

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses 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

Migration phenomenon found in the history of the world nation. Migration defines as the movements of people over some distance at least one to another (Kok, 19). It also can be carried out by an individual or group of people who move out from their homeland and settle in other countries. For example, Africans, Palestinians, Indians, Chinese and others who decide to leave their homeland and then settle to live in a new country around the world.

America is one of the biggest countries that accept immigrants, and Chinese is one of the countries which migrate to America. This migration phenomenon encountered in the data, according to Poston and Wong journal around 2011 there were over 40.3 million Chinese residing in 148 countries of the world and in 2012 there were 2,163,000 Chinese immigrants living in the U.S. (349). In America, Chinese built colonies in regions called Chinatown. Chinese can develop adaptability in the biggest capital that allows people to survive anywhere for centuries. Interestingly, they continued to adjust their surroundings, they were still able to maintain their identity.

These people who are displaced from their native place through migration, immigration or exile called diaspora (Elmo Raj, 86). So, the term “diaspora” can refer to the immigrant who lives abroad. Many ethnic groups are part of the diaspora and one of the biggest immigrants living in the U.S. is Chinese. Diasporic phenomena face a fairly complex life when they leave their homeland and live abroad. They are required to adapt to the new life, new environment and at the same time reproduce the old values in overseas countries. The causes of people’s migration that experience diaspora according to Alfred in his journal are “in search of economic and educational opportunities, others are pushed from their homelands because of war or political and civil unrests” (90). In conclusion, the immigrants looking for better livelihoods are interested in continuing their education, economic prosperity or they were pushed to move beforehand due to conflict or problem that happened in their homeland.

According to Braziel and Mannur, Etymologically, the term “diaspora” comes from the Greek verb *diasperien*, which is a composite of *dia* meaning “across” and *sperien* meaning “to sow or scatter seeds” (Kafle, 137). The term diaspora was first associated with the history of the Jewish community living far away from the country. In its development, the term diaspora is not limited to certain people or certain communities spread throughout the world. Even so, according to Brubaker journal, the term diaspora now has a larger meaning not only Jewish, but also “includes words immigrant, expatriate, refugee, guest-worker, exile community, overseas community, and ethnic community” (3). However, the definition of diaspora and the formation change time by time. It is

not only understood as a Jewish community that is spread throughout the world and is not always associated with a journey that does not return to the homeland.

People who experience the phenomenon of diaspora will go through the acculturation process. John Kha Lee and Katherine Green define acculturation as "social interaction and communication response styles that when individuals interact with individuals and groups from other cultures" (2). An individual interaction process to another culture, to communicate or to adapt in a new culture is not as easy as they thought. They also have to cope with their own culture, even though a diaspora as the first generation which according to Demetrios et al is "foreign-born persons who have immigrated to the host country and not have that country's citizenship at birth" (3). Therefore, the first generation is an immigrant and permanent resident in a new country to adjust with a new culture. When someone just arrived in a completely different cultural environment, he will experience a phase where he feels awkward and confused in interacting or communicating with the surrounding environment. This situation is called acculturative stress or commonly named culture shock. It means that a person is unable to achieve successful adaptation during the process of acculturation, feels stress and subsequent adaptation problem (Yu and Wang, 192).

Furthermore, diasporas will also face acculturation strategies in which individuals will experience one or all of the four acculturation strategies described by Berry, namely "integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization" (Lee and Katherine, 2). Integration is when individuals have an interest in preserving their original culture while building interactions with other groups or host

cultures. In contrast, assimilation is that individuals try to adapt to new environments and have no interest in maintaining their original cultural identity. On the other hand, separation is the individual choice that wishes to maintain his original culture and avoid interaction with other groups or host cultures. The people who engage the process with separation strategies are having interaction only with the people with the same culture. Marginalization is an individual when they have little possibility or desire to maintain their original culture and when they have little desire to build relationships with others (Lee and Green, 2). The issue about the diasporic experience is interesting to discuss because many authors bring these issues into literary works, one of them is Pearl S. Buck. Thus, this research discusses the diasporic experience in one of Pearl S. Buck's works entitled *The Good Deed* as the processes of Mrs. Pan's character encountered the experience through factors, acculturation process, acculturative stress, and separation as the strategies. Moreover, memory as the impact of diasporic experience that consists of two, repetition and recollection.

An American legendary writer, Pearl S. Buck, is the author of over 100 works. One of the famous stories of Buck's is *The Good Deed*. This short story was first published in 1953. In *The Good Deed*, Buck introduces the readers to an elderly Chinese lady who clings to the Chinese tradition even though she lives far from her homeland. Here, she depicts the immigrants life in the main character, Mrs. Pan. Buck writes the story in a simple and fascinating way to talk about Chinese culture. She also chooses the details carefully. Buck presents the story objectively because of the presence of the author never introduces since she used a

third person point of view. The strength of the story lies in its characterization, particularly in the main character, Mrs. Pan. In the beginning of the story, she is drawn as a lonely old lady who moved from her homeland to New York, instantly feels physically and emotionally down. She feels isolated and unable to adjust to American culture. The experience of the immigrants' life as a native Chinese in America is very important to be discussed. Considering the issue of diaspora still becomes an important issue around the world. The life of an immigrant's between the memories of their homeland and day-to-day struggles in a new society. They face some challenges, from the language, meet with strangers and cope with an unfamiliar culture. However, the immigrants have an important role and make fundamental contributions in the development of the host culture in many aspects of the host cultures' life such as cultural, culinary, education and many others.

B. Problem Formulation

The discussion of this study focuses on the following problems:

1. What are diasporic experiences reflected in Mrs. Pan in *The Good Deed* short story?
2. How does the impact of diasporic experience portrayed in *The Good Deed* short story?

C. Limitation of the Study

This study discusses the experiences and impacts of diaspora that happen to Mrs. Pan as the main character and as the first generation of Chinese immigrants in *The Good Deed* short story.

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To find out Mrs. Pan's diasporic experience portrayed in *The Good Deed* short story.
2. To explain the impact of diaspora portrayed by Mrs. Pan in *The Good Deed* short story.

E. Significance of the Study

This study can give deep analysis about diaspora and its impact through the experience of Mrs. Pan in *The Good Deed* short story for literature students. This study also can be the reference for literature students who are interested in the issues of diaspora for the final project.

F. Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction that consists of the 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 is reviews of related literature that consist of synopsis

and discussion about diasporic experiences which is divided into culture shock, acculturation, separation and the impact of diaspora. The third chapter is research method that consists of type of research, data organizing and analyzing the data.

The fourth chapter is finding and discussion consists of diaspora, diasporic experiences and the impact of diaspora as portrayed in the short story. The last chapter or the fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.