

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This first chapter presents a background of the study, and a number of underlying reasons for conducting this study. This chapter also elaborates the research questions which guide the study. Following the research questions are aims of the study, and methodology. Finally, organization of the paper presents a general description of the contents of each chapter.

1.1 Background

People's character might be very influenced by their childhood experience. Children's hopes, joys might be in contrast with their parents. It is no wonder, because there is a barrier of time between parents and their children. They face different situations and conditions. Therefore, in one side, some parents might want their children to be what they want because of their love. On the other side, children might only have one hope that is they want to be just like them, to be as they are.

Often, parents give their children pressure to become an 'ideal' person in line with their hopes. It can make children feel uncomfortable and want to run away from the demand. Sometimes some children can adjust with the demand of their parents along their growth to be a mature person. However, there are also some children who are unable to be 'nice' children as their parents wish.

The story will be different if children live and grow in different circumstances from their original identity. The problem becomes more complicated and seems hard to solve. For example, if a family lives in a country that has different culture with theirs. It could impact on the children's character building.

In line with this, the study focuses on a short story entitled "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan which tells and conveys about the problem between a child and her parents in a cross-cultural setting. It tells about Jing-mei, an American-born Chinese girl. She has to follow cultural values that her mother teaches and at the same time is influenced by American culture in which she lives. This creates a conflict between them which also affects the girls' character building.

This conflict can be found in a literary works such as Novel and Short story. According to Kennedy (1976) Novel is a book length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life. While a short story according to Poe (Nurgiyantoro, 2002) is a story that can be read in one sitting, that is usually about a half to two hours long. In line with that, Menrath (2003) also states that short story is a short narrative form of fiction which describes a series of events within a certain time and place and can be read in a single sitting.

A story, besides giving us experience and knowledge, sometimes could change the way we think or judge something. Those things could come from the characters appeared in a story, the setting, or it could come from the way the

author writes the story. Similar to novel, short stories are also constructed from the intrinsic and the extrinsic elements.

Besides its extrinsic elements, a short story is constructed with several intrinsic elements that cannot be put aside in the process of analysis. There are six elements of a short story as Anderson et.al. (1993) define they are plot, character, setting, point of view, theme, and irony. In a detailed description, they describe that “plot” is the art of story telling, “character” reveals human nature, “Setting” is sense of place, “point of view” is who tells the story, “Theme” is what the story means, and “Irony” is twists and surprises in the stories.

From several elements above, this study focuses on character & characterization in a particular setting. This is because character and characterization is one means of conveying ideology in literary work.

As mentioned above, that character is one of the elements found in a short story besides plot, theme, and setting. Panuti-Sudjiman (1992:16) describes that character is imaginary person who experiences any events or treatments in the story. Hence, a character is a subject of the story who makes up the story events.

Kelly (1991 as cited in Gustianingsih: 2004), also describes that characterization is a method used by a writer to develop a character. The method includes (1) showing the character’s appearance, (2) displaying the character’s action, (3) revealing the character’s appearance, (4) letting the character speak, and (5) getting the reactions of others. Hence, characterization is the process by which a writer makes the character real to the reader.

By using characterization, the author can evoke the issue of inequalities or other problematic issues through the character. It can be in the form of the character's personality in handling the issue of inequalities or the psychological sides of the character. It is applicable to the purpose of the author when creating characters to represent a belief. Hence, we can conclude that through the character, the author might be able to represent his/ her ideology in his/ her literary works.

According to Mueller (2003), representation in story deals with multiple realms, such as space, time, needs, and feelings. Therefore, representation in short story can be defined as any image or statement which seems similar to any facts or realities. In line with that, this study analyzes how a character is built in Cross-culture settings in the short story.

Analyzing representation can also be supported by linguistic studies. This is because literature and linguistics have the same focus of study that is focusing in the meaning area. In literature, there is a concept of representation especially relating to cultural studies. Meanwhile in linguistics there is a concept of representations especially through one of system of language metafunctions that is ideational meaning. Transitivity is one of the elements in Ideational meaning. As stated by Halliday (1994), transitivity, in brief, views that the clause is considered as representation. In line with this Goatly says that the system is relevant to conceptualization, the representation of the world (2000 p.59).

Transitivity is realized through a set of process type consisting material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential process. Each process is

respectively describing process of doing (a real action), sensing (about feeling and thinking), being (together with existential process), behaving (encodes process in between material and mental) and saying (refers to speech) at last. Thus it can be used as a tool in analyzing the data of the present study.

Besides process, Transitivity also consists of participants and circumstances. The central in transitivity are the processes. Circumstance is another prominent experiential aspect in transitivity system. It also functions as participants who take the form of adverbial group and prepositional clauses. The types of circumstances are: extent (encodes duration and distance); cause; location (refers to time and space); matter; manner (has the meaning as means, quality and comparison); role; and accompaniment (explains reason, purpose and behalf).

As grammar can functionally reveal experiential meaning, transitivity is able to answer questions around the world of actions, participants and circumstances, which the present study, deals with. "By examining the transitivity patterns in text, we can explain how the field of the situation is constructed (Eggins 1994, p. 266).

Therefore, this study discusses about a character using Transitivity. It is to explore how main character is developed in the short story. Then, it is also to reveal the author intentions in developing the main character in relation to cross-cultural setting.

1.2 Reasons for choosing the Topic

Two Kinds, a short story by Amy Tan taken from her story compilation *The Joy Luck Club*, is a fictional short story that tells a young Chinese American

woman who lives in San Francisco with her immigrant parents. The story tells the trials and tribulations that a young girl and her mother experience. The girl feels that her mother pushes her too hard to become a child prodigy. She is an independently individual girl who was born between two cultures.

“Two Kinds” is a story that has a fascinating topic to comprehend and analyze. It is a kind of story that has many interesting aspects we can learn from, because the power of the story is full of things appropriate to read and to investigate furthermore. The story is based on the real life faced by Amy Tan when she was still a child. It can show us how a character can be built in two cultural settings.

Amy Tan was born in Oakland, California several years after her parents had left their native China to settle in the San Francisco Bay Area. She attended a number of U.S colleges, including San Jose State University, where she graduated with honors in 1972 and received an M.A. in 1973. After graduating she did freelance business writing for companies such as IBM and Pacific Bell. By 1985 she had decided to devote herself to the writing of fiction, and she launched her career in 1986 with the publication of her first short story, “*End Game*.” In 1989 her *The Joy Luck Club*, an interlinked collection of stories, was published and enjoyed forty weeks on the New York Times list of best-sellers.

1.3 Research Questions

The research is conducted to reveal the answers for the following questions:

1. How is Jing-Mei the main character developed in the short story “Two Kinds” by Amy Tan?

2. What is the author's intention in developing the main character in relation to cross-cultural settings?

1.4 The Aims of the Study

Based on the problems, the researcher defines the aims of the study. They are:

1. To investigate how the main character of Jing-Mei is developed in short story "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan
2. To reveal the author's intention in developing the main character in relation to cross-cultural setting

1.5 Scope of the Study

In analyzing the short story, the analysis of this short story element is limited only to main character of the story. Therefore, the character building in cross cultural setting can be acquired comprehensively.

This study uses an analysis of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the general framework to analyze any form and representation of critical ideology and dominant power in the text. Functional Grammar as a tool of analysis is used to analyze the representations and the hidden message from the various linguistic or grammatical features of the text especially in description level.

The text is taken from a short story by Amy Tan "Two Kinds". The study only analyzes the clauses about main character in the form of "I" or "me". The setting of the story is the United States of America, but actually this story involves two cultures, American and Chinese.

1.6 Research Method

The study is based on descriptive method of qualitative approach. Nazir (1983: 63) states that a descriptive method is a method used in the research of an object, a set of condition, a system of thought and an event which takes place at the present moment. Furthermore, descriptive method aims to describe or illustrate the facts, characteristics, and relationship of the researched elements systematically, factually and accurately.

The data analysis is based on CDA. This study applies Fairclough's theoretical framework (1989: 110-111) that prescribes several questions in analyzing the text to see the linguistic (grammatical) features to reveal the hidden meanings of the text that the author means.

Fairclough's method is based on three components. They are description, interpretation, and explanation. Description is the stage which is concerned with formal properties of the text. Interpretation discusses the relationship between productive and interpretative process, in other word, it means that the text (story) analysis is interpreted. Explanation process discusses the relationship between discursive and social practices in the story.

The tool of systemic functional grammar used is transitivity. Transitivity aims to see what process and participants in the story. Transitivity is used to see how the main character is building (represented) in two cultural setting.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

Chapter I: Introduction

It contains the background and the reasons why the researcher chooses the topic. It also contains the research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research method, data collection, data analysis and organization of the paper that the researcher wants to explore.

Chapter II: Theoretical Foundation

It contains the supporting theory of the research and other theories of this study from books, journals, articles, and other valid references.

Chapter III: Methodology

This chapter presents the research method that the researcher employs.

Chapter IV: Discussions

This chapter discusses the findings that are collected from the text.

Chapter V: Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter concludes the data that have been analyzed and gives some suggestions for the next research.

