

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study which includes: background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Being known as one of big countries in Asia, China has a big amount of citizen, a very thick culture and a large innovation in products and technology. However, our knowledge about China today and what we see toward China today are not entirely the same as China many years ago. Since it is regarded as one of the powerful countries, China is not also spared from war, conflict and problem. People flustered, they might lose their home and wealth during the war or conflict, separated from their family, suffered and frightened. Those conditions make people think about a better condition, to be far from problems, safe and secure, which later urge them to leave their country, to move and build a new life in a new country.

Conflict, problem, or especially the war, makes people long for living in a peace and calm place with the freedom they want to reach for. The picture of country that free from war always passes in their mind. A kind of country like America which regarded as a country that 'free from war' and a country that offers freedom. For Chinese who are longing for a better living place, they are eager to move to America in order to do diaspora. Avtah Brah states that what it called as diaspora is when someone is settling down and putting his roots 'elsewhere' and is

not just doing a casual travel or a temporary sojourn (443). They, either go with their folks or by themselves, they just have the same intention to move to other countries to reach a better life.

The reason why people as Chinese do a diaspora can be based on many things. It can be war and conflict which become the main reason, as what has been experienced by Palestinians, or as African-Caribbeans, Asians, Cypriots or Irish who have been induced as part of global flows of labour so that they make a movement (Brah 444), otherwise, due to their own desire influenced by their individual reason. However, for any reasons behind why people do a movement or diaspora is that they have the same intention to build a better new life in the future host country.

Nevertheless, moving from their origin country to the new one and living their life there is not as easy as they thought before, especially for the first-generation. As Demetrios G. Papademetriou, Will Somerville and Madeleine Sumption state that, "First-generation immigrants are foreign-born persons who have immigrated to the host country and did not have that country's citizenship at birth." (3). Since the host country is a country which has cultural customs and habits, thus the diasporas may undergo some experiences dealing with that issues.

For the first, the diasporas may encounter the process of acculturation which based on Berry, LaFromboise, Coleman and Gerton, specifically, "acculturation refers to the manner in which individuals negotiate two or more cultures. It is assumed that one culture is dominant while the other culture is perceived to have

less cultural value” (qtd. in Yeh 35). Thus, in the host country the diasporas cope with both, their own culture they bring with and the new culture they just met with. There, the diasporas become a minority group who come into the dominant one where they have to choose either to adjust with it or else, to withdraw from it.

For some diasporas it may be easy for them to make a contact with new people in the new society, but there are also a lot of them who get stress to deal with a new circumstance where they later may experience acculturative stress or culture shock. According to Berry, culture shock is another term for acculturative stress (qtd. in Knite 17) where based on Kalervo Oberg, “Culture shock is precipitated by the anxiety that results from losing all our familiar signs and symbols of social intercourse” (142), when the familiar signs such as habits that common to do in everyday life, are removed. Later on, the diasporas may undergo another experience relates to the acculturation process such as assimilation, separation, integration or marginalization that belong to acculturation strategies, which then, it depends on the individual, for he or she, later, will experience which one of these processes.

Since every people is different and so is his or her experiences, it is probable that he or she may be get through the assimilation as Berry states that assimilation strategy is defined, “when individuals do not wish to maintain their cultural identity and seek daily interaction with other cultures”, or separation, “when individuals place a value on holding on to their original, and at the same time wish to avoid interaction with others”. Other than that, he or she may have integration “when there is an interest in both maintaining in one’s original culture and in daily interactions with other groups”, or, experiencing marginalization, “when there is

little possibility or interest in cultural maintenance, and little interest in having relations with others” (9). Thus, the acculturation strategies encountered by the diasporas are the processes that happen and become the part of diasporic experiences.

In doing diaspora and in going through the diasporic experiences, people are experiencing many processes in their life, whether easy or hard, in a brief or in a long period of time, in one or the whole aspect of their life. Change is a thing that possibly happen in the life of diasporas. Even less if it gives a big influence for them at a later time, then the diasporas are facing the impact of diaspora. As Robin Cohen assessed an Afghanistan's immigrant, he states that from the direct gaze of the man, it can be known that diaspora has both, physical and psychological impact (6).

The diasporic experiences encountered by the diasporas and the impact appeared after moving to the new country going through the process of diaspora are the same as what is depicted in *the Bonesetter's Daughter* novel by Amy Tan, when its Chinese woman character named LuLing does a movement or diaspora. Her country, China, which was in a state of war at that time, urged her to find a better place to live. Her acquaintanceship with American women in an orphanage where she was sent by her old family there, later gave her a notion of going to America. Moreover, her belief that America is the Christian heaven where her first husband who has died goes to, makes her eager to go and move there.

As a Chinese immigrant, she experiences the diasporic experiences started by the process of acculturation, and comes through the process of culture shock which continued by the process of separation. The life she is living through especially after her movement to America gives an impact to her, which is to her psychological aspect. The difficulties she was experienced during her movement to the host countries and during her living in the host countries that lead her to the anxiety, anger, or grief, later bring her to encounter the process of memory which according to Patrick H. Hutton, “Memory consists of two moments, repetition and recollection. Repetition involves the “presence of the past”, while recollection involves present representations of the past” (qtd. in Klein, 2000) where she often tells about her past in her origin country, about the cultures and about the things she used to do with her Precious Auntie.

Diaspora becomes an interesting issue to be investigated, especially about the diasporic experiences encountered by the diasporas and its impact toward the life of the diasporas. It becomes the topic in this discussion, since it shows about the possible diasporic experiences undergone by the diasporas that may be different between one another. Furthermore, it has impacts such as physical and psychological where psychology becomes the impact that is most often experienced by the diasporas. This study will analyze about the diasporic experiences that will be experienced by the diasporas such as Chinese, African, Palestinian, etc. in the host country like America, which are not the same in every individual, along with the impact of diaspora appeared within or after the diasporic experiences as portrayed in the character of LuLing in Amy Tan’s *the Bonesetter’s Daughter*.

B. Problem Formulation

The discussion of this study focuses on the following problems:

1. What the diasporic experiences are encountered by LuLing as the first-generation in Amy Tan's *the Bonesetter's Daughter*?
2. What is the impact of diaspora perceived by LuLing in Amy Tan's *the Bonesetter's Daughter*?

C. Limitation of the Study

By reviewing the Background of the Study, this study discusses about the diasporic experiences and the impact of diaspora experienced by LuLing as the first Chinese generation in novel *the Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan.

D. Objectives of the Study

From the Research Problem above, this study focuses on the following objectives:

1. To find out the diasporic experiences encountered by LuLing as the first-generation in Amy Tan's *the Bonesetter's Daughter*.
2. To know about the impact of diaspora perceived by LuLing in Amy Tan's *the Bonesetter's Daughter*.

E. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be useful in the following ways:

1. This study hopefully can help people who are learning about diaspora to know about the diasporic experiences encountered by the diasporas especially Chinese.
2. This study hopefully can help people who interested in diaspora to get on the impact of diaspora.
3. This study hopefully can help English students, particularly students of English Literature to apply the theory of diaspora in literary works.

F. Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter one provides introduction consists of: background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study. Chapter two provides reviews of related literature consists of: synopsis, diaspora which is divided into two sub-chapters of Chinese diaspora and Chinese's first-generation, diasporic experiences which is divided into three sub-chapters of acculturation, culture shock, and separation, and the impact of diaspora. Chapter three provides research method consists of: types of research, data organizing and analyzing the data. Data organizing is divided into two sub-chapters of data collecting method and types of the data where data collecting method consists of four stages of reading the novel, identifying the data, classifying the data, and reducing the data.

Chapter four provides findings and discussion consists of the process of diaspora, diasporic experiences and the impact of diaspora as reflected in the novel. The last chapter or chapter five provides conclusion and suggestion.