

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the theme through the portrayal of the protagonist in Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, I would like to draw a conclusion. Winnie is a Chinese girl who lives when a war happened in China. She was born in a wealthy family and she is arranged to marry Wen Fu, a man from middle class family. After she marries Wen Fu, she realizes that Wen Fu is not a nice person. He is abusive and evil. During her marriage with Wen Fu, Winnie suffers from his abuses. After many abuses, Winnie decides that she wants to be free from Wen Fu and she finally runs away to the United States.

Winnie is portrayed as naïve and submissive girl before she marries Wen Fu. Winnie, who is raised in a traditional Chinese family, is expected to obey the rules from her aunt. As a result, she becomes submissive. She also believes in what people say because she lacks experiences and judgment. Thus, she is a naïve person.

However, after she marries Wen Fu, these characteristics slowly change due to her being abused by Wen Fu. Winnie, who once believes in what people say to her, starts to have her own ideas and opinion. Her experience with Wen Fu

makes her realize the reality around her. Her being naïve slowly develops into carefulness. She then has her own judgment to the situations around her. She becomes careful towards men around her daughter, Pearl. This happens because Winnie does not want Pearl to repeat her mistakes.

Then, Winnie, who is once submissive, changes into a rebellious woman. She suffers enough during her marriage so she decides to end her suffering. She runs away from Wen Fu because she cannot take more abuses from him. She even prefers staying in jail when Wen Fu accuses her of stealing to apologizing to Wen Fu and coming back home with him.

Along with her rebelliousness, a characteristic is formed, that is resourceful. This characteristic is formed because she needs to survive under Wen Fu's control. She uses tricks to get what she wants without making Wen Fu angry. When Wen Fu brings another woman home, she uses the occasion to ask for a divorce from him. Although Wen Fu refuses, Winnie actually shows that she is no longer submissive towards her husband because at that time it is forbidden for women to ask for a divorce from her husband.

After analyzing the characteristics of the protagonist, I get the theme that "One's sufferings influence one's characteristics." Winnie, before she is abused, is a naïve and submissive girl but her sufferings influence her characteristics. Winnie then makes an important decision in her life, that is, she wants to be free from Wen Fu, and she struggles to get her own happiness. As a character, Winnie is portrayed as someone who is different from other Chinese girls.

During that time in China, Chinese girls should obey the tradition. They are expected to obey their husbands and follow what their husbands want. A

divorce is considered taboo for girls because at that time it is not common for girls to get divorce from their husbands. Once they divorce they will be considered as bad luck in the family. The society also regards a wife as a bad luck when a wife disobeys her husband's words. Winnie, however, despite all the rules in the society, goes against her husband to achieve her own happiness.

In my opinion, the author succeeds in showing to the readers that one's sufferings influence his/her characteristics. She creates Winnie as a naïve girl who lacks experiences and who also obeys every rule in traditional Chinese society. But then she gets abuses from her husband and from those abuses she grows as a character who dares to go against her own tradition although she knows that she will be considered bad luck. However in the end she gets her own happiness and freedom.

In my opinion, the theme of this novel can be considered universal. It can be applied in our daily life. Everyone will have their own unhappiness and sufferings and it is undeniable that those unhappiness and sufferings will affect their characteristics. In the novel, the sufferings that Winnie experiences make her strong and she becomes a better person. So for some people, their sufferings can make them strong but for others, their sufferings will make them feel more painful and unhappy. By reading this novel I get the lesson that in our life we will have our misfortune, pain, and unhappiness. Nevertheless, what matters most is for us to overcome those sufferings and to make life go on.