

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the analysis of the object of the study in order to answer the statement of the problem. In this research, There are some data that portray post-colonial identities issue. The selected data which is their characterization will be analyzed into some subchapters, the mimicry of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians*, the ambivalence of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians*, the hybridity of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians*.

4.1 The Mimicry of Women Characters in Crazy Rich Asians

4.1.1 Rachel Chu

In analyzing this novel, the researcher used post-colonial identities theory. Something that happened after colonial influence our lives in the present. The effect can be positive or negative. This story is inspired by the author who was born and raised in Singapore. Kwan himself is a prominent Chinese-Singaporean family but he and his family moved to Houston, Texas and currently live in Manhattan, New York.

Through his work, Kevin Kwan wants to introduce Asia to the western world by describing the phenomena that exist in society in Singapore. With his life experience that he felt like a Chinese descent who grew in two different parts of the world, East and West. This also made him inspired to describe Rachel's character as American Born Chinese. Rachel's character is influenced by her mother and friend who will also be discussed by the researcher. Those two characters were chosen based on the similarity of their background as descendants of China living in America.

It is said that Rachel was a Chinese descendant who moved and settled in New York, America with her mother. Rachel has a campus colleague named Peik Lin who is also a Chinese descent who lives in America. Although Rachel is physically like a Chinese, her mother realizes that there is something different about her daughter identity as a Chinese. In fact, Rachel's way of thinking and life

patterns look like the West. Rachel also felt that she was different from other Asian friends because her mother's education was influenced by Western culture. In *Crazy Rich Asian Novel*, There are some indications that show Rachel's mimicry on the West. Bhaba (in Sharpe, 1995: 100) describes mimicry as a trope of partial presence that denotes a threatening racial difference to uncover the abundance and slippages of colonial power and knowledge. The researcher finds a paragraph which tells about her problem.

“Back in high school, she had endured dreary meals in the fluorescent-lit dining rooms of her classmates, dinners where not more than five words were exchanged between parent and child. She had noticed the stunned reactions from her friends whenever she randomly hugged her mother or said ‘I love you’ at the end of a phone call. And several years ago, she had been emailed a humorous list entitled ‘Twenty Ways You Can Tell You Have Asian Parents.’ Number one on the list: Your parents never, ever call you just to say hello.’ She didn’t get many of the jokes on the list, since her own experience growing up had been entirely different” (2013:67).

From the quotation, the researcher knows that she is a Chinese Woman from her appearance but from her thought and her action, she is different from her Asian friends. Because of the way she behaves, it imitates or mimics the Western culture. And her characteristic is affected by the environment in which she lived and her mom which educated Rachel with a Western Culture. Rachel is not shy when she hugged her mother and said love words that is what distinguishes her from other Asian friends. Even, she looks like not reluctant to show her attention and intimacy in the relationship between parent and child.

“To be completely honest, Nick is the first guy I’ve dated who I could imagine being married to. But I was never raised to believe that marriage was supposed to be my life’s goal. My mother wanted me to get the best education first. She never wanted me to end up having to wash dishes in a restaurant” (2013:278).

Rachel is a clever woman who attended Stanford and Northwestern University. He is also a professor of economics at New York University because of his hard work and her mom sacrifice to change his life. She seems to be living the American dream. Her American dream is her way of living that is thought by many Americans to be able to get success. Because of her high desire, it made her spend his youth only for her education rather than talking about marriage because she raised in the American way.

“Being twenty-nine, she was by Chinese standards well into old-maid territory, and even though her busybody relatives were perpetually trying to set her up, she had spent the better part of her twenties focused on getting through grad school, finishing her dissertation, and jumpstarting her career in academia” (2013:19).

In Asia, China women over the age of 27 are usually considered sheng nu. The Ministry of Education of China presented the terms of "leftover women," or sheng nu, to generally show the "qualified yet unmarried ladies between the age 27 to 35" in 2007 (Fincher, 2011). If they are not married soon, parents and family usually intervene in making decisions for their child's future. This is different from western, marriage is a choice depending on each individual as well as the future. They are responsible for the choices or decisions that they chose by themselves.

“That’s not the case over here. No matter how advanced we’ve become, there’s still tremendous pressure for girls to get married. Here, it doesn’t matter how successful a woman is professionally. She isn’t considered complete until she is married and has children. Why do you think Araminta is so eager to get married?” (2013:279).

This quote emphasizes how the differences between Asian and American cultures relate to marriage. As stated in the above paragraph from the perspective of Sophie who is also of Chinese descent, one of the goals of women here is to get

married and have children. Even though they are successful and financially independent, their lives are considered incomplete if they are not married. This also causes women to get pressure from their parents to get married soon.

In contrast to western culture, each individual has the freedom to make choices when they are ready to get married. As Rachel, she didn't worry too much about the marriage things at the age of almost 30 years even though her mother often reminds her. Rachel felt she didn't need to get married to feel complete because she was an independent woman who was able to pursue her American Dream to become a successful woman on her own feet.

“I’m the only Chinese mother with an unmarried daughter who’s almost thirty! Do you know all the inquiries I get almost every day? I’m getting tired of defending you” (2013:32)

To sum up, the quotations above indicates that Rachel chose to focus on the academic field and pursue her dreams as high as possible even though her mother told her to get married soon. She put aside marriage at the age of almost 30 years. Even in the novel, though Rachel's relationship with her boyfriend has been going on for a long time, they have never once talked about marriage. Her mimicry on the American lifestyle is not only can be seen in that quotation. The researcher also finds the paragraph below to support the previous paragraph.

"Besides, how many nights a week do you already spend at his place? ...I'm shocked you two haven't moved in together yet.' ...' You're the only Chinese mom I know who's actually encouraging her daughter to shack up with a guy.' Rachel laughed (2013:32).

It seems clearly that Rachel was given the freedom by her mother to stay in the nick’s place. This shows the erosion of the Eastern value that they hold. Their lifestyles are far from the values that are adhered by the Eastern, especially Asians because it is a taboo thing if done without a clear bond. As we have known, mostly, parents in the west give full responsibility for life choices to their children as

individuals who are considered independent, can be responsible and take risks for every decision they make. This was also instilled by his mother Rachel to his daughter.

“Daughter, that is the most important thing. You mustn’t assume that Nick’s parents are going to be as liberal-minded as I am. You are going to Singapore, and those Chinese Singaporeans are the most uptight of all the Chinese, you know! I don’t want his parents to think I didn’t raise you properly.” (2013:33).

From the quotation above we know that Eastern people, especially Chinese Singapore, are rigid when it comes to culture. Unlike Rachel's mother who has a liberal concept like Westerners. If the tradition is violated, in the sense that Rachel will share a bedroom with Nick, as a parent, her mother is considered unable to educate her child properly.

4.1.2 Goh Peik Lin

Goh Peik lin is Rachel’s best friend from her college at Stanford University who has a luxurious life in Singapore. As a Singaporean who is a former British colony, Peik Lin's lifestyle is also inseparable from the influence of British culture. One of them is afternoon tea, which we can see in the quotation below.

“With the tour finally over, Peik Lin suggested that they head back to the hotel to relax over afternoon tea since Rachel was still feeling a bit jet-lagged. ‘Your hotel serves a terrific high tea, with fabulous Nyonya kueh.’” (2013:151).

Peik Lin’s mimicry can be seen in her British culture for Afternoon tea. The country that applies the monarchy government system still maintains its tea-drinking culture until now including Singapore. Afternoon tea was known in the mid-1800s by Anna Maria Russel, Duchess of Bedford, starting with snacks and drinks for him and his guests until the dinner time (Skinner, 2019). This culture was

known as a time-filler after lunch to dinner. This is done by Western to get around the long pause. Afternoon tea is usually accompanied by sweet snacks.

Peik Lin's culture in Afternoon tea is her mimic on colonizer's culture. It has explained in Bhaba theory that Mimicry is a manner by the colonized. It reproduced as 'almost the identical, however not quite' (1994:86). In other words, mimicry is the desire to be almost the same as colonizer but not exactly the same. Refers to the theory, Peik Lin's culture is an effect from the era of colonialism for Drinking Afternoon tea even though she did not feel it directly. But the culture has continued until now.

"It's Fifth Avenue on steroids ... I've never seen so many boutiques and shopping malls, lined up as far as the eye can see!" ... "Yes, but I prefer the shopping in New York or LA." ... "You always did, Peik Lin," Rachel teased, remembering her friend's frequent shopping jaunts when she was supposed to be in class. Rachel always knew that Peik Lin came from money. They met during freshman orientation at Stanford, and Peik Lin was the girl who showed up to 8:00 a.m. classes looking as if she had just come from a shopping spree on Rodeo Drive. As a newly arrived international student from Singapore, one of the first things she did was buy herself a Porsche 911 convertible, claiming that since Porsches were such a bargain in America 'it's an absolute crime not to have one' (2013:130).

Settling in America in a few years for its study, It is natural that the Western culture can see in itself. From the quote above, we can see that Peik Lin Mimic Western in shopping for branded goods made by famous designers he prefers to shop in America than in Singapore. Instead, it was mentioned that she bought 911 Porsche made by Germany.

Porsche is one of the famous car brands used by people in developed countries. In America, it might be the usual thing for everyone to use this car, but in Asia, the wearer is only from the upper class because the price is not cheap. Peik Lin didn't want to waste his chance while in America and chose Porsche like the Americans for her vehicle.

“Sure looks like it. I don’t see any blood or torn clothing.’ ... ‘There better not be. That’s Lanvin Rachel’s wearing. Cost me about seven K.’ ... ‘Well, I’m glad I’m not the only one who’s guilty of being extravagant with her. She can’t blame it all on me anymore,’ Nick said” (2013:522).

Peik Lin is considered "new money" in Singapore because his family collected their wealth for the rest of his father's life. The use of branded goods is synonymous with new rich people because the "old money" will not be detected by the brand. Peik lin uses luxury and branded items such as fashion trends in the West intending to show off that she could afford it. In the novel, she also uses several branded items designed by famous designer boutiques in Europe.

Western culture goes through all aspects of people's lives throughout the world. Thus, the trend will always be a role model for others. From the quotation above, Peik lin doesn't just change her fashion to Western-style. But she also influenced Rachel's style on several occasions. She lent and bought Rachel clothes from a famous brand. For example, the Lanvin brand clothes that Rachel is wearing are clothes made in Paris. This shows the Peik lin mimicry towards western fashion.

Mimicry is a sign of articulation double, update strategy, regulation, and complex disciplines, which "appropriates" the Other as it visualizes power (Bhabha, 1994: 86). As illustrated in the film Peik lin is blond and short like Ellen from Asian. As we know, Asians usually have black and long hair, but he is Mimic West as the other one which is considered a universal standard with blonde hair.

4.2 The Ambivalence of Women Characters in Crazy Rich Asians

4.2.1 Rachel Chu

The Novel shows the lifestyle of the Nick Young family who is a super-rich conglomerate in Singapore. The main conflict in this film begins when Rachel is introduced to Nick's mother. Rachel's identity as an Asian American is questioned by Nick’s mom. Rachel is considered inappropriate for being part of the

Young family because she sees her as an American who lives in a culture very different from Asia, especially Hokkien.

The identity of Rachel Chu is an immigrant from China which moved to America usually represented as the lower class. But she broke all the stereotypes that exist with all her hard work. Even though Rachel is not from the wealthy family, Rachel denotes her self-worth and can become an economics professor of Chinese descent who grew up in America. She makes her social class higher than before.

Rachel is a Chinese descent who lives in New York since she was a baby until she became an adult. His mother who is also a Chinese must have influenced and instilled the Chinese culture that she taught to Rachel. Not only his mother but the surrounding environment also shaped Rachel's identity. The existence of two different cultures that she received resulted in the inner chaos she felt. She wonders why she was different from her other Asian friends. Refers to chapter 4.1.1 on the quotation below.

“And several years ago, she had been emailed a humorous list entitled ‘Twenty Ways You Can Tell You Have Asian Parents.’ Number one on the list: Your parents never, ever call you just to say hello.’ She didn’t get many of the jokes on the list, since her own experience growing up had been entirely different” (2013:67).

The quotation shows her ambivalence because of the ambiguous feeling that she felt. She confused where she belongs to. Seeing that she felt something different when she didn’t get the jokes about Asian parent. On one side she felt that she was part of the Chinese but on the other side, she felt different from other Asian friends. Because it is influenced by the character of the people around her and her environment. Her mother raised Rachel with a culture that was different from Asians in general so she did not understand about the jokes. That is in line with Fanon theory in Hiddleston's work, ambivalent is the feeling of alienation or ambiguous that arises from within because it indicates the existence of self-doubling (2009:117).

“Well, you have a very special thing with your mum, you know that. It’s not that easy for most other people. And with my parents, it’s just ...’ Nick paused, struggling for the right words. ‘We’re just different. We’re much more formal with each other, and we don’t really discuss our emotional lives at all.” (2013:65)

Rachel who is not the one who realized that she was different. Her boyfriend, Nick, is also aware of the same thing because Rachel was raised in a different way than most Asians. Western parents are usually more concentrated on their child's self-esteem. They can only encourage their children to “trying your best”. Then, there is no distance between children and parents. Because the relationship between parents and children is so close, they have the freedom to express what they feel and share personal things.

Compared to Western parents, Chinese parents believe that they know what is best for their children and control what their children do. As one example in the novel, Asians generally have a distance in the relationship between parent and child and they are reluctant to say personal things. While Rachel is raised in a Western way that does not hesitate to show the intensity of closeness between mother and child by showing attention or just saying “I love you” and tell her mother about her relationship with her boyfriend.

First of all, Rachel Chu, you cannot wear a black-and-white dress to a wedding—those are mourning colors. Are you sure you’re really Chinese? How could you not know that?” (2013:357).

Not only her mother, her boyfriend, and her boyfriend’s mother, now Peik Lin, her close friends who question which one is the real Rachel’s identity between Asian or American. Because as Peik Lin said, she insinuated whether Rachel was Chinese. Rachel seemed not to worry about what clothes she would wear at the event and would wear a black and white dress as she would go to the funeral. She also did not know what clothes were suitable for coming to ethnic Chinese

weddings. With the result that Peik Lin has to choose the clothes for Rachel to wear.

“This is the first time you have been serious with a Chinese man. There is so much you don’t know about the proper etiquette with these families.’ ... ‘I didn’t realize you could be so old-fashioned,’ Rachel teased. ‘Besides, Nick’s family doesn’t seem really Chinese at all. They seem more British if anything.’ ... ‘It doesn’t matter. You are Chinese, and you still need to behave like a properly brought-up Chinese girl,’ Kerry said” (2013:313).

Raised in America made Rachel have an ambivalence over the two identities she had that is Asia and American. Sometimes she looks like a Western and sometimes she looks like Eastern. This complex thought and culture are called ambivalence in the Post-colonial Identity Theory.

Rachel's mother seemed to raise her with modern Western culture but it could not eliminate her background as Chinese. This has affected Rachel's personality so far. The above quotation shows that even though Rachel was educated in a Western way, her mother still emphasized that she was Chinese and had to behave like a Chinese girl who was raised properly.

4.3 The Hybridity of Women Characters in Crazy Rich Asians

4.3.1 Rachel Chu

Based on Ashcroft et al’s statement, hybridity is a product of colonization with the contact zone which gave birth to new trans-cultural creations. In terms of horticultural ‘hybrid’ means cross-breeding of two types. But in this case, what is meant by cross-breeding is mating between two cultures. Not only culture but social, political, racial, linguistic and other things (2007:108).

Rachel, since she was a baby was brought by her mother, moved to America to settle there. Her mother also tried so that Rachel could have a higher education than her. She was educated in America until she became a professor of economics. She is described as a highly educated girl and has a brilliant career. She adapted the

Western culture and did repetition until it unconsciously created her new identity which is a combination of west and east.

“Daughter, once again you are judging the situation with your American eyes. You have to look at this the Chinese way. In Asia, there is a proper time for everything, a proper etiquette.” (2013:68).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that she unconsciously assessed a situation that she experienced with a western perspective. In fact, her mother was the one who aware of her child's thoughts and behavior that she was no longer like Chinese. Her hybridity is not only on her behavior and perspective that looks like an American but also on the Mandarin Language that can be seen from the quotation below.

“Rachel is so well educated and down-to-earth. And she speaks perfect Mandarin.’ She took care to mention all the things Eleanor was not. ... ‘I didn’t know she spoke perfect Mandarin,’ Eleanor said ...” (2013:405).

Victoria impressed on Rachel because her ability to speak Mandarin language, even though she lived in America since she was a baby. The combination of behavior, perspective and ability to speak Chinese shows that two different patterns of culture form a new culture.

Every inch in Rachel’s lifestyle looks like native America despite her being Asian. It can also be seen from the way she eats which is supported by the following paragraphs.

“Pass me a fork,’ Rachel said. ... ‘There’s no fork. You get to go native on this—use your fingers!’ Nick grinned. ... ‘You’re kidding, right?’ ... ‘Nope, that’s the traditional way. Malays believe the food actually tastes better when you eat with your hands. They only use the right hand to eat, of course. The left hand is used for purposes better left unmentioned.’ ... ‘But

I haven't washed my hands, Nick. I don't think I can eat like this,' Rachel said, sounding a little alarmed' (2013:448).

The above quotation showed that Rachel did not want to eat use her finger like Malays culture. American prefer retaining the fork spoon-like quality for holding food in place (Jay, 2016:25). Hence, she used to eat with a fork like an American and she also avoids to use her finger because she has not washed her hand. Her American culture can be seen from the way she eats. But when Rachel enjoyed lunch with the Goh Peik Lin's family she could adjust herself to eat using chopsticks. Chopsticks are cutlery shaped like 2 small sticks of wood. Hibridity between Eastern and Western cultures arises when Rachel uses a fork and chopsticks as a cutlery.

We often find chopsticks used by East Asians, especially China, Japan, and Korea. The difference between Chinese chopsticks that Rachel used is longer and thicker than Japanese and Korean chopsticks. This is not without reason, in fact, this is inseparable from the culture of eating together in China. The many dishes as at the Peik Lin's family dining table make them have to take their food. That way, long chopsticks make it easier for them to take the farthest food.

In conclusion, the unification of the use of two cutlery with different cultural backgrounds shows Rachel's hybridity as Asian who used to use a fork like an American when eating. But on the other hand, she could use chopsticks when eating together with a family from the same race with her, that is Chinese ethnic. In spite of she rarely used it, she also seemed to have no trouble by using it.

4.3.2 Goh Peik Lin

The existence of two different cultural mixes between western culture and eastern culture is shown by the Peik Lin's lifestyle, one of them is afternoon tea which is a tradition of drinking tea during the afternoon served with cakes ranging from sandwiches to sweet cakes, cookies, and scones by western. But as Chinese-Singapore afternoon tea descendants, she prefers to enjoy it with Peranakan dessert cakes namely Nyonya Kueh made from rice flour and distinctive pandan-leaf

flavoring. So, she also recommended the cake to Rachel. That is showed by the following paragraph.

“Smartly uniformed waiters walked by with trays bearing a selection of tea cakes, pastries, and Nyonya delicacies. ... ‘Mmmm ... you need to try this kueh,’ Peik Lin said, putting a slice of glutinous rice-and-coconut custard on Rachel’s plate. Rachel took a bite, finding the juxtaposition of subtly sweet custard with almost-savory sticky rice to be surprisingly addictive” (2013:152).

Peik Lin her is an ethnic Chinese descent who lives in Singapore, which is a former British colony. The influence of Western culture underlies the Peik Lin lifestyle in afternoon tea. According to (Skinner,2019) in *Afternoon Tea: A History*, afternoon tea was known in the mid-1800s by Anna Maria Russel, Duchess of Bedford, starting with snacks and drinks for her and her guests until the dinner time. The afternoon tea tradition is a Western tradion but Peik lin enjoyed it with Asian cakes. The union of two cultures between West and East that gives a birth to a new culture in Peik Lin’s lifestyle is called hybridity

