the war and sending her daughter back to the States. The problem threatened her very much. Under the condition like that, Madame Liang used the guidance from Confucius to help her action in reacting the problem she faced.

Forward and backward, abyss on abyss.

In danger like this, pause at first and wait.

Otherwise you will fall into a pit in the abyss

Do not act (p. 89).

According to the guidance, Madame Liang has to give no reaction.

By giving no reaction, the government thought that Madame Liang

was happy and pleased to be the woman who served the country by calling the daughters-the potential young generations-that deeply needed by the country. Madame Liang was correct by doing the guidance taken from the book containing Confucianism values.

Being the opposite – member group(s) of the government of the state is a condition considered as a dangerous one. Madame Liang had to realize whether the manners she conducted right or wrong. Under such a bad situation the desire of Madame Liang is to live safely in Shanghai and also the safety of her daughters. For independent woman like Madame Liang, the writer believes that it was hard for Madame Liang to live in such of circumstances. So she keeps on holding the values of Confucius' thoughts as the guidance in running her life. The Confucius' thoughts have been her moral or philosophical basis for her life (read: her struggle) in the neighborhood which was full of Communists.

The writer notes that Madame Liang had quoted the poem of wisdom from The Book of Changes only for about three times, but the strong impression we get is that Madame Liang hold the guidance very tight and take the Confucianism as her way of life in her struggle against the dominant people in China's government. The writer believes that the Confucianism also takes parts in the development of the story, it was Madame Liang's belief. She will do actions considering the belief she holds. And, so the Confucianism

is taking part in the story of The Three Daughters of Madame Liang, instantly. It is true that Confucius is the great Chinese philosopher until the present times.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION