

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The first chapter discusses the introduction which is divided into six points; they are the background of the study, the limitation of the study, the problem formulation, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study and the organization of the study.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Nowadays, many countries throughout the world that consist of the immigrants, one of them is America. According to Prasad, America consists of more than 46 million immigrants in 2008 (qtd. in Loktongbam 56). From the fact, America becomes one of many countries that attracts a bunch of the immigrants. There are many reasons why the most of the immigrants are interested and migrate to America as their direction. For instance, America offers the freedom for the immigrants. Besides, America's openness toward the diversities makes America becomes the great pluralism country over another. Furthermore, America appears such a hope land for the immigrants. As Rose states that most of the immigrants want to get a new better life and make their dreams come true in America (qtd. in Clift 246).

Diaspora is such a common phenomenon that currently occurs throughout the world. Diaspora is closely related to the term of migration. As it is known, the term of migration can be interpreted as the process of movement from one place to another place. Nowadays, diaspora occurs to every country throughout the world such as African diaspora in Caribbean, Armenian diaspora in Germany and Chinese diaspora in America. The term of diaspora actually begins with the migration of people from their homeland and continues by creating a small community that consists of the same backgrounds from their homeland (Ashcroft et al. 425).

Diaspora takes place in every country around the world such as diaspora in China. The Chinese people decided to migrate to another country because of many reasons. For instance, they want to get a new better life, to take advantages of the new job, to improve their proficiencies, to raise their social status or even to broaden their communities in another country (Fan 28). Besides, diaspora also happens because of the internal conflicts in the homeland that deal with the whole scopes such as in policies and authorities of the government, socio-cultural, religion as well as economic. In this case, the economic area is considered as a primary determinant in doing diaspora (DFID 1). As it is known, China is one of the most densely populated countries throughout the world, so the economic area plays role dominantly over another and also leads to the current of diaspora. Those reasons generate the Chinese people to leave their homeland and take the new opportunities in another country.

In order to survive in the host country, the immigrants must adapt to the diversities in the new circumstances including cultures, the ways of life, attitudes, values and local customs in which the process of adaptation as a mean to be welcomed by the host societies. Diaspora and the agent of diaspora or the immigrants have a mutual relationship. Both of them are such an integral unity that cannot be separated each other. In this case, the immigrants who get the diasporic conditions can be called as the diasporic experiences. As stated previously, diaspora is closely related to the term of migration that needs a long time, thus diaspora is not an easy process for the immigrants.

During the diasporic journey, the immigrants certainly experience a lot of conditions and cases as the effects of their journey. As the examples of the effects of diasporic journey, such as culture shock in the new circumstances, culture clash with the host communities, the sense of being exile, the loss of things that deal with the issue of identity and the sense of belonging to the homeland. Moreover, Rushdie argues that:

The effect of mass migrations has been the creation of radically new types of human being: people who root themselves in ideas rather than in places, in memories as much as in material things; people who have been obliged to define themselves- because they are so defined by others- by their otherness; people in whose deepest selves strange fusions occur, unprecedented unions between what they were and what they find themselves. (qtd. in Ang 5)

The above statement explains that the process of migration brings many effects for the immigrants; one of them is the process of fusion. In this case, the process of fusion can be described as the process of changing from the same old person to the new person. Most of the immigrants get confused to find out who they really are and where they come from (Ang 4). From the fact, it is highly problematical matter, whether they belong to their homeland and they are still the same old person though they settle in the new circumstance, or they belong to the host country and become the new person though they still get in touch with their collective memory in the homeland.

Dealing with the Chinese diaspora, though diaspora is not an easy journey, the first generation of Chinese people still has a duty to maintain and hold on to the Chinese traditions toward the next generation. David Leiwei Li says that though the first generation of Chinese immigrants settle in the new circumstances for a long time, most of them still keep in touch with their collective memories in the homeland (qtd. in Loktongbam 57). It evidently takes for example, the next generation must get acquainted and know about the ancestral heritage which is transferred by the first generation through the histories and folklore. The previous example describes that the first generation seems to be a teacher of the ancestral heritage to the next generation. As a result, by teaching the ancestral heritage, the children can gain the moral values from the stories. Besides, the children can respect to the ancestral heritage of their mother. In addition, one researcher emphasizes that it is not an easy process for the next generation to know and even accept the all things that deal with the ancestral heritage. Sometimes, the next

generation appears as the rebellious person if what they learn from the first generation is contrary to what are on their mind (qtd. in Loktongbam 57).

As explained previously, there are many examples as the effects of the diasporic journey, such as culture shock in the new circumstances, culture clash with the host communities, the sense of being exile, the loss of things that deal with the issue of identity, the sense of belonging to the homeland, etc. Those conditions are fairly experienced by the immigrants in facing the diversities in the new circumstances. From the fact, the effects of diaspora happened to the most of the immigrants throughout the world. Related to the effects of diaspora happened to the Chinese people, one of them is acculturation. Acculturation is one of the major issues in diaspora. Many researchers define acculturation as the process of adaptation to the new circumstances including the ways of life, attitudes, values, and cultural norms (qtd. in Alegria 996). In other word, acculturation can be defined as the process of copying the selected aspects of the new culture that are appropriate and acceptable to the culture of origin.

In addition, acculturation frequently occurs to the most of the immigrants during the diasporic journey. It takes place either individual or group level. There are many types of acculturation; one of them is selective acculturation. According to Portes and Rumbaut, selective acculturation can be interpreted when the parents and the children maintain the connection of the culture of origin and the host culture in the new circumstances (qtd. in Rogers-Sirin et al. 14). From the fact that the parents and the children learn the different cultural values and the children allow the retention of the parents' cultural heritage such as cultural values, norms

and traditions to be maintained in the new circumstances. In other word, the term of selective acculturation can be understood as the process of adapting and copying to the selected aspects of the host culture which are appropriate with the culture of origin. In consequence, the immigrants have to choose which one to acculturate or disregard to the aspects of the host culture (Alegria 998).

*The Joy Luck Club* novel was written by Amy Tan in 1989. The novel is divided into four major chapters in which two chapters mainly focus on the Chinese mothers' stories and two chapters focus on the American-born daughters' stories. Structurally, there are sixteen stories in the novel, but the novel provides a compilation of those sixteen stories that mainly highlights about the Chinese immigrant's families in America. Based on the novel, there are four characters that represent as the Chinese immigrants, one of them is Lindo. Lindo is portrayed as a Chinese immigrant. She is a mother who gets the diasporic experiences in facing the diversities in American circumstances. Being a Chinese immigrant in America, sometimes she feels confused and depression with the diversities in the host country, she also feels strange in the new circumstances and even she feels homesick to her homeland. Those examples are as the effects of the diasporic experiences. In consequence, Lindo must struggle to adapt to the host culture's aspects as her way to survive in the host country. Therefore, this study mainly focuses on how are the diasporic experiences happened to Lindo as a Chinese immigrant, what types of acculturation happened to Lindo as her way to survive in the host country and what is the result of acculturation happened to Lindo and Waverly reflected in the novel. By developing the previous explanation, this study

entitles “**The Diasporic Experiences Happened to the Character of Lindo and Waverly as a Chinese Immigrant’s Family Reflected in Amy Tan’s Novel *The Joy Luck Club*”.**

## **B. Problem Formulation**

Based on the above background, this study formulates the statement of the problems as follows:

1. How are the diasporic experiences happened to Lindo as a Chinese immigrant reflected in the novel?
2. What types of acculturation happened to Lindo as her way to survive in the host country?
3. What is the result of acculturation happened to Lindo and Waverly reflected in the novel?

## **C. Limitation of the Study**

As explained previously, diaspora is not an easy process for the immigrants because there are a lot of conditions and cases as the effects of the diasporic journey, such as: culture shock in the new circumstances, culture clash with the host communities, the sense of being exile, the loss of things that deal with the issue of identity, the sense of belonging to the homeland, etc. By developing the previous explanation, this study mainly focuses on how are the diasporic experiences happened to Lindo as a Chinese immigrant, what types of

acculturation happened to Lindo as her way to survive in the host country and what is the result of acculturation happened to Lindo and Waverly reflected in *The Joy Luck Club* novel. This study uses the prologues, monologues and dialogues as the data from the novel to make a much deeper analysis.

#### **D. Objectives of the Study**

As stated previously on the problem formulation, this study particularly highlights on the concept of diaspora and its effects happened to Lindo and Waverly as a Chinese immigrant's family. Therefore, this study is to find out:

1. To analyze the diasporic experiences happened to Lindo as a Chinese immigrant reflected in the novel.
2. To analyze the types of acculturation happened to the Lindo as her way to survive in the host country reflected in the novel.
3. To analyze the result of acculturation happened to Lindo and Waverly reflected in the novel.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

The result of this study is dedicated as these following benefits:

1. This study can be one of the references of literary works for the students of Sultan Agung Islamic University, especially the students of English Literature Study Program.



2. This study can enrich the deeper knowledge about the diaspora phenomenon and its effects that usually occur to the immigrant in the host country.
3. This study can give more information about cross-cultural understanding for the readers in learning different cultural orientation.

#### **F. Organization of the Study**

This final project is divided into five chapters. The first chapter discusses the introduction which consists of six parts; they are the background of the study, the problem formulation, the limitation of the study, the objectives of the study and the significance of the study as well as the organization of the study. The second chapter discusses the reviews of related literature which are divided into two sub-chapters; they are the synopsis of *The Joy Luck Club* novel and related literature. The third chapter discusses the research method which consists of the types of research, the data organizing and the analyzing the data. The fourth chapter discusses the findings and discussion of the data that solve the problem formulation. The fifth chapter discusses the conclusion and the suggestion.