

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After analysing the conflicts in The Woman Warrior and Donald Duk in the previous chapters, I would like to draw some conclusions. In my opinion, both of the novels share the issue of a cultural clash and an identity. The cultural clash appears to create conflicts to the two protagonists since they are Chinese descendants who are influenced by the American culture.

In The Woman Warrior, the theme of the novel is revealed through both the social and inner conflicts experienced by the protagonist. All of the social conflicts in this novel happen between the protagonist and her mother, Brave Orchid. The first conflict happens when the protagonist refuses to go to the drugstore to get what is called a reparation candy. The second one is about the protagonist's logics, which influences her to express her disagreement to her mother's cutting the protagonist's tongue. The last one happens when the protagonist refuses her mother's interference in choosing her life choice.

There are also three inner conflicts found in the novel. The first one happens when the protagonist, who considers herself an American, is unable to confront her boss directly for calling her nigger yellow. The second one happens when the protagonist adopts the American value of competition to gain pride; however, as a female Chinese descendant, she is taught to be uncompetitive. The last inner conflict experienced by the protagonist happens when she feels reluctant to send her money to the relatives in China because of being an individualist; however, she is a Chinese descendant who is supposed to be a collectivist.

Most of the conflicts happen because of the issue of a cultural clash. From the conflicts that I analyse, I find that it is difficult for the protagonist to define her own identity. Having two cultural backgrounds, she cannot identify herself whether she is an American or a Chinese. When she tries to be an American, she is forced to accept that she is a Chinese descendant along with its culture and vice versa. Thus, I conclude that the theme of the novel is cultural clash may hamper someone in identifying his/her identity.

In Donald Duk, the theme is also revealed through the social and inner conflicts. The social conflicts in this novel mostly happen between Donald and his father, King Duk. The first one happens between Donald and King Duk when Donald refuses his father's order to accompany Arnold running inside the dragon. The other one happens between Donald and X. This conflict is caused by Donald's disagreement with X's opinion towards his father kissing up Arnold's parents, which Donald sees as a way to gain his family's pride. The last social

conflict, again, happens between Donald and his father when Donald wants everyone to be more American than Chinese since they live in America.

From the social conflicts, it is seen that Donald considers himself an American. Therefore, he struggles to ignore his Chinese culture in order to be a fully American, which leads him to experience some social conflicts with the Chinese people around him. However, it will be proven in his inner conflict that he cannot choose to be fully American since he is also a Chinese descendant.

Donald's inner conflict also leads him to experience another issue of a cultural clash. This happens because he is made to believe by his history teacher that the Chinese are passive, non-competitive, and nonassertive. Later on, he knows from his dream that the Chinese stereotypes set by the American community are incorrect. Thus, he expresses his disagreement towards the negative Chinese stereotype to his teacher. By accepting that he is part of the Chinese community and confronting the teacher directly, he proves that he embraces both of his cultural backgrounds. Therefore, I conclude that the theme of this novel that a cultural clash makes it impossible for one with two different cultural backgrounds to choose only one identity.

After analysing the two novels, it seems that the two novels have some similarities and differences. The first similarity is that both of The Woman Warrior and Donald Duk deal with the issue of a cultural clash which may lead the protagonists to experience the social and inner conflicts in finding their identities. The other one is the two protagonists have the same cultural background, which is Chinese-American. Another similarity found after analysing

the two novels is both of the protagonists have conflicts with their parents because the parents are dominantly influenced by the Chinese culture, while the protagonists are more influenced by the American culture.

Apart from the similarities of the conflicts from these two novels, there is a difference that I have found. The protagonist in the first novel is still confused whether she is an American or a Chinese since she can be easily influenced by both of the cultures, while Donald has firmly chosen to be an American. However, he is unable to be fully an American.

After reading and analysing the novels, I find something valuable that I can learn. In my opinion, people who have more than one cultural background, such as the protagonist of The Woman Warrior, will find difficulties in choosing their identity. They will always be confused whether to be, in this case, a Chinese or an American. However, in Donald Duk, it is proven that there is no possibility for one to choose only one identity, which means that they should embrace all their cultural backgrounds to figure out who they really are. This makes both of the novels complete each other.