

ABSTRACT

Throwaway Daughter is a story which tells about the searching of ethnic minority identity. As what the title implies, the story is about a girl who was abandoned and neglected by her parents in China. Dong-mei Margaret Parker is the throwaway girl who was then adopted by a Canadian family. Along with her physical development, she realizes that she was different from her White family. Ironically, she rejects her Chinese identity which is attributed to her. Dong-mei thinks that she is an unwanted daughter of her biological Chinese parents who had thrown her away to the orphanage because they disliked her. However, her opinion turns to be a curiosity after she learns much about China and its culture. She is eager to know more about her origin and especially about her biological parents. Her process from rejecting until successfully dealing with her Chinese identity and biological parents is the interesting topic to be analyzed. Nevertheless, the effort in gaining decent interpretation may not be realized unless it is supported by appropriate approaches and theories.

In analyzing the acceptance process dealing with Dong--mei's Chinese identity, the writer is going to apply descriptive analysis method. The writer applies intrinsic approach to analyze the characters. In order to ascertain Dong-mei's acceptance process, the writer elaborates the intrinsic approach with Janet Helms' Ethnic Minority Identity theory to analyze the character's behaviors, actions, and speeches. The writer also uses Joan D. Ramos's Transracial Adoption

theory. The related theories are added in purpose of providing valuable information upon the points to be analyzed.

As the final outcome, the writer discovers that Dong-mei has accepted her Chinese identity and especially her biological parents after her courageous decision to go to China. However, she realizes that although she was physically a Chinese but she cannot return to live in China. Her daily behaviors, way of life and point of views are completely Canadian. At least, she has discovered her biological family and realized the reason why she was thrown away. While, she decides to go back to Canada to live with her adoptive family, Dong-mei believes that the hero of her life is Chun-mei, her biological mother.