

Abstract

The research explores the influence of culture and cultural difference upon identity and self-definition in the selected works of Gish Jen's *Typical American* and *Mona in the Promised Land*, David Wong Louie's *The Barbarians Are Coming*, and Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. The comparative study analyzes the selected novels in the light of Homi Bhabha's theory of "otherization" and "the third space" in addition to the "exile" theory of Edward Said.

The second generation Chinese American writers try to identify with their second generation Chinese American protagonists leading a torn life between the heredity of the Chinese ancestors and the American hegemonic culture.

Chapter One tackles the Chinese immigration to the Promised Land in order to attain the illusive American Dream on the part of the first-generation Chinese American protagonists Yifeng Chang, Lu Ling Young and Lung in *Typical American*; *The Barbarians Are Coming*; and *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, respectively.

In chapter two, the past experiences of the first-generation Chinese American protagonists in China are examined in *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, *The Barbarians Are Coming* and *Typical American*.

Chapter three focuses on the dilemma of the second-generation Chinese American protagonists Mona Chang, Sterling Lung and Ruth Young in *Mona in the Promised Land*; *The Barbarians Are Coming*; and *The Bonesetter's Daughter* concerning their inner conflict and their exilic status according to Edward Said's theory of inner and physical exile. **The Conclusion sums up the findings of the study followed by a**

Bibliography.

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