

Tribhuvan University

Portrayal of Cultural Conflict in Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

Binod Nepal

University Campus

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September 2009

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Binod Nepal has completed his thesis entitled "Portrayal of Cultural Conflict in Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*" under my supervision. He carried out his research. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Mr. Maheshwor Paudel

Supervisor

Date: September 2009

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Portrayal of Cultural Conflict in Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*", submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Binod Nepal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I am immensely grateful to express my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to my thesis supervisor. Mr. Maheswor Paudel, lecturer of the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kiritpur for his scholarly guidance as well as genuine suggestions and encouragement for the completion of this dissertation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of the Central Department of English, TU, For his kindly and genuine help in carrying out this research. I am indebted to my respected teachers Mr. Jibnath Lamsal and Bal Bahadur Thapa for their wide-ranging knowledge, warm response and continuous inspirations.

Frequent encouragement and valuable suggestions provided by my friend Mr. Homnath Pokharel have added very significant role for the accomplishment of the dissertation. Words fail to convey the depth of gratitude to my friend Mr. Prem Pokharel and Shankar Dhungana for their continuous encouragement and cooperation in the course of writing this thesis.

I owe to my father, Mr. Rewati Raman Nepal and mother Mrs. Radha Nepal for their moral and economic support in the course of preparing this dissertation. I am also indebted to my brother Mr. Pramod Nepal and sister Miss Dibya Nepal for their continuous help and cooperation in the course of completing this thesis.

And, finally, I am highly obliged to the Resunga Computer Service for its technical supports.

Binod Nepal

September 2009

Abstract

The present research is a study on cultural misunderstanding and confusion between first generation American daughter Pearl and her immigrant Chinese mother Winnie. As products of different cultures and histories, mother and daughter abide by different cultural values and possess different modes of interpretation. Therefore cultural conflict exists by the interaction and the revelation of secrets between Chinese immigrant mother Winnie whose ways of thinking and doings are thoroughly Chinese in spite of her many years of American residency and her Americanized second generation daughter Pearl who has been cultivated with American ideals of freedom and democracy.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Amy Tan and Bi-Culturalism

Error! Bookmark not defined.

II. Culture, Identity and Cultural Conflict

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Culture as a Concept

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Cultural Pattern

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Cultural Changes in Spatial Environment

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Influence of Sibling Relationship in Culture

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Culture and Conflict

Error! Bookmark not defined.

III. Cultural Conflict in *The Kitchen God's Wife*

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Patriarchal Society: Responsible for Cultural Conflict**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

IV. Conclusion

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Works Cited

Error! Bookmark not defined.

