ABSTRACT

author. The novel narrated about twelve year old Chinese American boy searching of his cultural identity in American Chinatown. His problem is interested to know since we can analyze further the process of assimilation and acculturation which influence the main character's life in figuring out his real identity by knowing better about the meaning of his name and his historical family background. The theory of identity and cultural identity considered to be used in analyzing the problems. Barker's theory of identity giving attention to name seen as the social observation of the main character and Hall's theory of cultural identity related to the main character's position as part of society.

Through exploring and analyzing the problems, the writer can conclude that identity is not only about sameness and difference but also personal and social life, which can differentiate the main character from others. The transformation process of cultural identity gives a good impact through the depiction of the main character's changing behavior.

The study discovers that the main characters identity and cultural identity are the result of the long journey of acculturation of his ancestry. Moreover, they are unstable dependent on the time, place and function which are still in process and never complete.

Keywords: Cultural identity, Identity, Assimilation, Acculturation,

Transformation