

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the conflicts in *One Hundred and One Ways*, I have come to a conclusion. The protagonist of the novel, Kiki, who is a Japanese woman and a descendant of geisha, experiences some conflicts in her life. The protagonist has some social conflicts and inner conflict. The conflicts that she experiences are always connected to her past life and her being a Japanese woman. The conflicts occur since she is still a little girl; her friends mock her because of her slanted eyes. This bad memory has made a scar in her mind that her friends hate her because she is different in appearance. This conflict makes her hate herself for being Japanese. She wishes that she can change her identity. So, when she is in college she changes her name due to hide her identity. She thinks that by changing her name, the people around her will not mock her or treat her differently anymore. Nevertheless, her appearance as an Asian woman makes it difficult for her to hide her identity.

In college, Kiki faces another conflict with her male friend. The cause of this conflict is that he judges Kiki as prostitute based on her appearance as an Asian woman, whom he considers as geisha, which poses a negative image among the westerners.

The conflict develops further when she meets Eric who later becomes her fiancé. At this stage, Kiki has several conflicts; conflicts about the origin of her name until the question about Eric's love to her. At first, she thinks that Eric is the right guy and she wants to be his wife. After they are engaged, Eric wants to call Kiki with her original name, Yukiko but Kiki refuses to be called with her original name due to forget that she is Japanese. Finally, she finds out that Eric is not the kind of man that she loves. She knows that Eric loves her because of her being Japanese and not because of who she is.

From the analysis above, I can see that the purpose of the author in presenting the conflicts in such ways is that she wants to show that these conflicts, which Kiki has faced, can happen to anyone that lives in two different cultures. Kiki was born as a Japanese woman and grows up in Western culture that differs from her parents' Eastern culture. This confusion becomes stronger when she learns that her friends and her surrounding have misinterpretation about Japanese culture and Japanese people. They also mistreat Kiki because she is considered different with them. The result of this confusion has led her into deeper conflict about her identity.

This identity confusion can happen or be experienced by many people. Some of the conflicts that the protagonist has experienced might happen in real life. Living in multicultural society, one can find the differentiation between people, especially

about culture, norms, religions, and ethnics. This differentiation cannot be avoided or abolished. That is why it is better for someone to open her or his point of view about new ideas or culture. It will enrich one's dimension about life and living in multicultural society.

In my opinion, the author, Mako Yoshikawa has succeeded in presenting the conflicts that happen to the protagonist Kiki or Yukiko. She has good ideas in presenting the conflicts that probably happen to people around the world. The conflicts happen because of different perception or cultural ideas. In this novel, Kiki as the protagonist has faced many conflicts because of her Japanese descend. Differentiation has become the major problem that she faces in her life as a Japanese descendant that live in American culture.