

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the characteristics of the female major character, in this chapter I would like to draw a conclusion.

First of all, O-Lan is portrayed as an introvert woman. She hides herself from the society as she feels that she does not have a good appearance and also as she feels that she is inferior. Her introverted characteristic can be seen in her silence. But even though she is introvert and silent, she can make good decisions and be responsible of them.

Being the decision maker in the family shows the reader that O-Lan is smart. Her intelligence makes her become the source of inspiration for the family as she teaches them how to live in the South during the famine. O-Lan's decisions and actions show that she is a very brave woman.

Then O-Lan is portrayed as a loyal and devoted woman. She is also a caring and economical mother for the family. Last but not least, she has mental and physical strength. Her mental strength can be seen through her ability to survive from the insult and humiliation from her husband. Meanwhile, her physical strength can be seen through her hard work.

From the characteristics above, the author's purpose in making this novel can be seen clearly by the readers. The purpose of this novel is to show that women could be strong and able to do men's duty even though being suppressed by the society and the family. As one can see from the novel, women's inferiority is not actually true. O-Lan as the female major character is able to do her husband's works and also able to take over some of Wang Lung's duty to make decisions for the family. O-Lan is much stronger and more independent than other female characters in the novel.

Pearl S. Buck creates O-Lan as the female major character who has to work for her entire life in order to improve the family. O-Lan does the works without complaining. She does both the household chores and the men's job to work in the fields. By creating O-Lan to work so hard, Buck wants to show that a woman's work can also influence the family life.

O-Lan will do anything and sacrifice herself in order to make the family condition improve. Without O-Lan, the family might not survive the famine as there will be no one who saves the food and makes the important decisions.

In my opinion, O-Lan, whose existence is not recognized by the family, actually holds an important role in the family. She works for them and serves their daily need without complaining. When she turns ill, the family realizes that everything they need is fulfilled by O-Lan and without her, they have to do everything by themselves. Through that analysis, Buck's suggestion that a woman's work can influence family life can be proved. O-lan's existence is the source of the family life.

Buck, who has to live with a Chinese amah during her childhood, knows how Chinese women are treated. She explores women's position in traditional Chinese culture and tries to describe it briefly to the readers through O-Lan. She tells the reader that a woman, even though she is not pretty and considered unworthy, can help improve the family condition by doing works.

So, I conclude that the purpose of Buck making this novel is that she wants to show that women are strong enough and capable of doing everything, not only women's chores but also men's works, in order to improve the family condition. Therefore, Buck wants the readers to know that women's position in the society is equal to men.