

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter covers the research methodology that is used in the study. It consists of Research Design, Research Questions, Data Collection and Data Analysis, Data Presentation. This chapter also provides a Summary of the Memoir.

3.1 Research Design

The data used in this study is a memoir; hence, this study is considered as a textual analysis study. According to Byrne (2001), textual analysis can be defined as the method that emphasizes significant influences on qualitative interpretation, which reveals hidden meanings, and it is used to gain an understanding of human nature. Given (2008) states that literature is a source of sensory details, figurative language, and experiences with human consciousness. The figurative language used shows deeper meaning of the words, and it can affect a particular context in the story. This study analyzed a memoir, which is a form of literary works. A memoir also has its relation with emphasizing significant influences on qualitative interpretation to reveal meanings. The interpretation itself, in this case, was obtained through the interaction between the characters that later produces a pattern. The pattern is used to analyze the literary works and provided a better understanding of what truly is the intention of the writer and what happens in the story.

3.2 Research Question

This research strives to answer the following question:

1. How are the types of power relations exercised by the characters in the story?

3.3. Data Collection and Data Analysis

The data analyzed in this study were in the form of a memoir. The memoir was written by Susan Blumberg-Kason entitled *Good Chinese Wife* that was published in 2014. The data analysis was conducted to see the way power is exercised through

this consideration: the characters that exercise power and the characters that become the subject of power. The data were analyzed using Raven's theory of the bases of power. There are six bases of power, which are informational, reward, coercion, legitimate, expertise, and referent power. However, only three types of power were visible in this study, which are Expert, Referent, and Coercive Power. The appearances of each type of power exercised by the characters in the memoir were analyzed. In analyzing the data, there were some procedures and techniques used, which are:

1. Close-read on each chapter of the memoir to investigate and highlight possible textual evidence which produces a pattern. The pattern, in this case, is in the form of conflict.
2. Identified and classified the conflicts that happened between the characters in the story into categories based on the source of the conflict itself. The sources are varied in terms of superiority, cultural differences, and sexual interaction. There are thirteen events of conflict in total.
3. Analyzed the thirteen events that signify the textual evidence for the exercise of power in accordance with Raven's bases of power. It is found that out of six bases, there are only three types visible, which are expert, referent, and coercive power.
4. Discussed the three types of power visible in relation to previous studies' findings especially about power and intercultural marriage.
5. Concluded and summarized the results.
6. Made suggestions for further research.

3.4. Data Presentation

The data were presented in the form of a table which consists of the way power exercised by the characters following the bases of power proposed by Raven (2008). This study only focused on three types of power, which are Expert Power, Referent Power, and Coercive Power, as they were the only visible types in the memoir. The tables were illustrated to give an idea of analyzing and studying the power implied in the memoir. The tables were divided based on the source of the conflict and types

of power. Each of the tables consisted of the events or contexts in which the power was exercised, the textual evidence from the memoir, and the analysis of the situation. Below are the illustrations of expert, referent, and coercive power.

Table 3.1. Exercise of Expert Power

No.	Events / Contexts	Evidences	Analysis
1.	Susan diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and tested for HIV/AIDS, but the results were negative. Cai was also tested for it but he claimed that his result was also negative. A few days later, after Cai returned from China, Cai and Susan went to a small bookstore. Cai found a Chinese-English Merck Manual that contains information about types of diseases and showed it to Susan.	“Come here,” he beckoned after several minutes. In his hands, he held a Chinese-English Merck Manual. Cai opened it to a page and thumbed down until he found what he was looking for. He pointed to the English and Chinese entry for chlamydia. “Is this what you had?” “No.” I gently took the book from him and flipped through the bulk of the STD section until I got to trichomoniasis. I placed my finger on the passage for trich, “This is it.” Cai slowly brought the book closer, my finger still in place, and read the Chinese. Then he started laughing. “This isn’t a sex disease. It’s called ‘women’s	Since Cai is Chinese, he adopts the Chinese way of thinking that STD is a women’s disease. By giving the disease that name, it seems that culturally, Chinese people blame only women. Again, Cai takes advantage of his knowledge about Chinese culture to accuse Susan about the disease. On the other hand, Susan neither blames nor confronts Cai even though she knows that in America, the disease does not only limited to women. Instead, she tries to find excuses by thinking about the possibility of her getting it from a towel or toilet seat.

disease' in China.” He chuckled, “All women get it.” I never heard anyone in the United States speak of a women’s disease apart from urinary tract infections. But even those weren’t limited to just women. Perhaps I really had caught it from towels or a toilet seat. If Cai seemed so adamant, I figured he knew something I didn’t. I was tested several times over the next two decades and the results were always negative. (Ch. 21, pg. 164-165)

3.2. Exercise of Referent Power

No.	Events / Contexts	Evidences	Analysis
1.	<p>Susan and Cai met his professors at Suzhou. They had dinner and lunch together, and both times, Professor Xiang offered Susan to drink beer with him because he thought that all foreigners like to drink. Susan refused because she thought it would become a habit if she complied to drink with him. Susan managed to end the meals without taking any drink. While Susan and Cai were strolling around the town after their shopping, Susan tried to talk to Cai about Professor Xiang and his persistence on having Susan to drink with him.</p>	<p>“I wish Professor Xiang wouldn’t pressure me to drink beer all the time. He keeps asking and it makes me uncomfortable.”</p> <p>Peering over Cai’s shoulder as we rode by colorful stands of red apples and green pears stacked into neat layers, I waited for him to offer to speak to Xiang. But when I looked back at him, I trembled. His eyes had turned fiery.</p> <p>“These are my old professors, Susan,” Cai snapped. “You have to respect them, and respect me. Who cares if you drink one glass of beer? It won’t kill you.” I noticed he failed to mention how he brushed people away when they offered him alcohol, but I kept my mouth shut. (Ch. 12, pg. 88)</p>	<p>Susan seeks Cai’s help to speak to Professor Xiang about the issue. However, Cai is not pleased with her request. He demands Susan to be respectful to him and his Professor by complying to Xiang’s request. Cai put aside Susan’s feelings towards the issue since he respects his professors more. Hence, Susan is forced to respect them too and just do what they say. She does not say anything after that because she does not want to cause any trouble or incident since this is not the first time they argue. She puts their relationship first over her feelings since she does not want them to fight and gets a cold shoulder from Cai again.</p>

3.3. Exercise of Coercive Power

No.	Events / Contexts	Evidences	Analysis
1.	Susan and Cai were at Hidden River, Cai parents' house, to introduce Susan to his family and talked about their marriage plan. At night, Cai snuck into Susan's room to have some intimate moments. Susan had warned him that his parents were sleeping next door, but Cai said that they would be quick and quiet. After having their moments, Cai went back to his room.	Just like in the dorms in Hong Kong, we slept in separate rooms at Cai's apartment, according to Chinese tradition. But that night, he snuck into my room after his parents fell asleep. "Your parents are next door," I cried. I didn't want them to think I was loose. "No problem," he whispered, climbing into bed with me. "They're asleep." "I know, but what if they wake up? And what about protection?" "We'll be quiet. And everything will be okay. I'll pull out early." (Ch. 7, pg. 50-51).	Despite her wariness, Cai touch Susan without her consent. She tries to stop Cai by voicing her unwillingness and hesitation, but Cai is very persistent. Cai ignores her opinion and the fact that his parents are next door, and they do not have any protection. Susan could not do anything because she thinks it is their only time to be able to do that because they live with a roommate back in Hong Kong. She also feels reassured by Cai's words. In the end, Susan lets Cai do what he wants.

The tables showed highlighted data obtained based on the source of the conflicts that occurred in the memoir. Each type of power mentioned in the tables above represent different sources of conflict; the expert power shows the conflict that is caused by cultural differences, the referent power shows conflict caused by

superiority, and the coercive power shows conflict caused by sexual interaction. However, each type of power can also represent other forms of conflict sources that would be further explained in the next chapter.

3.5. Summary of the Memoir

Good Chinese Wife is a memoir written by Susan Blumberg-Kason in 2014. The memoir revolved around the life of an American woman named Susan. Susan's love for Chinese culture made her study at The Chinese University of Hong Kong to pursue her master's degree. She also married a Chinese man named Cai Jun. Years after they married, Susan realized that the intercultural marriage was not like what she dreamt of. Their racial and cultural differences sparked many disagreements. She was disrespected as a woman, and Cai disregarded her American culture. Her opinion in their marriage life was not taken, even for deciding what was right for their baby boy. Cai always put himself first and thought no other belief or culture mattered except for his and his Chinese culture. He exerted his role as a husband to take the power of their marriage and controlled Susan's life to be a good Chinese woman and wife in spite of her nationality as an American.