

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S  
RELATIONSHIPS IN AMY TAN'S *THE JOY LUCK CLUB*

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the perspective of the mother and daughter relationships in Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*, in the context of culture and generational differences in dealing with the issues of arguments and marriage. The historical background of Asians migrating to America will be explained in the introduction, particularly focusing on the history of Chinese immigrants. This study aims to examine the mother and daughter relationships in the novel by analyzing the arguments between the two Chinese mothers – Lindo Jong and Suyuan Woo with their American born daughters – Waverly Jong and Jing-mei Woo (or June) respectively. The findings show that most of the arguments are caused by the emotional system in the family intergenerational transmission, the factor of nurture, the family expectation and the family pressures. Secondly, this paper examines the marriage problems of the three American born daughters and how their Chinese mothers help them to deal with their marital issues through communicating the insights of their past marriages in China. The results suggest that the Chinese mothers' marital memories play a role in encouraging their daughters to fight for their rights in their marriages.

*Keywords:* mother-daughter relationships, intergenerational, arguments, marriage issues