2nd ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING, LITERATURE, AND TRANSLATION
International Conference 2013

Unnes in collaboration with RELO and AWEJ

Conference Proceedings

Linguistics, Literature, and Translation

"Issues and Challenges in English Language Teaching, Literature, and Translation"

Editors:
Siti Wachidah, M.A., Ph.D (Jakarta State University)
Dewi Rochsantiningsih, M.Ed., Ph.D (Sebelas Maret University)
Dr. Issy Yuliasri, M.Pd (Semarang State University)
Dr. Khairi Obaid Al-Zubaidi (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)
Dr. Mirjam Anugerahwati, M.A (Malang State University)

Faculty of Languages & Arts
Semarang State University
THE RISE OF CHINESENESS IN AMERICAN HYPHENATED IDENTITY: A STUDY IN AMY TAN'S *THE BONESETTER’S DAUGHTER*

Dyah Eko Hapsari, M.Hum.
Faculty of Cultural Studies Universitas Brawijaya Malang

Abstract

America, a country of multiple ethnics, is always open for endless list of topics of discussion for how each of its existing culture interplays with the others which results in multifaceted cultural dynamic. The social reality is one cause for American writers to elevate the uniqueness of a culture despite its capability to accommodate external influences.

Amy Tan is one of prolific American writers, realizes the importance of acknowledging one's former culture to establish a comprehensive understanding on one's cultural identity regarding the complexity of American cultural web work. *The Bonesetter's Daughter* is one of her paramount works in which she puts forth the idea of the rise of Chineseness in the main characters' two-life spheres as Chinese-Americans. As the plot of the novel moving on, the readers will find that the journey of revisiting their Chineseness, the main characters do not only comprehend their identity as Chinese better, but is more capable of understanding their existence as Americans as well.

The process of re-rooting of the main characters in *The Bonesetter’s Daughter* culturally is the bedrock for the analysis in this study. Their pride of being Chinese eventually brings them to a final conclusion of how their life is intermingled with a story of a country thousands miles away from where they live which shapes their self-identity.

Keywords: *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*, Chineseness, cultural identity

INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

American pluralism becomes an outstanding topic in the discussion of American ethnicity. In the early development of the nation, this country’s history was inseparable from what happened in other countries, especially those connected to the coming of immigrants from various countries. Thus, the composition of American population is shaped by large variety of ethnicities coming from different countries from over the globe.