

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents some aspects of this study; from background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study. This chapter explain those aspects one by one.

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

Nowadays, it is undeniably true that migration phenomenon happens in many countries, one of them is in America. These phenomenon become one of American history. There are many immigrants who are interested to live in America because America offers such a gold land. The immigrant can get freedom, better life and same equalities. The massive migration era started from seventeenth century until 21<sup>st</sup> century. Immigration phenomenon reached its peak when one million immigrants came in early 1900s until 21<sup>st</sup> century (Hirschman 2). Moreover, migration phenomenon gives some impacts for the country itself, for example in economic sector. As Azam and Gubert say that migration is the result of the impact of home communitie's welfare in the economy ways (qtd. in Ratha 2). From that statement, migration issues give an impact for the growth of country's economy.

United States of America consists of large migrant population. Based on the report of United Nations, United States of America is place to a fifth of the big migrant's population in the world (qtd. in Rumbaut 1). United States of America

is a place for immigrant who move from the old country to the new foreign country. Every immigrant left their old country with many reasons behind and they bring their hopes. The populations of immigrant make colonies in America. As Suinn notes Asian American immigrant group consists of 14.9 million people which occupies the third largest minority in the United States (qtd. in Xu 4). From the data shows that Asian American migrant is the one of big population who ever lived in the United States consisting of 14.9 million people. The immigrant not only bring their hopes, but also their own cultures. There are many ethnics such as Asian, White American, Black American, and others. Moreover, the author writes that in 2014, the total population of America was about 318.748 million while the population of Asian was about 17,083 (Colby 9). This data shows that America has large population includes Asian people consist of 17,083 individuals. It refers that America is a comfortable place to live for immigrant.

America shaped from many ethnics, cultures and religions, which exist and blend into one. That is why America known as great melting pot country. Annex notes that the last of American population censuses showed that American society consisted by white-Americans, African-Americans, American-Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian, Hispanics, Native Hawains and Pasific Islanders (qtd. in Bueno 1). Based on that report, it shows that America is one of multicultural country, which has many cultures inside. Bekker and Leidle define three point uses in the term of multiculturalism: 1. Description of cultural diversity in a society, 2. Ideology in the incorporation of ethnic diversity in the structure of society, 3. General policy (qtd. in Rodrigues 17). From that statement, the term of

multiculturalism relates with three important points, those are *diversity, incorporation and public policy*. Many of immigrants who live in the new country will experience the different situation and condition. Therefore, the immigrant will experience a culture shock, assimilation, acculturation and ethnocentrism. Those issues are the result of the existence of multiculturalism. One of negative attitudes as the consequences of the existence of multiculturalism is ethnocentrism. Hooghe stated that “ethnocentrism is a basic attitude expressing the belief that one’s own ethnic group or one’s own culture is superior to other ethnic groups or cultures, and that one’s cultural standards can be applied in a universal manner” (1). The immigrant has over proud feeling that their culture is better than others. They use one’s cultural standards to value another groups. Ethnocentrism is one of negative attitudes which see another culture based on their own culture. Brinkerhoff et. al defines ethnocentrism is the habit attitudes sees something from point of view of certain group (qtd.in Rafsandjani 20).

The existence of ethnocentrism issues happens all over the world because people always think, “I am the best” while other is bad. Because of that kind of thoughts, the ethnocentrism arises. From those assumptions, the ethnocentrism arises. People who have ethnocentrism called ethnocentric. The ethnocentric is difficult to accept another group’s values and cultures. The ethnocentrism problem can be found in immigrant family which holds bicultural values. It leads to an intergenerational conflict. Portes and Rumbaut state that “intergenerational cultural conflict has received increasing attention in the research conducted on immigrant families in the last decade” (qtd. in Wu 516). Based on that statement,

in the last decade's intergenerational conflict in immigrant family get more attention among researcher. As Lim stated that "intergenerational conflict is often defined as the frequency, the degree, and the problem/argument which experienced related parent-child relationships" (qtd. in Lai 1). Based on that statement, intergenerational conflict is an experience of parents-children conflict in their daily life.

The ethnocentrism attitude is one of cause of intergenerational conflict in immigrant family. In Uba state that "intergenerational conflict caused by difficulties to know the two cultures between themselves and their immigrant parents" (qtd. in Wu 517). The difficulties happened when both of them cannot understand cultures each other. Mother as first generation is the person who moved to the America and keeps their Chinese culture. Meanwhile, the daughter as second generation is a person who was born in the United States of America and became American. Second generations face serious problems related to different way of life, thinking, and behaviors with their parents. The lacks of misunderstanding between both of them influence their relationship. These differences make the daughter (second generation) become reluctant of their Chinese cultures. They do not understand each other and makes strains in mother-daughter relationship. Foner and Joanna reflects on strains in a mother-daughter relationship:

The typical strains between adolescents and parents in the United States are intensified in immigrant families owing to cultural differences between parents' home-country values, norms and

behavioral patterns and the mainstream American culture to which their U.S born and raised children are exposed and drawn. (547)

The example of typical strains is in dislocation of Asian parental in immigrant family, in this case is Chinese family. Mother and daughter have different cultures, Chinese mother and American daughter. Chinese mother educate and teach with Chinese parenting ways influenced by Confucianism and collectivism. Chinese mother's ethnocentrism think that Chinese parenting ways are better than American. Discipline and respect become major issues in Asian parenting. Chinese mother uses discipline and respect to be authoritarian and domineering. These attitudes happens because Chinese mother feels worried about the influenced of mainstream American culture, for example sexual relationship. Then, Espiritu state that "second-generation daughters often against their parents' surveillance, which places greater restrictions on them than on their brothers, who are usually allowed much more freedom" (qtd. in Foner and Joanna 547). Second generation daughter rebell parents' surveillance as a form of protest. Thus, the Chinese immigrant mother use her authoritarian to protect their daughter from negative effect of American cultures. According to Pan et. al notes "most of Chinese immigrant mothers do not allow that their daughter living together with their couple before marriage" (qtd. in Nimanussornkul 38)

American culture has characteristics such as freedom, individual life and hard work. Based on Mutjaba and Balboa believe that "in other side of more collectivistic, United States of America refers to ethnocentric, egoistic, materialistic, individualistic and task-oriented life styles" (qtd. in Mutjaba 2).

American culture has many values that are different from another country, but those characteristics build a conflict among parents and children that has different culture. Foner and Kasinitz state that “another source of conflict is parental pressure to marry within the ethnic group, which second generation young people may resent- and resist” (qtd. in Foner 547). Another conflict caused by the parents’ authoritarianism in choosing life partner for their daughter. Chinese mothers choose a man from the same ethnic to marry her daughter due to Chinese cultures. Instead, Western second generation choose the partner of life without their parents’ assistance, even though they need parent’s approval. In Western cultures, Lalonde and Giguere believe that marriage seen as the incorporation of two individuals (59). Otherwise, Western peoples see marriage as result of romantic feelings between two peoples that unite them.

The problem of intergenerational conflict portrayed in Amy Tan’s *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*, A daughter of Chinese immigrant named Ruth who grown up in America and adopted American values. She faces intergenerational conflict with her mother as the result of mother’s ethnocentrism attitude. LuLing teaches Ruth with Asian parenting ways influenced by Chinese cultures. For example, her mother teaches Ruth about Chinese cultures like speaking and writing in Chinese. LuLing uses her authoritarianism in choosing Ruth’s partner. LuLing thought that Chinese culture is better than American. Furthermore, Ruth felt depressed and reluctant being daughter of Chinese mother. She rebels her mother’s surveillance. In her adolescence, Ruth lives with Art, her boyfriend. Ruth’s attitudes make her mother disappointed. Many conflicts happen to Ruth and her mother that caused

by of their inability to understand the differences of their cultures. In the end of the story, they reconcile and try to understand their different cultures. LuLing finally understand about Ruth and her cultures while Ruth understand her mother's culture, Chinese.

There are some considerations why *The Bonesetter's Daughter* is interesting for this study. The first reason is the condition portrayed in Amy Tan's novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter* gives description about the life condition of Chinese immigrant family in America. Tan makes the story in her novel almost the same as her experience. She is the daughter of immigrant parents in America. They moved to America because the war in their country. She experiences intergenerational conflict faced by every person. The second reason is the moral value in the story of *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. This story teaches the readers what the readers should do if they live in different culture and how they should deal and respect other cultures. Therefore, based on the problems faced by LuLing and Ruth, the title of this study is *The Portrayal of Ethnocentrism and The Intergenerational Conflicts Happened to Chinese Immigrants of The Main Characters in Amy Tan's The Bonesetter's Daughter*.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

1. How is ethnocentrism portrayed in the novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*?
2. How is intergenerational conflict of the main character in the novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*?

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

Ethnocentrism and intergenerational conflict faced by the immigrants and their descendents in the new foreign country. This study focuses on ethnocentrism and intergenerational conflict faced by the main characters 'LuLing and Ruth' in *The Bonesetter's Daughter* novel who are tied in bicultural values.

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

Based on the study above, the final project focuses on the following objectives:

1. To describe ethnocentrism in the novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*
2. To describe intergenerational conflict of the main character in the novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*

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

The result of the study gives some benefits. First, the study is useful for students of Sultan Agung Islamic University, especially for the students of College of Language and Communication Science majoring in Literature, who are interested in analyzing ethnocentrism. Second, this study gives some good effects to the readers, to be more care to their own culture, and respect with others who have differences.



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

This study contains five chapters, including the bibliography. The first chapter contains of introduction, which divided into six parts; they are background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study. The second chapter contains of related literature which are divided into two subchapters: synopsis of *The Bonesetter's Daughter* and related literature. The third chapter contains of research methodology which consists of the type of research, the data organizing and the analyzing the data. The fourth chapter contains of the findings and discussion of the data that solve the problem formulation. The fifth chapter contains of the conclusion and the suggestions.