

# BICULTURAL FAMILY AND ETHNOCENTRISM IN “IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY” BY GISH JEN

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## ABSTRAK

“In The American Society” adalah cerita pendek tentang sebuah keluarga Cina yang tinggal di negara Amerika. Mr. Chang, sang kepala keluarga sangat menjunjung tinggi budaya Cina dan tidak dapat beradaptasi bahkan menerima kebudayaan Amerika meskipun sudah lama tinggal di Amerika. Sifat Mr. Chang ini juga terdapat pada salah satu tokoh yang muncul dalam cerita ini yaitu Jeremy. Meskipun Mr. Chang adalah seseorang yang memegang teguh budaya leluhurnya, istri dan kedua putrinya dapat beradaptasi dengan kebudayaan Amerika. Karena adanya budaya Amerika dan Cina dalam kehidupan keluarga Chang, maka keluarga Mr. Chang adalah salah satu contoh *bicultural family* di negara Amerika.

Penulis memutuskan untuk membahas lebih lanjut mengenai karakter Mr. Chang dan Jeremy. Penelitian yang dilakukan bertujuan untuk menganalisis lebih dalam mengenai *ethnocentrism* yang terdapat dalam diri Mr. Chang dan Jeremy. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode penelitian kepustakaan. Sementara metode pendekatan yang diterapkan adalah metode pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik.

Penelitian dilakukan dengan mencocokkan ciri-ciri *ethnocentrism* yang mengacu kepada sifat-sifat Mr. Chang dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Sedangkan untuk Jeremy berdasarkan perilaku yang ia tunjukkan kepada Mr. Chang. Dalam cerita ini pertemuan mereka dalam sebuah pesta memunculkan sifat *ethnocentrism* dalam diri mereka masing-masing dan memunculkan sebuah konflik berujung perselisihan pada kedua belah pihak. Dari hasil penelitian tersebut, didapatkan hasil bahwa karakter Mr. Chang dan Jeremy dalam cerita pendek “In The American Society” mempunyai semua ciri-ciri *ethnocentrism* di dalam dirinya. Untuk *bicultural family* dalam cerita ini menjelaskan tentang budaya Cina dan Amerika yang terdapat dalam kehidupan keluarga Chang. Beberapa contoh *bicultural family* yang terjadi kepada istri dan anak-anak Mr. Chang menegaskan bahwa meski mereka dapat beradaptasi dengan budaya Amerika tetapi mereka tidak melupakan budaya asli mereka. Mereka dapat memposisikan dirinya sebagai orang Cina dengan kebudayaannya dan orang Cina yang hidup di Amerika. Oleh karena itu, setelah membaca skripsi ini, diharapkan pembaca dapat mengetahui apa saja makna *bicultural family* dan ciri-ciri serta akibat dari *ethnocentrism*.

Kata kunci : Ethnocentrism, Bicultural Family, Chinese, America, Culture

## I. INTRODUCTION

Taken from *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (1995:687) literature includes writings that are valued as works of art, especially fiction, drama and poetry. One of the works that brings the author's culture in her/his works is "In The American Society", a short story by Gish Jen, a Chinese American writer who has written many literary works and always included cultural aspects in them. In this thesis, the writer will explain about ethnocentrism that is involved in the above short story. The writer focuses on the discussion about ethnocentrism that Mr. Chang applies in his life in the American society in the short story entitled "In The American Society".

In arranging this thesis, the writer has some purposes, namely: to analyze the intrinsic aspects of "In The American Society" story, to give a deep insight about ethnocentrism, and to analyze the ethnocentrism that Mr. Chang holds in his life in "In The American Society" short story.

## II. METHOD OF THE STUDY

The writer uses library research to get and to collect the information and theories used to analyze the topic further. The data is gathered from some reference books, the internet and other relevant sources. In the method of approach, the writer uses ethnocentrism theory to analyze the ethnocentrism in "In The American Society" by Gish Jean. Sumner in Stephen Steinberg (1981:120) claim about ethnocentrism, he says:

"A fundamental fact concerning human groups is that as their members are drawn together by a common interest, they simultaneously become distinguished from other groups. In this process, those in the newly formed group come to see themselves as the

"in-group" or "we-group" and to categorize everyone else as members of an "out-group" or "other-group"."

## III. THE SUMMARY AND THE AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

### a. THE AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY AND WORKS

Gish Jen was born in New York, 12 August 1955. Gish is not her real name; her real name is Lillian Jen. She starts her education program in Harvard University in 1972 and choose literature as her major. She graduated from Harvard University in 1977. She took Iowa's Writers' Workshop in University of Iowa and graduated in 1983, then she returned to California. In California she met David O'Connor, her husband and then married. They were lived in California until 1985, and then they moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they currently live with their two children.

"In The American Society" is Jen's first debut of short story and her other works appeared in some newspaper and anthologies. Jen wrote "In The American Society" in 1986, which is a short story about Chinese family who has a pancake house in America. Her first novel, "Typical American", published in 1991 and became a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 1996, Jen published her second novel *Mona in the Promised Land*, the continues story of the Chang's family, but the center of attention on the life of Ralph's teenage daughter, Mona. *Who's Irish?* (1999) appears in *The New Yorker* and *Ploughshares*. Jen's two stories are selected for the anthology Best American Short Stories, and one that was published in *Ploughshares*. Her story, "Birthmates," was chosen by John Updike for The Best American Short Stories of the Century. In her third novel, *The Love Wife* (2004), Jen introduces another type of Jen's "typical American

families." Jen's theme works are include stories of immigration, assimilation, and related with other ethnic communities. She also took the American dream as her aspect of her work. (*Liem. 1984:139-141*)

### 3.2 SUMMARY OF THE STORY

"In The American Society" is a story in two parts. The one is entitled "His Own Society" and the second is "In The American Society". This story is told by Callie, Mr. Chang's daughter. "His Own Society" is a story about Mr. Chang and his family in their house and restaurant.

"His Own Society" begins with Callie telling about Mr. Chang's pancake house that can support their financial life. Long before the pancake house is successful like the present condition, their life is not financially successful. As their restaurant business grows well they apparently have successful life. Mr. Chang starts to tell about his Chinese grandfather - a villager in China -who used to teach him Chinese cultural aspects which are later he believes as his best culture. That is why he cannot accept other cultures no matter where he lives. Helen, Mr. Chang's wife, has already become an independent woman who is different from many definitions of Chinese women in general. Usually in Chinese culture women always depend on their husbands. But Mrs. Chang can do anything like other American women. She can pump her own gas, check her own oil, and she is interested in espadrilles, wallpaper and the town country club.

Mr. Chang's wife really wants to join the town country club because she wants to socialize with other people with similar interests, but she knows that Mr. Chang will never give his permission to mingle with American society. Mr. Chang never believes in the values and customs of American

society, such as social gathering, the importance of appearance or well-grooming nor modern management system to be applied to his employees. He does not even care about himself; he does not believe in nice clothes and would wear only ten-year-old-shirt with grease-spotted pants. Not only that, he also treats his workers in his cultural way, that is, a worker is a servant for him. So, he can tell them anything to do from fixing radiators, trimming hedges, and also scratching his back. Because of his attitude, most of his workers leave the pancake house and never come back again.

One day, there is an immigrant named Booker, a Chinese guy who comes from Taiwan. He comes to the United States with his student visa and happens to run out of money when he wants to come back to his home country. So, he asks Mr. Chang to hire him and he directly agrees to employ him in his pancake house. During his employment in the Mr. Chang's restaurant, Mr. Chang never tells his wife about Booker's status as an illegal immigrant. Booker is a good worker and learns about things to do quickly in the pancake house. Sometimes he sends his friends to replace him in the pancake house when he is absent; they are Ronald, Lynn, Dirk, and Cedric. They have the same illegal status and need money badly. One day, Cedric knows that Fernando, an old worker, steals a carrot in the kitchen. Soon, Cedric and Fernando fight and when Mr. Chang finds out about it he fires Fernando right away. Fernando takes revenge to what Mr. Chang and Cedric have done to him by calling the police to investigate illegal immigrants in Mr. Chang's restaurant. The police soon arrest Booker and Cedric and put them into the jail. In the next day, Mr. Chang comes to the jail and search for a clerck to bail Booker and Cedric. When Mrs. Chang knows about the case she goes mad. She says to Mr. Chang that it is not the American custom

to bribe the judge to make people free. Having ever been in similar situation, Mr. Chang really wants to see Booker and Cedric free. In the following day Mr. Chang come to the police again and has another try to bribe the clerk by offering a pancake. However, the clerk does not seem to have interest in it, instead she offers Mr. Chang to become a sponsor if he really wants to make Booker and Cedric free. Finally Mr. Chang sponsors them to be free and Booker and Cedric must join a trial to make them permanent residents. But, when they wait for the trial they escape and leave a letter to Mr. Chang expressing their gratitude for his kindness during their working with him and they never come back for good.

Once, Mrs. Lardner, a member of the country club comes to the Chang's house. She meets Mrs. Chang and asks her to join the country club. Mrs. Chang does not know that Mona, her daughter, has already asked Mrs. Lardner to write a recommendation letter for Mrs. Chang to join the country club. Mrs. Lardner comes to invite her to come to her house and join the party with other country club members. Mrs. Chang says that she will hopefully come to that party.

The story continues to the next part, "In The American Society". It is a story when finally Mr. Chang and his family are willing to come to the country club party in Mrs. Lardner's house. The party is held on Sunday, and as a preparation on Saturday Mrs. Chang takes her husband to buy new clothes. In the party, a problem comes from Jeremy, Mrs. Lardner's friend. First time they meet, Jeremy talks to Mr. Chang "This is my party, *my party*, and I've never seen you before in my life". This statement continues with "Who are you?, WHO ARE YOU?". This annoys Mr. Chang, and Mrs. Lardner as a host, introduces Mr. Chang as her friend to Jeremy. He asks sorry and his attitude annoys Mr. Chang. He gets

drunk and grumbles a lot and asks Mr. Chang to read Chinese letters written on his handkerchief that his sister gives him from Hongkong. First, Mr. Chang does not care about Jeremy's behavior, but when he looks at the letters he readily answers Jeremy's questions. Surprisingly, this makes Jeremy angry because at first Mr. Chang does not pay any attention to him and even says that he cannot speak any mandarin. Therefore Jeremy gets annoyed why Mr. Chang understands the letters on the handkerchief. Jeremy becomes more uncontrolled and a fight between him and Mr. Chang is inevitable. Moreover, during the fight Jeremy makes Mr. Chang's jacket fall down into the pool and gets dirty. Because of the inconvenience, his wife says sorry to him and assumes those all her faults. But Mr. Chang does not want to blame his wife because he himself gets angry with the drunk guy and forgets to grab the car key in his jacket. So, they must walk home and decide to take the key later when the party is over.

#### **IV. LITERARY REVIEW**

##### **4.1 STRUCTURAL ASPECT**

###### **4.1.1 CHARACTER**

Characters can be found in stories, novels and dramas. Characters can make literary works more interesting. The perception is taken from Lethbridge and Mildorf (2004:113) say:

"That character divided into major characters and minor characters, depending on how important they are for the plot. A good indicator as to whether a character is major or minor is the amount of time and speech as well as presence on stage he or she is allocated. As a rule of thumb, major characters usually have a lot to say and appear frequently throughout the play,

while minor characters have less presence or appear only marginally.”

For instance it can assume that major character has a large appear in the story. The opposite of major is minor, it explains that minor characters only have a small appear in the story.

#### **4.1.2 SETTING**

Setting refers to the location of a story or novel in terms of place, time, social and physical environments. (The Learning Centre, 2010:1).

#### **4.1.3 CONFLICT**

Conflict is essential to plot; without conflict there is no plot in a short story. Like Donaghy said that “The conflict is a struggle between two people or things in a story. The main character is usually on one side of the central conflict. On the other side, the main character may struggle against another important character, against the forces of nature, against society, or even against something inside himself or herself (feelings, emotions, illness).” (2014:1)

#### **4.2 CULTURE**

Kluckhohn in Campbell said that, “the total life way of a people, the social legacy the individual acquires from his group.” Campbell (1979:71) also adding an explanation about culture, “Others focus more specifically on the psychological component, and speak of the norms, values, myths, and tradition which are shared by a society and which are passed on from generation to generation.” Other perception comes from Ying Fan quoted from Terpstra and David A (2000:3). They say that “culture is learned, shared, compelling, interrelated set of symbols

which meaning provides a set of orientations for members of a society”.

In this thesis, the writer will explain two cultures that relate in “In The American Society” short story. The cultures that the writer will explain are Chinese and American cultures of their daily and social life and also cultural values.

#### **4.3 CHINESE CULTURE**

Chinese people usually bring their own Chinese cultural values in their live as their basic identity of lives. Their root take concepts from Confucianism (teaching about human relationship) (Wang, 1946:16), Taoism (teaching about the way of life) (Wang, 1946:61) and Buddhism (a religion that Chinese learn as the concept of human suffering) (Wang, 1946:59) which are applied in their lives everywhere.

Confucianism basically is the moral doctrin that is based on the teaching of Confucius regarding human relationships, social structures, virtuous behaviour and work ethics. Human relationship explains about the relationship between Chinese people with other people also their way to treat their people in their group or people who are not in their group. The famous other value is work ethic. Chinese people are famous as hard workers. That is why many Chinese people are successful in their lives because of their hard working concept they take in their lives. Chinese is famous as a “*family-cracy*”, so, what they are doing basically for themselves and their family and they also recognize it (Wang, 1946:18). The third phase of the Confucian moral program is to make every individual an active participant in the building of a world society (Wang, 1946:20). It means that every Chinese is responsible to be an active participant to build the society of the world.

#### 4.4. AMERICAN CULTURE

Immigrants bring many kinds of cultures from their own countries, for example their traditional food, art, custom of life and also moral values in their daily life. In America the above cultures assimilate and at the same time influence one another. Art is one of the most cultural product that assimilate well with other culture. Most people there are usually interested in art, such as painting, music, wallpaper, etc.

The most famous art in America is wallpaper and it came to America in 1739. It began when Plunket Fleeson started printing wallpaper in Philadelphia. In early America, colonials was copied European fashions. After the Revolutionary War, Americans set up workshops of their own. The origin of culture came from China in early 200 BC, the first country that found paper and glued the printing paper in their wall. In the 8th century, several Chinese prisoners with papermaking skills worked in Arab and spread their knowledge of papermaking in Middle East. During the 12th century, papermaking had spread in Europe. The first wallpaper in Europe was found on the pole of the Lodge of Christ's College in Cambridge, England in 1509. (Raith, 2012:36)

America is famous as an immigrant country, because of this phenomena people with similar interests build a social community to make them always connect with their own society or to gather to do their hobbies. A perception quoted from Robert MacIver is that, "a community is people who share not this or that particular interest, but a whole set of interests wide enough and complete enough to include their lives" (Bender, 1978:8).

#### 4.5. CHINESE PEOPLE AND CULTURE IN AMERICA

Chinese immigrants came to America in the late 1800s. They firstly built their community in California and Hawaii. Most of them came to America to search a better life and jobs. They became workers to build a railroad in California. In America, Chinese are discriminated in terms of pay and forced to work underpressure. White workers viewed them as economic competitors and racial inferiors, therefore white people made laws to against and violence the Chinese (Higham. 1963:25). After World War II, many Chinese came to America and they were the biggest immigrants coming to America. Because of this movement they built their own life society, which is famous as Chinatown. Chinatown is a place to live not only for Chinese but also for other immigrants. Reported by Phillips Preiss Shapiro Associates (2004:2)

In America, Chinese are described in the following types of Chinese families, as described by Kitano (1985:224) they are:

- 4.5.1 The traditional family. The family is dominated by the males, has hierarchical structure, traditional roles of parents and children, and old values from their old country.
- 4.5.2 The bicultural family. This type of family is usually of the second or third generation. Although there may be some first-generation biculturals, depending upon age of arrival in the United States. They are products of the exposure to both cultures; although there may be instances of cultural conflict and marginality, the majority have successfully integrated Chinese and American models.
- 4.5.3 The modern family. This family type is described as modern and cosmopolitan, more American than Chinese. They desire full acculturation and they think, speak, and

are “American” in every way except for their physical features.

Traditional Chinese family has some characteristics in their family, one of them is patriarchal. This patriarchal characteristic is applied in many traditional Chinese family until now on. Taken from G. Liu & Zhao in Sheng (2004:8), says:

Chinese ideology and ethics were built on patriarchy and man’s domination and on the oppression and subordination of woman, characterized by the rules of “three obediences and four virtues” (obedience to father before marriage, to husband after marriage, and to son after husband’s death; morality, proper speech, modest manner, and diligent work) .

#### **4.6. ETHNOCENTRISM**

Ethnocentrism is the habit of seeing things only from the point of view of one’s own group (Brinkerhoff, et al. 2003:84). People who has this attitude is called ethnocentrist, and they believe that the own group or in-group is superior to all other groups (Brinkerhoff, et al. 2003:330). The own group in here for example is race group, that is why they just believe in their own race people, norm, and culture. It can be explain that people who have this attitude think that their culture is better than others and just believe in their way of life. Such people are ones that are unable to adopt another culture and has a small world to live.

Stephan and Stephan in Zikargae (2013:132) indicate that ethnocentrism is lower in countries with strong belief in tolerance of others, harmony with others than in countries with a sense of cultural superiority, respect for traditions. The concept has

two components: (a) an exaggeration of the in-group’s position and cultural superiority and (b) a criticism of all out-group cultures.

## **V. DISCUSSION**

In this chapter the writer will discuss more deeply on the material mentioned previously in chapter 3. The writer will mainly discuss characters, settings, bicultural family and ethnocentrism in “In The American Society” story.

### **5.1 CHARACTER**

The major character in “In The American Society” is Mr. Ralph Chang; this story is centralized on Mr. Chang’s life as well as his family, job and daily life. As the major character, Mr. Chang has a large amount of “screen time” in the story. In a different way, the minor characters do not have many spotlights in the story. The minor characters in this story are Mr. Chang’s families: his wife, Helen, and his daughters, Callie and Mona. Other minor characters in this story are his workers, Cedric, Booker, Fernando; Mrs. Lardner, the member of country club; and the last is Jeremy, Mrs. Lardner’s friend who is also an ethnocentrist like Mr. Chang.

### **5.2 SETTING**

#### **5.2.1. PLACE**

This story takes place in America, as it is expressed in this story when Helen, Mr. Chang’s wife, who says that they are in United States of America. Other places are indoors such as, pancake house and kitchen.

#### **5.2.2. TIME**

In this story the writer will describe some examples about time. First of all, the writer will present the time when Mr. Chang’s pancake house has grown well and become the

main support of the economic life of Chang's family. The pancake house is getting bigger, and certainly Mr. Chang needs more workers. But when he hires workers for the business, he does not maintain them well by treating them badly and showing wrong attitudes that makes them leave the pancake house. Even when Mr. Chang needs a worker for his pancake house which is really busy that summer, he can not fulfill the needs. His dish boy, for instance, is overwhelmed with scraping jobs. Then, as his worker resigns from the pancake house, Mr. Chang opens a vacancy, but he gets none to replace his worker. As a result his two daughters must handle the jobs. The last explanation about time is when Chang's family is going to the club party. Mrs. Chang is really well-prepared to come to the party.

### 5.2.3. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The social environment that rises in "In The American Society" is racial issues. Some implicit racial issues are found in some conversations in this story. We can get the words "Jewish" and "Black". These indicate that racial issues come up.

### 5.3. BICULTURAL FAMILY

"In The American Society", Mr. Chang's family is a sample of a bicultural family in America. Although Mr. Chang cannot accept American culture, his wife and his daughters can accept it, for example they want to join a country club and enjoy the American lifestyle. It is shown by Mrs. Chang's way of thinking, which is open minded and future oriented. Mr. Chang's attitude is proven when she always says to her daughters that her husband thinks that they live in China.

Mr. Chang knows that his family live in America, but he can not accept American culture.

He treats people in America like he treats people in China. Helen always says that they are in America, but for Mr. Chang it just a non sense. One day, when his Chinese workers go to the jail, he wants to make them free by talking to the judge. Mr. Chang thinks that America is China, where people can talk to the judge and give him money. In fact, he is in America with the different regulations and cultures. It really makes Helen angry because in this way, it is possible to make Mr. Chang go to the jail because in America's rule, when he tries to speak to the judge, people think he bribes the judge to make his Chinese workers free.

In the mean time, in this story, Mr. Chang's wife wants to join a country club which is one of American cultures. Mr. Chang's daughters really support their mother to join the club. They are really excited to join the club because they can join a new community. In spite of Helen's interest in the club, they all still keep their traditional patriarchal ideology that a father and husband is the head of the family and everyone has to be loyal to him. However, they all realize that Mr. Chang will certainly not allow them to do it. So it is impossible to join the club without having permission from Mr. Chang.

Mrs. Chang knows that her husband does not believe in American culture, as she says to her daughters, "*Your father doesn't believe in joining the American society,*" said my mother. "*He wants to have his own society.*" ... (Lauter, etc. 1994:2804). That is why Mrs. Chang and her daughters know that Mr. Chang will never give his permission to his family to join the country club because he only wants to have his own society, the Chinese one. Some American cultural products are shown in this story; community gathering and wallpaper. These are explained before in chapter 3



and it seems that Helen, Mr. Chang's wife really likes wallpaper. She becomes independent, brave, modern and joyful with the American's lifestyle.

As stated in chapter 3, Chinese's moral doctrine is based on Confucianism. It is a teaching of human relationships, social structures, virtuous behavior and work ethics. Human relationship explains about the relationship between the Chinese people and other people, including their way to treat their people in their group or people who are in the outside. Mr. Chang in this story shows this concept in his life. The story tells about how he relates himself with his in-group people (the Chinese) and how he relates himself with the out-group. It also tells about Chang's work ethic which is clearly shown in his struggle to build his pancake house. Callie learns this from Helen who together with her husband has built the pancake house which later has become the main support of their family. Even they are waiting a few months to reach the successful life, it does not make Mr. Chang give up and sad. He is working hard to make his business grow well and make his family happy and wealthy.

#### **5.4. ETHNOCENTRISM**

In this chapter, the writer will describe about ethnocentrism that rises in "In The American Society" story. As mentioned previously Mr. Chang is a person who has ethnocentrism in his life. Similarly Jeremy has typical behavior like Mr. Chang. Both Mr. Chang and Jeremy never realize that they are ethnocentrists.

Mr. Chang ethnocentrism is shown in his relationship with the out-group people: It can be seen from his ways to treat his American workers and Booker, his Chinese worker. Mr. Chang treats his American workers like his servants but Booker and Cedric like friends; He treats the Chinese boys as if they are his friends. For example, the cooks

and busboys are asked to do other things such as to fix radiator and trim hedges both at the restaurant and their house. The waitresses are asked to do some errands and drive him around. Different from his treatment to American workers, when Booker comes looking for job, Mr. Chang accepts him to work in the pancake house immediately because he is Chinese. Mr. Chang treats Booker and his friend Cedric, who work for him like friends. His relationship with Booker and Cedric continues when Booker and Cedric are sent to the jail after his immigrant status is reported to the police by Fernando. Mr. Chang really wants to make them free, even though it is in an illegal way. He thinks that America is like China, where people can be bribed by something, and Helen is angry of that. Mr. Chang's other feeling of his cultural superiority is one of the Chinese traditions. His attitude is explained by his daughter, Callie, when his father expresses his pride on grandfather's tradition in China.

Another ethnocentrist is Jeremy who appears in Mrs. Lardner's party. He gets drunk and cannot control his words. At that party he meets Mr. Chang and begins to speak out what he thinks in his mind including offenses for Mr. Chang's race. Jeremy says that Mr. Chang is not his man, so, he is not supposed to come to this party. He always asks who Mr. Chang is and why he comes to this party. He rejects people who do not belong to his group. As a matter of fact he rejects Mr. Chang by roaring to him and making him feel uneasy at that party. Mr. Chang and Jeremy's ethnocentrism make them have their own society in their entire life. When they meet in Mrs. Lardner's party, it seems that they cannot mingle with others and stick on their own in-group personality.

Mr. Chang has reached his limit of handling himself. At this point he is very annoyed by Jeremy. It starts when Jeremy says “*I have another matter. Do you speak Chinese?*” (Lauter, etc. 1994:2811) to Mr. Chang and he answers he does not speak Chinese. Their conversation finally turns into a conflict and Jeremy becomes really angry. This, then, makes Mr. Chang feel annoyed and wants to leave the party. Because of the Chinese words in Jeremy’s handkerchief, Jeremy feels offended and very angry with Mr. Chang. It makes Jeremy ask again and again in his mind, who Mr. Chang is, and why he comes to this party. Their argument starts temporarily as Mrs. Lardner explains to Jeremy that Mr. Chang is a special guest whom she invites.

After Jeremy knows that Mr. Chang is a special guest in that party, he tries to apologize but Mr. Chang is really angry with Jeremy’s attitude. Jeremy feels that Mr. Chang has not forgiven him, so, he tries to apologize again and offers many things to ask Mr. Chang’s forgiveness. He thinks that when he offers many things to Mr. Chang, he will forgive him. The climax of their quarrel finally makes Mr. Chang really angry. Their fight gets worse. Jeremy threatens Mr. Chang that he will throw Mr. Chang’s jacket to the pool. Mr. Chang, who is really offended and angry with Jeremy throw his jacket to the pool by himself. Finally, Mr. Chang shows his anger to Jeremy by throwing Jeremy’s polo shirt out to the pool. His attitude indicates that he wants to show that he can be superior to Jeremy. On the other hand Mrs. Chang, who knows that her husband argues with Jeremy, comes in hurry and sees what happen to her husband.

After their fight, Mr. Chang decides to leave the party; immediately he orders his family to leave the party as soon as possible. With grim face he tells Callie to find Mona and for Mrs. Chang, he tells her

to wear her shoes as soon as possible. He tells his family to leave and never comes back to the party anymore.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Bicultural family is a type of family which has two different cultures. Although there may be cultural conflict and marginality, the major culture has successfully integrated to the minor, for example American and Chinese. Because of this, people who only believe in Chinese culture or their own culture have an ethnocentrism attitude. Ethnocentrism is a belief that strongly affects one’s attitudes to underestimate others’ cultures and to perceive that his own culture is always better than others. People who have this attitude are called ethnocentrists. They will only work cooperatively with the in-group people and trust ones within their own groups. Typical persons can be found in many nations who always think that their culture is the best. Usually people with this attitude never accept others’ cultures from other nations.

This thesis talks about Mr. Chang, a Chinese immigrant and an owner of a pancake house in “In The American Society” short story. He believes that Chinese culture is better than others’ cultures, in this case the American culture. So, he lives with his own way and perception as a Chinese, particularly when his restaurant business grows well. In contrast, his wife and two daughters can accept American people and their culture. The ethnocentrism is seen in Mr. Chang’s daily life, for example when he treats his employees as what the Chinese do in their culture and when he solves problems using his perception as Chinese. Another character, Jeremy, is also an ethnocentrism. He shows ethnocentrism when he is drunk and in his attitude when he meets Mr. Chang and gets the chance to annoy and offend him.

Mr. Chang and Jeremy possess the ethnocentrism traits. The ethnocentrism traits are previously mentioned and explained in chapter 3 and chapter 4. The traits they possess are seen what in Mr. Chang and Jeremy do in their daily lives; for example, Mr. Chang's treatments to his employees and Jeremy's behavior towards Mr. Chang in the country club party. According to the analysis, it is concluded that Mr. Chang and Jeremy in "In The American Society" short story possess ethnocentrism.

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