

**THE PORTRAYAL OF CHINESE DIASPORA IN SELECTED NOVELS
BY AMY TAN**

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts**

October 2004

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts

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Faculty: Modern Languages and Communication

This research aims to examine and explore the treatment of the concept of diaspora in order to bring to light the portrayal of Chinese immigrants in the United States in selected novels by Amy Tan. The research objectives set out to explore the mother-daughter relationships and examine the cultural differences of Chinese diaspora. An analysis of three novels by Tan forms the basis of this research. This research enables readers to understand the difficulties faced by the Chinese diaspora in their everyday struggle of trying to adapt in a new culture. Furthermore, it gives an insight to the difference between two cultures – Chinese and American. A diasporic community not only have to struggle within them in order to adapt their way of thinking and culture to the new environment but also have to work hard to be accepted by the society that they are in.

The findings indicate that in all of Amy Tan's novels, it is evident that the Chinese-born mothers are trying to adapt and assimilate into the American culture while the American-born daughters are trying to accept their Chinese culture. Through this study, it is hoped that readers will be more aware of the challenges that a society is imposing on a diasporic community on the whole.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sastera

**KONSEP DIASPORA YANG MENGAMBAKANKAN KEHIDUPAN IMIGRAN
MASYARAKAT CINA MELALUI KARYA-KARYA TERPILIH AMY TAN**

Oleh

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Matlamat kajian ini ialah untuk mengkaji-selidik konsep diaspora yang menggambarkan kehidupan imigran masyarakat Cina melalui karya-karya terpilih yang ditulis oleh Amy Tan. Objektif kajian ini ialah menyelidik perhubungan di antara ibu dan anak, dan mengkaji perbezaan budaya diaspora masyarakat Cina. Tiga karya yang ditulis oleh Amy Tan telah digunakan dalam kajian ini. Kajian ini telah memberi suatu pemahaman yang mendalam tentang kesusahan yang dihadapi oleh masyarakat diaspora Cina untuk menyesuaikan diri dalam budaya yang berbeza. Kajian ini juga memberi satu pendekatan dalam perbezaan di antara budaya masyarakat Amerika dan Cina. Masyarakat diaspora Cina bukan sahaja perlu menyesuaikan diri dari segi pemikiran dan budaya di tempat yang baru, mereka juga perlu bekerja keras untuk diterima oleh masyarakat sekeliling.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa daripada semua karya Amy Tan yang telah dikaji, masyarakat diaspora Cina yang telah berhijrah ke Amerika Syarikat sedang cuba untuk mengasimilasi dalam budaya Amerika, manakala generasi Cina yang dilahirkan di Amerika, sedang cuba untuk menerima budaya Cina mereka. Melalui kajian ini, diharap pembaca boleh menyedari masalah-masalah yang dihadapi oleh masyarakat diaspora Cina dalam menyesuaikan diri di suasana yang baru.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of KarumaariAmman, the most gracious, the most merciful. All praise to KarumaariAmman who has blessed me with patience, courage and strong-will. I did it with Your help. Thank You.

No work is ever the making of one single person. I would like to thank those who contributed to this study in one way or another. First, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisors Dr. Wan Roselezam Wan Yahya and Dr. Noritah Omar for giving me the opportunity to work under their supervision. I am grateful for their utmost support and inspiring guidance. They not only provided me with a relaxed working environment, but also gave insightful suggestions and provided me with critical discussions. I am also grateful to Professor Muhamad Quayum for his guidance in enabling me to start my thesis. A mere 'thank you' would not suffice for the support, encouragement, critical review and valuable comments that they have given me. Thank you for your patience, knowledge and support.

I am also greatly indebted to Universiti Putra Malaysia for enriching and changing my life by introducing me to an array of local and international students who have enlighten and are still enlightening my life with their different cultures and ways of seeing things. I feel so privileged to be in such a company. Without them, this thesis would not have been written.

Last but not least is my gratitude towards my parents. Without your support, I would not have gone beyond the first semester of my Master's programme – Thank You.

Suba-Masthu

This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts. The members of the Supervisory Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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