

An Analysis of the Mother-daughter Relationship in Joy Luck Club

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Abstract: Amy Tan is a remarkable Chinese American female writer. The Joy Luck Club is her famous work. Its publication has aroused the upsurge of Chinese American literature and made great contributions to the mainstream of Chinese American literature. In the Joy Luck Club, it mainly describes the process from conflict to reconciliation between mothers and daughters. How does the mother use the love story to let her daughter learn some essence of Chinese culture, and get strength from it to get out of the real dilemma. Thus, it points out that the integration of mother and daughter is a strategy that mother and daughter use love to overcome obstacles and readjust their cultural identity to survive harmoniously in American society.

The four mothers in this article are deeply affected by the Chinese traditional culture. They not only keep the traditional Chinese custom and culture in daily life, but also inherit the typical Chinese traditional virtues such as respecting the old, loving the young and filial piety to the old. On the contrary, the young generation was born and grew up in the open-minded and free land of the United States. When the two generations grew up in different cultural environments, and finally conflicts could not be avoided. It also shows that there are misunderstandings and contradictions between mother and daughter due to the differences of cultural class and race, but through the mother's self-report and deep love between them, the conflicts and misunderstandings are becoming resolved.

This paper tries to analyze the relationship between mother and daughter in the novel. Firstly, the author introduces the background of the author and the characters, then describes the evolution and development of the relationship, and specifically analyzes the reasons for the evolution of the mother daughter relationship. Finally, according to the reference of the mother daughter relationship described in the paper and the reflection on the development and evolution of the mother daughter relationship of today, the young generation expresses a yearning for a better mother daughter relationship.

Keywords: Mother-daughter Conflicts; Cultural Differences; the Root Cause

1. Evolution of the Mother-daughter Relationship

1.1 The Conflict

1.1.1 Suyuan and June

In the novel, Suyuan think that the united states has different development opportunities than other places, she put everything on her daughter. But June exquisitely aspires to a free lifestyle in the West, to be an ordinary person. Wu Suyuan imposes traditional ideas on equitiveness, but her daughter thinks that she is a mother's daughter, she is not her slave. This is different from China. She deserves democracy and equality, just like other white people. Then June resisted any hope that her mother had for her since she was young, and often let her mother down on her. In the end, her mother no longer strictly required her as she had before, and gave up her determination to cultivate her as a genius. She eventually disappointed her mother and failed to get her mother's approval, and she felt that she could not have enough courage to communicate openly with her mother, nor did she ask why she had such high expectations to her.

1.1.2 An Mei and Rose

Marriage issue is the main contradiction between An mei and Rose. Rose has always held an attitude of disagreement with his mother and Chinese culture. In her opinion, American culture is superior to other cultures. She felt that her mother was the representative of ignorance. When her daughter encounters a marriage crisis, she would prefer to consult a psychiatrist rather than her mother. The mother thinks that the psychiatrist will only make people get worse and confused. However, such things as seemingly small things in life, but cause some troubles between mother and daughter. The meekness in Rose's character was inherited by her mother. The character of this typical Chinese

girl almost made her the biggest victim of marriage, but fortunately she got more kindness and meekness compared with her mother. Rose married an American. She was always not confident when faced with her husband and could not look up like a person. She makes no decision about everything, and always let her husband decide on things that require an idea, because she thinks her decision is not better than her husband's. However, she began to think that she was avoiding the responsibility between them, so he even wanted to divorce. But her mother, An mei encouraged Rose: "Why can't you talk with your husband by yourself?" Rose listened to her mother's advice and communicated with her husband, which surprised her husband. Eventually saved her marriage.

1.2 The Integration

This kind of mother-daughter relationship that reflect in the Joy Luck Club is not always immutable. Although there are many contradictions and conflicts between the Chinese mother and the American daughter, as the daughters grow up, the mothers "are the help objects for the daughters when they encounter difficulties and setbacks", so they are finally understood and accepted by the daughters. The result of this reconciliation is the joint efforts of both mother and daughter. Mother gradually changed her way of education, stopped imposing her will on her daughter, and tried to integrate into American society. The daughters also gradually realized their mother's good intentions, the power of maternal love, and the fact that the mother's advice did solve the problem. So gradually they began to understand and accept their mother. The different cultures between the two countries finally merged in the reconciliation of the mother-daughter relationship.

2. Reasons for the Change in Mother-daughter Relationship

2.1 Generational Differences

In the Joy Luck Club, language is a very important factor in these conflicts. Mothers spend most of their time speaking Chinese with their daughters, who usually speak English and ignore their mothers. They often pretend not to hear what their mother is saying to them. The mother has also been reluctant to tell her daughter their secret and worry, and she only talk to her daughter after they practice oral English well. "She waited, year after year, until she could communicate with her daughter in perfect English," the article mentioned. Because mother can't speak English fluently, it's bound to be a barrier between them. In the perspective of mothers, the novel Joy Luck Club represents an effective way to realize their dreams. The purpose of this little party is to pursue happiness and communication. Most of the members of this congregation experienced the hegemony and domination of American culture. But at the party, they can speak Chinese at will, and it can increase their confidence to face the psychological pressure from their husbands and daughters.

In the United States, there is usually a certain distance between children and the family, especially when the children grow up, parents usually do not give more care to the children, hoping that their children can face the future life independently. And after they grow up, they create their own future through their own efforts instead of relying on their parents. Chinese families often have inferiority, which is very different from the equality and independence of American families. So the novel also reveals this emotion when describing the emotion of mother and daughter. It can be seen that there are different conflicts and reconciliation between different countries. Each country has its own way of survival and communication. There must be some conflicts between different education methods. To cater to the differences between them, we should learn to adapt. In the end, the daughters realized what they could not reach their mother for a long time. therefore. Not only did they find that they had become so similar to their mothers, but also how much they needed their mother's guidance. At last, After years of storms. They finally saw what was initiated between themselves and their mother.

2.2 Cultural Differences

China has a long history of cultural development, with a five-thousand-year-old cultural development that differs from other countries. However, American has only 200 years of history and culture, which leads to large differences between other countries. In our country, the emotion between mother and daughter is inborn, unlike American culture, Chinese-style maternal love cannot be replaced by some superficial things, and Chinese parents have a high degree of pampering their children, hoping that children will grow better under their own companionship. However, the United States promotes individual freedom and independent thinking, and children have cultivated independent and

independent behavior habits from the beginning. When they are about to become adults, they will live alone and start a new life. Therefore, after coming abroad, Chinese mothers do not know whether their education methods are correct. They have to accept a new cultural perspective, a culture that is very different from traditional Chinese culture. In the process of transitioning to another culture, it is difficult for them to adapt. Many times, daughters do not know how to face the secular perspectives of the outside world and often feel the emotional conflict with their mothers.

If you want to survive better abroad, you must understand the cultural customs of the country and the differences with the national culture, and you must adapt to the cultural trends of the country. The main purpose of the whole novel is to analyze two different cultural differences and call for the development of a way for their children to educate them instead of imposing their own wishes on the children. To better accustomed to this kind of life, mothers should begin to reconcile. That is to say, we should keep our own way of life and make some new in daily life. The educational value of the novel "The Joy Luck Club" is well educated at home and abroad. It is not only an analysis of the two cultural differences, but also reveals an ancient Chinese culture that is different from the development trend abroad. In the development of modernization today, it is gradually becoming more important to cultivate an independent personality. The story between the mother and her daughter is the main clue to the development of the novel. From the cultural differences embodied between people to the exposure of cultural differences between different countries, that is the reason why the novel is very popular with readers. When the daughters take the American spirit of independent will to pursue career and love marriage, but everywhere hit a wall. The harsh reality makes daughters start to reflect and gradually understand their mother.

In the end, the contradictions caused by the lack of communication have been reconciled, but they have deeply exposed the differences between Chinese and American culture. China advocates teamwork, while the United States advocates independence. Two cultures will always have one strong side, while the other will be weak. It is precisely because of this cultural strength that the mother-daughter relationship has led to the struggle. However, no matter how much the daughters have conflicts with their mothers, they will eventually return to their mothers and take nutrition from the mother with power towards the future.

3. Reflections on Mother-daughter Relationship

3.1 Comparison with Modern Mother-daughter Relationship

Mother's love for daughter in the novel is equivalent to contemporary mother's love for daughter. However, mothers in the Joy Luck Club are loving their daughters in the way of China. Their love for their daughter is certain, but their deep-rooted traditional education from China and feudal ideas hinder the distance to their daughter. However, they are also victims, have the same ideal to strictly educate their daughters. Hope to get rid of the unfortunate fate of the previous generation and live a better life that they want. The maternal love shown by their mothers to daughters is obviously Chinese way, and the way Chinese mothers show their mothers' love is not the same as American mothers. They often not express love in surface or verbal like American mothers, nor will they just say "I love you".

3.2 Mother-daughter Relationship of the Younger Generation

Mother is indeed the greatest person in the world who seems to be recognized. The younger mother-daughter relationship, such as the mother-daughter relationship of the post-90s generation, which has the mother's love for the daughters in the Joy Luck Club, though it seems that there are fewer conflicts with the mother. With the time goes by, the mother-daughter relationship of the younger generation has received higher education. Most parents will not force their children to do things they do not like. They will allow their children to develop more freely, but there are also a few mothers. Still subject to the traditional thinking of to be a talent, imposing her choice on the child. I believe that most young daughters will also have a discordant relationship with their mothers. Mothers always think that their approach is correct. They always think that their daughters have not grow up. They also think that their daughters do not understand a lot and need to be supervised. On the surface, there is a harmonious mother-daughter relationship, but I don't know how much dissatisfaction is hidden in the daughter. Because of the constraints of the mother, all dissatisfaction will be accumulated in the bottom of my heart, until one day all the dissatisfaction will be full and overflow.

From the novel, we can see that each woman's growth is not independent, affected by the surrounding environment, and most affected by their mother. In the Joy Luck Club, the growth of the daughters is guided by their mothers using their own growth experience to guide them on the right path. In the critical period of the girls' growth, the mother did not hesitate to share the hard life stories of her past with them. From this point of view, we can also see the relationship between Chinese mothers and daughters. This shows that although as an American Chinese female writer, the traditional way of expressing the love of children to children in traditional Chinese culture has been inherited by the writers, promoted in the works. As Suyuan said: "Everything starts in the East: Japan starts from the East, and wind comes from the East." As descendants of Chinese descent, they must have a correct understanding of Chinese traditional culture during their own growth. It can neither accept it in its entirety nor deny it blindly. Only by finding a suitable integration point can we find our own growth model and truly realize the inheritance of culture.

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