

**THE PORTRAYAL OF CULTURE CLASH BETWEEN LINDO JONG AND  
WAVERLY JONG IN “THE JOY LUCK CLUB” NOVEL**

**<sup>1</sup>Rika Nurviani\***

English Literature, Faculty of Language and Communication Science, Sultan Agung Islamic  
University

\*Corresponding Author:  
[rikanrv@gmail.com](mailto:rikanrv@gmail.com)

*Abstract*

In 1949, the mass diaspora happened in China made a lot of Chinese people move from their country and seek for new place to start a life. America which is well known for one of the most multicultural countries, adopted as destination by a lot of people due to its diverse ethnic. To those who strictly hold tradition and culture will be in difficulty to live side by side since both countries have significantly cultural difference. Thus, the culture clash or cultural difference of the two countries become starting point in this final project.

This final project used descriptive-qualitative method by emphasizing interpretation, description, and exemplification comprehensively based on primary and secondary data. The primary data in this research is from Amy Tan’s novel “*The Joy Luck Club*”, whereas the secondary one taken from internet is article and online journal.

There are two findings found in this final project. Firstly, it genuinely appears how Lindo strongly holds the-so-called *Feng Shui* to her first wedding and how her cultural mindset influences her to judge someone else and it is show how Waverly is no longer hold her Chinese culture as she chose to grown up to be an American that full of freedom. Secondly, the culture clash happens to Lindo and Waverly who have a dinner for Waverly and Rich wedding.

As the result, in this final project shows that cross cultural understanding is highly needed in order to prevent culture clash. The culture clash will be easily solved through understanding of culture, historical background, and ways of communication. In this way, everyone coexists in a good harmony by keeping Chinese cultural tradition along with openly accept American modern values as the second homeland.

**Keywords:** Culture, Culture Clash, The Joy Luck Club, Chinese, America.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In our daily life, people actually have gone through a lot of incident whether it is good or bad. However, they hardly draw the conclusion of the incident they have been through. People might fail to reach something they have been expecting so long, although the thing they desire is well-planned, yet the result is not like what they expect before. The point is that every time people are facing a problem, should really pay attention and take the message of it.

There will always be sort of a lesson in every single difficulty. Not only shall they find in their daily lives, but people could also find it while reading literary works, watching movies and suchlike. Reading novel as a literary work has an interesting adventure in which an extra attention is needed to figure it out. Furthermore, "in the era of interdisciplinary, nothing is healthier than trying to see the literature's verballity from the perspective of reading a novel from the perspective of literature" (Brito 131).

Novel also can be as mirror to see what is social situation happened at the moment or it can be expected a story to be real in society and be analyzed to know more about what kind of particular cases exist in society as described in the literary work itself. Nineteenth century will be the setting of this study written as a time background of the story from "*The Joy Luck Club*" novel. Because of Chinese and Japan occupation that time, people had to leave their country. Chinese civil war was emerged and it was a fight between the communist and the nationalist parties. When America joined the world war II, they separated their power to made that chaos and political disorder caused Chinese people to Emigrate (Foster 18). It makes people easy to move from one area to the other area as an immigrant to fulfill their needs to live. This moving can create cultural clashes because the process always affects an immigrant-receiving society. It refers to both those who migrate and to the society to which the migration takes place.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research is a qualitative research. It is a method of study which involved interpreting no numerical data.

To analyse a literary work in a proper procedure is by using a particular literary approach. The suitable approach in analysing the novel is objective approach base on the author's experience as Chinese American. According to Abrams, "This kind of approach views that the literary work is an independent unique unity separated from intrinsic elements".

In this case, this study uses qualitative method because the data are in form of utterances, dialogue used among character, words, phrases, and also sentences. The use of qualitative method is to analyze the struggles of Waverly and Lindo as the two main characters in the Culture Clash between American and Chinese values as reflected in "*The Joy Luck Club*" novel.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This section is presented to discuss about what I found. In "*The Joy Luck Club*", Lindo Jong is a Chinese mother who has an American raised daughter named Waverly Jong who lives in America with a lot of differences which later they find in hard to understand each others. Their conflict caused them to clash. Lindo is someone who still hold tight her Chinese culture along with her even though she left China for a long time

a go when there was a China mass migration and her daughter, Waverly Jong is someone who is influenced by two Cultures—American and Chinese—as time flies she is grown up as a Chinese face but the way she lives her life with American Cultures.

Chinese Cultures and American Cultures values are two different things because they come from a different country. Meanwhile, Lindo and Waverly are influenced by different cultures because their backgrounds are different as well as their way of communication. Lindo, as a mother she wants her daughter to blending in to both Chinese and American but at the end it is impossible for Waverly because most of the time she is under American circumstances. In result the way they express their self are totally different, Lindo as the indirect communicator finds it impossible to say what she actually wants to say, it happens when she is actually wanted to say that she is proud with her food by saying that her food is too terrible to be eaten and is responded by Rich as the direct communicator that happens to be in the dinner table with Lindo by pouring a spoon of salt on Lindo's cooking which he has no idea that is wrong act because Waverly does not give him any warning how is she supposed to say or act around her parents.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the novel, their disagreement of each others' cultures, values and practices lead them to face cultures conflict. Their cultures and values are pretty much influence them in their daily life which makes it even harder for both Lindo and Waverly to get along because Lindo as the mother wants her daughter to keep up with Chinese cultures they chose to always debate instead of adjusting their differences from the begining of the story until the end.

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