

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The researcher found that Jing Mei's acculturation strategy is assimilation. In this respect, as the term strategy can be unconscious, Jing Mei's adaptation to American culture is her unconscious strategy to affiliate herself with American culture regardless of her very young age. There are two reasons for Jing Mei's assimilation into American culture. The first reason is that Jing Mei interacts more dominantly with American culture due to her position living in the States. In this respect, Jing Mei frequently has contact with American culture in actualizing and implementing the mother American dream. This research found that Jing Mei's mother influences Jing Mei in American culture through three elements. The first is *Shirley Temple's* movie. Jing Mei is said to be a Chinese Shirley Temple. Thereby, Jing Mei needs to transform her appearance to look like Shirley Temple. Second, Jing Mei is getting tests inspired by American magazines and the holy bible such as the capital of all the States and Europe, the playing card, gymnastic, predicting the daily temperature in Los Angeles, New York, and London, and retelling the story of Jehoshaphat in the bible. The last element is *Ed Sullivan's* TV show. Jing Mei is instructed to take a piano class and participate in the talent show after watching the Ed Sullivan Show. Those three elements portray the abundance of American culture that Jing Mei received. Therefore, Jing Mei feels more affiliated with American culture than Chinese culture.

The second reason for Jing Mei's assimilation into American culture is her transformation of cultural values, from Collectivist to Individualist. The change in Jing Mei's cultural values happens because she realizes that as a human being, she deserves to have self-freedom. Individual rights are significant to become a content human. Living in the United States changed Jing Mei's perspective on viewing things and behavior. The changes in her obedient behavior are the indicator of Jing Mei's cultural values transformation. In the Chinese community, children are restricted from expressing their opinion, feeling, and dreams. Every child must follow their parent's rules and plans. Rebellion towards a parent's authority is prohibited. Nevertheless, Jing Mei comes to the point where she figures out her true self. Jing Mei begins to value her own interest rather than fulfilling her mother's interest in the American dream. Therefore, Jing Mei's rebellion and disobedience behavior appeared when she became conscious about her being her mother's vehicle to create her mother's American dream, apparently, it was not her genuine intention. Consequently, Jing Mei refuses to continue to achieve her mother's idea of the American dream because she is prioritizing her happiness. In this case, Jing Mei's American Individualist values occurred.

It can be concluded that Jing Mei's mother's effort to make Jing Mei live out the American dream resulted in Jing Mei's development of self-understanding. Jing Mei becomes aware of the things that she loves and hates. Thereby, Jing Mei thinks that individual interest is more valuable than collective interest because each person has an individual right to have a voice for themselves and not as a parent's controlling doll. This research has also found that assimilation is the right strategy in Jing Mei's

acculturation process because Jing Mei is engaged with American cultural values i.e., Individualist, and reject Chinese cultural value i.e., Collectivist.

5.2 Suggestions

Two Kinds is one of the short stories in *The Joy Luck Club* book. The researcher uses the *Two Kinds* short story as a main source rather than the whole story in the book because the researcher is interested to understand Jing Mei's acculturation strategy when she was a child. Therefore, the result cannot be generalized because it only covers Jing Mei's cultural orientation at a young age. Future research should broaden the scope of the study to the whole of Jing Mei's story in *The Joy Luck Club* Book. The book contains several short stories that talk about Jing Mei from a little girl to an adult. By doing so, the final of Jing Mei's acculturation strategy can be more generalized.