

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

In *Letter from Peking*, Buck meticulously weaves a narrative that explores the deep cultural conflicts and differences between Eastern and Western values through the experiences of Elizabeth and Gerald MacLeod, along with their son, Rennie. Elizabeth represents individualism, making the difficult choice to put her son's safety and future ahead of her relationship with Gerald. Her determination to adapt to new circumstances reflects the Western emphasis on personal autonomy and independence. In contrast, Gerald represents collectivist values, choosing to remain in China out of loyalty to his heritage and family, even at the expense of his personal happiness. This commitment underscores the importance of cultural duty and the sacrifices that come with it.

Rennie serves as a bridge between these contrasting worlds, navigating her mixed heritage and attempting to embrace the different values of her parents. The letters exchanged between Elizabeth and Gerald not only maintain their connection despite their physical separation, but also provide a platform for understanding and negotiating their cultural differences. Ultimately, Buck's portrayal of these characters highlights the complexities of love, responsibility, and identity across cultures, illustrating the challenges and possibilities of bridging Eastern and Western values. Through their struggles, the novel emphasizes that navigating cultural conflict requires both personal agency and a deep understanding of familial obligations, inviting readers to ponder the intricacies of cross-cultural relationships.

5.2 Suggestion

At the end of this study, the writer would like to give some following suggestions:

5.2.1 Suggestion for Students of English Department

From this analysis of *Letter from Peking*, the writer learns some aspects from Chinese and American cultures. The writer, therefore, suggests students of English Department to learn culture through literature.

5.2.2 Suggestion for Future Researchers

The writer hopes this research also encourages future researchers to explore more about cross-culture between Eastern and Western so that they can understand how important the cultures are and how to understand each other and avoid misunderstanding between two different cultures. Culture study can extend to any other country, not just Eastern and Western countries but also any other culture in a different country.

By studying literature, readers get deeper understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, leading to a more harmonious and interconnected world.

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