

A Reflection of Parenting Styles and Impacts on Behaviors of Children in *The Joy Luck Club*

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Received: October 26, 2020

Revised: November 16, 2020

Accepted: December 3, 2020

Abstract

This qualitative research was conducted with two objectives for this study: 1) to analyze parenting styles and the reasons of the parent characters for being parents of those styles in an Ami Tan's famous novel named *The Joy Luck Club* and 2) to investigate the impacts of the parenting styles on behavior of the daughter characters in *The Joy Luck Club*. From the analysis based on the analysis framework which developed from Baumrind's Theory of Parenting Styles and elaborated by Maccoby and Martin (1983), it was found that the parenting style in *The Joy Luck Club* was rather associated with authoritarian parenting style. The mother characters set rules and command their daughters to follow the rules. They physically and verbally punish their daughters. The daughters react aggressively. However, the personalities and behaviors of the children do not agree with those introduced in the theory. Although it was found that the mothers do not explain the real reasons for prohibiting some actions. This makes the daughters curious and confident

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to make decision on their own. The reason behind the mothers' force is their desire to see their daughters' happiness and success. They do not want their daughters to encounter bad experience and sufferings as they had in the past. A factor that makes the daughters feel uncomfortable with the mothers' teaching is the conflict between the American culture in which the daughters grow outside their homes and the Chinese culture which their mothers are trying to implant into them.

Keywords: Parenting Style, Impact on Behavior of Children, The Joy Luck Club

Introduction

Many people see the importance of family and parents. An education researcher Baba (2018) has pointed out the importance of family and parents that family is a fundamental institution growing a child to become a physically and psychologically healthy adult. Parents and people around the child help develop sense of self, state of being accepted, sacrifice, joy, support and love. All of these result in resilience in the child. From her statement, it more emphasizes the significant role of parents in everyone's mind; so that, when you have to play the role of parents in one day, you need to concern your duty as the role model and, at the same time, raise your kids to become the world's good citizens. This may be somewhat behind the claim that children's behavior is a result of parenting and the way parents behave.

To strengthen this claim, Maccoby (2000), stated that behavior of children is made up by both their genes and the influence of parenting in which they are raised. She is not the only one who puts her support on this claim. Much longer to Maccoby's work, Baumrind (1971), a psychologist who has been known for her Theory of Parenting Styles, is the very first person introducing the Thoery of Parenting Style after spending a great

time examining the relationship between the way parents treat their children and the impacts on the children's personality. At the first stage, Baumrind introduced three parenting styles namely authoritarian, authoritative and permissive parenting styles, but later in 1991 one more style of parenting called uninvolved parenting was added. From the theory, authoritative parenting seems to be the most appropriate style all parents should implement when giving care to their children; meanwhile, uninvolved parenting is described as the worst style in which the parents pay no care to their children at all. There are also other two in between which are described later in the part of literature review. However, all of these parenting styles have been well-known and relied upon when the issue of relationship between parenting and children's behavior or personality are raised to discussion.

Psychological theories were generally developed from the studies done to real people depending on the observation of the theorists who developed and proposed them. However, studies making use of psychological theories can be done to imaginative world and to animated characters. To examine the agreement of this actual existing psychological theory, the application into examining fiction is main focus of this study.

A great number of fictional works illustrating family-children relationship, but one outstanding novel which is known and realized for this the portrayal of this issue is *The Joy Luck Club* written by Ami Tan who is an American-born Chinese novelist who wrote a number of well-known fictions. The novel itself was enlisted as a finalist National Book Award of USA in 1989 and National Book Critics Circle Award in the same year. In addition, it is enlisted in The New York Times Bestseller fiction list and was adapted into film with the same name in 1993.

The story of the novel is mainly about mother-daughter conflict and bond and Chinese culture. It explains Chinese women who immigrated to the United States of America with hope of better lives. Although they are from different social status families, they similarly share embittered background which they want to bury it in China, their mother land. In the new world, they rely on Chinese norm and culture to raise their children especially the daughters who do not understand their mothers' thought and behavior which leads to mother-and-daughter conflicts.

Because of its outstanding humanity value, *The Joy Luck Club* has been used as a source of data for a number of studies. For example, Sehvised (2007) selected this novel to conduct her master thesis entitled *A Study of Conflict between Mothers and Daughters in The Joy Luck Club*. Apart from mother-daughter bond and conflict, a study named *The Politics of Transnational Memory in Amy Tan's The Joy Luck Club* by Schultermandl (2011) was introduced as a perspective of feminism. In addition, Back (1994) decoded this novel for using as a guideline for school teachers in Australia to educate Australian-born Chinese in Australia. Because the story is main related to Chinese migrants, in 1998 Mistri Zenobia wrote an article to discuss the ethnic name using the novel. From this few number, it can be seen that the value of this novel is beyond the fundamental entertaining purpose of literature, From this recognizable reputation and the theme of the story, *The Joy Luck Club* is a worth-studying novel which can provide an evidence of the effects of parenting and its impacts on children in the society.

The goal of this study is to reveal the agreement between a psychological theory of parenting style which is real and the parenting style in a fictional story which derives from imagination. To decentralize its goal, it can be stated in other words that this research is guided by

two main objectives: 1) to analyze parenting styles and the reasons of the parent characters for being parents of those styles in an Ami Tan's famous novel named *The Joy Luck Club* and 2) to investigate the impacts of the parenting styles on behavior of the daughter characters in *The Joy Luck Club*. This qualitative research employed content analysis method to mainly analyze parenting styles. The data were collected from dialogues of four mother-daughter pairs (Suyuan and Jing-mei Woo, Lindo and Waverly Jong, Ying-Ying and Lena St. Clair, and An-mei and Rose Hsu), dialogues of the eight characters (among themselves and with other characters), and narrative of thoughts of the studied characters. Only texts reflecting parenting styles, behavior, and reasons behind their behavior are examined based on thematic analysis.

Although the Theory of Parenting Style was originally developed from studying phenomena in reality and introduced as a guideline for people in reality to consider parenting style of people and possible effects of different parenting styles on children, it is a good option to be used for studying a literary work. The findings, although they are just a viewpoint of the writer, reflect the thoughts and attitude of the novelist who is a real person. Therefore, the benefit of this study is not limited to a literature study, but it shows a picture displaying another aspect of society in which we, people in different environment, can learn and concentrate what we can do to improve the world around us.

Review of literature

Definition of parenting style

Parenting style is around the way parents raise their children. According to Maccoby and Martin (1983), parenting style includes two main parts, parental responsiveness or supportiveness and parental

demandingness or behavioral control. Baumrind (1971) clarified these two terms that the parental responsiveness is the state where parents understand and respond to their children's needs and grow their children to possess individuality, self-ruling, and self-assertion, and the parental demandingness is the state when parents exercise their power over their children aiming to make their children family members in accordance with the parents needs and disciplinary efforts. Darling and Steinburg (1993) also briefly mentioned parenting style as the interaction between parents and children. For parents, it is their responsibility to raise their children to possess maturity, admiring the social standard, and avoiding harming anyone. Brown and Brown (2003), Feldman (2008) and Heath (2013) all agreed and concluded that parenting is the center for raising children to grow with physical strength, emotional stability, and social responsibility. In conclusion, parenting style is the method individuals considered parent(s) raise the children to be healthy both physically and mentally so that the children can live in society as its members who behave in the way which is suitable for the social norm.

Diana Baumrind's Parenting Styles

In 1971 Diana Baumrind, a developmental psychologist, developed her theory of parenting style based on two major dimensions, parents' behavior and parent's responsibility, and came up with 4 styles of parenting: authoritative parenting (high demandingness and high responsiveness), authoritarian parenting (high demandingness but low responsiveness), permissive parenting (low demandingness but high responsiveness), and uninvolved parenting (low demandingness and low responsiveness).

Authoritative parenting is the style in which the parents provide assistance and rational guideline for their children, but, give their children

appropriate freedom in accordance with their age. Parents, although having high expectation, give love, warmth, and pay close attention to the children allowing them to express their ideas and to be themselves. Children of this type of parenting are happy and optimistic. They can control themselves and their emotion. They are responsible and are able to make good decision for different situations on their own.

Authoritarian parenting is the style in which the parents set rule without explanation and they are too strict with their children. No freedom is given to the children and they punish their children if the children fail to follow the set rules. Moreover, they neglect the children's needs. Children of this parenting style lack of confidence in doing things. They find it hard to adapt themselves into society and they have no ability to make good decision when confronting unexpected situations.

Permissive parenting is the parenting style in which parents show love and give warm to their children. Parents always respond to the children's needs and allows their children to make decision freely and express their feelings openly. Parents do not demand or control their children. Parents may give counsel or use reason with their children but they cannot control their children's behaviors; therefore, so fewer penalties are done to the children when they do something wrong. Children of this type of parents will be disobedient, lack of discipline and responsibilities. In addition, they find it hard to control their emotion.

Uninvolved parenting seems to be the worst style of parenting. Parents of this type do not pay attention to their children at all. Neither demand nor standard of behavior is set for the children. Children's needs are not taken into account. Parents just raise their children to grow physically but they do not care their children's emotion or mental

development. The freedom the children have is so much that the confidence (but may be in the wrong way) is overabundant. With this confidence, the children may want to separate from society.

To make things easier to follow, parents' and children's behavior of each parenting style according to Baumrind's Theory of Parenting Styles are described briefly in Table 1.

Table 1 Parenting styles and behaviors of children based on Baumrind (1971)

| Parenting styles | Parents' behaviors | Children's behaviors |
|---|--|---|
| Authoritative (high responsiveness and high demandingness) | Be firm, sets limits and goals, uses reasoning, and encourages independence | Possess good social skills, be likable, self-reliant, and independent |
| Authoritarian parenting (high demandingness but low responsiveness) | Rigid, punitive, strict standards | Be unsociable, unfriendly, and withdrawn |
| Permissive parenting (high responsiveness but low demandingness) | Lax, inconsistent, undemanding | Be immature, moody, dependent, and possess low self-control |
| Uninvolved parenting (low responsiveness and low demandingness) | Detached emotionally, sees role as only providing food, clothing and shelter | Be Indifferent and perform rejecting behavior |

Maccoby and Martin (1983) extended Baumrind's behavior of parents and personality of children of each parenting style as shown in Table 2, and they were used as analysis framework in this study.

Table 2 Parenting styles and behaviors of children based on Maccoby and Martin (1983)

| Parenting styles | Parents' behaviors | Children's personalities |
|---|--|--|
| Authoritative (high responsiveness and high demandingness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents give their children freedom to many things with a limit. - Parents use reason rather than emotion in treating their children. - Parents give and show love and attention to children. - Parents encourage self-confidence, self-esteem and independence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children are happy and optimistic. - Children are responsible and able to make appropriate decisions by themselves. - Children can deal with uncomfortable situation and control their emotion well. - Children are likely to be mentally healthy. |
| Authoritarian parenting (high demandingness but low responsiveness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents control their children by setting rules and forcing the children to follow the rules strictly. - Parents think for their children claiming that what they do are the best for the children. - Parents do not allow children to argue anything nor do they give explanation or reason for what they do to their children. - Parents use punishment as a mean to train or teach their children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children lack of self-confidence and self-esteem. - Children's emotion is not stable. - Children cannot make decision by themselves. - Children lack of social skills and they find it hard to associate with others. - Children may not be able to adapt themselves into unexpected situations. |

| Parenting styles | Parents' behaviors | Children's personalities |
|--|---|---|
| Permissive parenting (high responsiveness but low demandingness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents provide exceeding support and love. - Parents allow their children to do whatever they want without limitation. - Parents do not have discipline training or teaching nor do they likely to punish their children. - Parents may try to advise and give reason, but they fail to control their children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children lack of discipline and responsibility. - Children become egocentric. - Children cannot control their emotion and they are disobedient. - Children lack of social skills and they are selfish without having concept of sharing in their mind. |
| Uninvolved parenting (low responsiveness and low demandingness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents do not pay any attention to the children's needs. - Parents do not care their children's living or well-being. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children tend to be depressed if they expect love and care from the parents. - Children do not care discipline or society, so they tend to fail in building relationship with others. - Children are too confident not controlling their emotion. - Children tend to make inappropriate decisions. |

Apart from the above reviewed theory, there are some studies related to parenting style and *The Joy Luck Club*, and those are juxtaposed in the discussion part of this study.

Research method

This qualitative research employed content analysis method especially thematic analysis to mainly analyze parenting styles portrayed in the novel named *The Joy Luck Club*. Therefore, six steps of this approach were followed. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), there are 6 steps of thematic analysis: 1) familiarizing with the data, 2) generating initial codes, 3) searching for themes, 4) reviewing themes, 5) defining themes, and 6) writing. Apart from parenting styles, the reasons leading the parent characters to be seen as those styles of parents and the behaviors of children from those parents as specified in Theory of Parenting Styles developed by Diana Baumrind were examined.

The data were collected from dialogues of four mother-daughter pairs (Suyuan and Jing-mei Woo, Lindo and Waverly Jong, Ying-Ying and Lena St. Clair, and An-mei and Rose Hsu), dialogues of the eight characters (among themselves and with other characters), and narrative of thoughts of the studied characters. Only texts reflecting parenting styles, behavior, and reasons behind their behavior are quoted and written into quoting sheet based on thematic issues which were the objective of the study including parenting styles, reasons behind the parent characters for being parents of those styles, and behavior of the daughter characters.

Results

Since there are 2 objectives for this study, the results here are presented to respond the objectives.

To examine the parenting styles and the reasons of the parent characters for being parents of those styles, it was found that based on the analysis framework which developed from Baumrind's Theory of Parenting Styles and elaborated by Maccoby and Martin (1983), the parenting style in *The Joy Luck Club* was definitely associated with authoritarian parenting style. They raised their children in the way that is in agreement with the authoritarian parenting style. All the mother characters, Suyuan Woo, An-mei Hsu, Lindo Jong and Ying-ying St. Clair love their daughters. They give love and care to their daughter. They teach their daughters with a hope to make their daughters mentally and physically strong. However, the mothers control their children by setting rules and forcing the children to follow the rules strictly. If the children do not follow the set rules, the mothers punish their children. They claim and rely on their own experience that they provide the best things for their children without asking if the children agree or like them. In addition, when the children try to argue for what the mothers provide them, they do not listen to it or even ignore it.

The examples of this issues are taken from some parts of the story as follows. The first example is that the mother (Lindo Jong) puts too much expectation on her daughter (Waverly Jong) and sets the rules for her daughter to follow. Although the daughter follows them and well behaves and the mother is proud of the daughter, instead of complementing the daughter, the mother forces the daughter to try harder. An evidence showing this is "As she wimped each piece (trophy from chess competition) with a soft cloth, she said 'Next time win

more, lose less.’” This leads to the conflict and dissatisfaction of the daughter (Tan, 1989, p. 98). The second example of this is from the narrative of the daughter’s thought that “But I found it difficult to concentrate at home. My mother had a habit of standing over me while I plotted out my games. I think she thought of herself as my protective ally. Her lips would be sealed tight, and after each move I made, a soft ‘Hm-mm-ph’ would escape from her nose. This again leads to uncomfortableness the daughter has and the daughter angrily says to the mother “Ma, I can’t practice when you stand there like that,” (Tan, 1989, p. 100). After the conflict between the mother and the daughter, the daughter escapes from the mother to be with herself. When she returns home, the mother punishes her by ignoring her and when the daughter tries to show her guilty, the mother verbally destroys her feeling by saying that “We not concerning this girl. This girl not have concerning for us” (Tan, 1989, p. 103). This evidence shows clearly the authoritarian way of punishment.

The investigation of the impacts of the parenting styles on behavior of the daughter characters in *The Joy Luck Club* showed a great degree of difference in the children’s behavior. From the framework, it is stated that the children of authoritarian parents tend should be 1) lacking of self-confidence and self-esteem, 2) instable in emotion, 3) unable to make decision by themselves, 4) lacking of social skills and finding it hard to associate with others, and 5) unable to adapt themselves into unexpected situations. In contrast, in *The Joy Luck Club*, the studied daughter characters were presented almost totally different. All the daughter characters namely Jing-mei Woo (Suyuan Woo’s daughter), Rose Hsu (An-mei Hsu’s daughter), Waverly Jong (Lindo Jong’s daughter), and Lena St. Clair (Ying-ying St. Clair’s daughter) are not all

agreeing with the behavior and personality of the children of authoritarian parents. All of them are confidence, able to make decision by themselves, able to social with people even those who are as old as their uncle, and able to adapt themselves into unexpected situations. Only one personality which all the daughter characters express is emotional instability.

Some examples of this prove are, for example, when the mother (Suyuan Woo) criticizes others, the daughter (Jing-mei Woo) criticizes her mother action saying “There’s a school of thought that parents shouldn’t criticize children. They should encourage instead. You know, people rise to other people’s expectation. And when you criticize, it just means you’re expecting failure.” Then, the mother reacts to the daughter’s critique by using cleverly philosophical words that “That’s the trouble. You never rise. Lazy to get up. Lazy to rise to expectation” (Tan, 1989, p. 20). The daughter blames the mother saying that she should not criticize children but encourage (Tan, 1989, p. 20). The daughter does not understand the witty words her mother trying to teach her and she is brave enough to act against the mother because she grows in American culture. Another example of this claim is when the daughter (Waverly Jong) cannot find a good answer from the mother (Lido Jong) and other family members. She goes out to public where adults gather to play chess and asks other to teach her how to play the chess (Tan, 1989, p. 96-97).

However, this personality is described only when the daughter characters are young. They gradually disappear when they grow older as adults. Therefore, the behavior and personality of the children in *The Joy Luck Club* are not presented in agreement with those introduced in the Theory of Parenting Style.

Apart from the two objectives, it was also found that the mother characters make use of Chinese superstitious beliefs and mysterious stories to teach and to protect their children. For example, from the narrative of the daughter's (Jing-mei Woo) thought about what the mother (Suyuan Woo) has taught her about Chinese human elements that "Each person is made of five elements, she told me. Too much fire and you had a bad temper. ... Too little wood and you bent too quickly to listen to other people's ideas, unable to stand on your own. ... Too much water and you flowed in too many directions, ... (Tan, 1989, p. 19). Another example is the situation that the mother (Lindo Jong) scolds the daughter (Waverly Jong) when she asks for something which the mother doesn't want to buy for her. Although, eventually, she buys it for the daughter, instead of explaining good reason to the daughter, the mother wants the daughter to be well-behaved. Without easy-to-understand words, she says "Bite back your tongue. Wise guy, he not go against wind" (Tan, 1989, p. 89). From this conversation, it is too hard for the daughter who is only six years old to understand, so the daughter. Again, when the daughter ask the mother a difficult-to-answer question, "Ma, what is Chinese torture?" the mother doesn't give a clear answer. Instead, she replies with puzzling words that "Chinese people do many things. Chinese people do business, do medicine, do painting. Not lazy like American people. We do torture. Best torture" (Tan, 1989, p. 92). This leaves the question to the daughter which leads to becoming a curious and witty person. An example showing the wittiness of the daughter is that when she is asked by the Santa Claus during Christmas, the only good answer is nodding back with equal solemnity (Tan, 1989, p. 92-93).

Discussion

From the study, the author of *The Joy Luck Club* presents mother characters who are in agreement with authoritarian parents in the Theory of Parenting Style developed by Baumrind (1971) and extended by Maccoby and Martin (1983). With good hope and love, the mothers do not want their children to encounter with hard time and difficulty in life. They try hard to give what they think the best to their children without asking if the children need it. The mothers teach their children by telling her own story which rely on their sad experience when they are young with hope that her story allows her daughter to be mentally strong and well behave. With too much expectation, they tend to physically punish their children when the children do not follow the set rules or when they perform inappropriate actions. This means the mothers control their children to be what they want.

Although the main reason behind their control is love and affection, the mothers control their daughters too much that the daughters have no rights to freely show their needs and feeling. This leads to misunderstanding and disobedient behavior in the daughters. This is also proved by the finding of The findings of Shehzad (2020)'s study done in China shows that authoritarian parenting has rather negative impact on children's emotional intelligence, and by a study by Aunola, Stattin and Nurmi (2000) that a high level of control exercised by mothers combined with high affection predicted increases in the levels of both internal and external problem behaviors among children. In addition, relying on their experience in China and Chinese culture in raising their children, a lot of conflicts between the mother and the daughter have been displayed.

Without good and logic explanation which might be a Chinese way for raising children, the children are commanded not to do things which are seen inappropriate. The mothers use philosophic words to teach their daughter, but the daughters do not understand them clearly. When the daughters ask for more details and explanation, instead of simplifying the teaching and using easy-to-understand phrases, they quit it and keep saying “you are too young to understand,” or “one day when you grow up, you will understand”. In addition, the mothers rely on Chinese custom of teaching and parenting. They neglect the American culture and surrounding where they are living in. Hence, the conflicts between the mothers and the daughters are found in the story. This finding agrees with the finding of a study by Sehvised (2007) which indicates that the difference of cultural background can cause conflicts between mother and daughters. The daughters do not as unsure as specified in the theory. Instead, they want to win over their mothers. They make their decision based on their own understanding and confidence. However, although there are many conflicts between the mothers and the daughters presented in the story, it was found that the bond between the mothers and the daughters is very tight, and in the end the daughters understand their mothers’ thoughts and good hope for them.

One interesting thing from the story is when the mothers compare their daughters to other kids and try to find fault in the daughters. In addition, when the daughters do good things or well behave, the mothers rarely complement the daughters. From the narrative, it shows that the daughters feel uncomfortable with the mothers’ actions. They want to be appreciated without forcing to be better all the time. This leads to dispute and aggressive actions of the daughters. This is in

agreement with a study done in China by Bi et al. (2018) which indicates that authoritarian parents reported high level of conflict between parent and adolescent children.

However, the behavior and personality of daughter characters of those mother characters do not definitely agree with those specified in the theory. Although the daughters are commanded to follow, they are mentally strong and brave enough to disobey and act against their mothers' commands. This shows that the author wanted to show that parenting plays great part but not all on children behavior and personality. She possesses self-esteem and resolution. The daughters also imitate the mother's behavior unconsciously. The daughters even do not clearly understand the witty words her mother trying to teach her and she is brave enough to act against the mother because she grows in American culture. However, in some scenes, the daughters show their gratitude by following the command of the parents even the mothers use superstitious stories to induce the daughters to agree with what they want the daughters to do.

Apart from the content of the story, if we think of it in reality, the reason that the daughters disagree with the theory and leads to the conflicts between the mother is possibly the difference of the two cultures, the Chinese culture and the American culture. The author of *The Joy Luck Club* tries to make the readers see that people need to know how to adjust themselves into changing surroundings but not losing their own "selves". From the story, the mothers rely too much on the Chinese culture where they grew in and they do not change it. With this strict attachment, they cannot change their mind and they pass it to the daughters who are living in a different culture. In reality, it may be better if the parents know how to change the way to teach

their children by giving chances to the children to express their ideas before making saying right or wrong to the children's ideas. The conflicts will be fewer or none.

In conclusion, the parenting style found in the story of *The Joy Luck Club* is rather associated with authoritarian parenting style. Being too strict to Chinese culture and their own experience, the mothers put their expectation on their children but without appropriate exercise of their power nor realizing the difference of the culture in which their children are growing up, there are so many conflicts between the mothers and the daughters. However, the personality and behavior of the children are not agreeing with what specified in the Theory of Parenting Style. The children become more curious and self-confident. Therefore, it leads to the conclusion that surrounding environment and culture are other factors which can form children's personality and behavior. To hammer away at parenting, it is to consider for the parents that they have an important role in identifying children's talent and guiding them. And, as Zahedani, et al. (2016) emphasized that "mutual understanding and close relationship between parents and children are recommended."

Recommendations

The Joy Luck Club is a good source of knowledge in which the novelist, Amy Tan, had put her perspective and thoughts into the theme, plot, characters, and settings. Therefore, it is not a just a novel whose aim is to entertain the readers. If read carefully, this novel provides many aspects of culture especially the family bond and hierarchy in Chinese extended family. The readers may find some valuable elements which can be used in concentrating themselves in

reality. However, this study was conducted using only one novel composed by Amy Tan. If there are studies conducted in a wider range of novels, the findings may be clearer which will provide greater knowledge to the readers and people in literature field.

For further studies, from studying *The Joy Luck Club*, there were some more interesting issues which may be brought into other studies such as the Feng Shui (Chinese superstitious belief about the effects of object positioning on human life), the background of the mother characters which affect the way of thoughts and become their complexities, and Chinese philosophy which is reflected through the narration and dialogue of the characters. Moreover, life and living of the Chinese immigrants in USA is reflected through the setting of the story. Therefore, researchers and scholars in literature field can learn these issues if theoretical studies are conducted using this novel.

Theory of Parenting Style has been relied upon by a great number of research works done to real people in reality. It can be used in different dimension as in this study, making use of this theory in studying novel. As the findings shows, the behavior and personality of the daughter characters do not totally agree with what is claimed in the theory. Therefore, it may be useful if this theory is relied upon when studying with different settings.

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